DELAWARE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DECEMBER 13, 2021

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Worker groups with low rates of engagement in mindfulness practices could most benefit from workplace mindfulness interventions.
TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- COVID-19 Timeline
- Unique Pandemic Challenges
- Infection Control
- Diagnostics
- Vaccine
- Other Challenges (Communications, Law)
Delaware’s Coronavirus 2019 Response – Timeline 2020

**Jan. 29 –** DPH activated State Health Operations Center

**March 11 –** Delaware’s first presumptive positive case

**March 13 –** Schools to be closed March 16-27

**March 11 –** Governor John Carney declared State of Emergency

**March 12 –** Stay at Home order issued; only essential businesses open

**March 23 –** Schools ordered closed through May 15

**March 26 –** Delaware reports first COVID-19 death

**April 1 –** Public gatherings restricted to 10 or less

**April 24 –** Schools ordered closed through academic year

**April 25 –** Governor Carney issues mask mandate

**May 2 –** 5,000 COVID-19 cases in Delaware

**May 14 –** First community testing event using Curative’s saliva-based test (200,000 purchased)

**June 1 –** Phase 1 reopening begins (Phase 2 on June 15)

**June 27 –** Newly hired contact tracing workforce goes live

**April 27 –** Delaware reports first COVID-19 death

**May 14 –** First community testing event using Curative’s saliva-based test (200,000 purchased)
Delaware's Coronavirus 2019 Response – Timeline 2020 (continued)

- August 4 – Governor Carney announces school reopenings with limitations
- August 25 – DPH issues Face Coverings for Children guidance
- Sept. 15 – DPH launched COVID Alert DE app
- Oct. 1 – DPH issues guidance to celebrate Halloween safely
- Oct. 16 – DPH submits first draft vaccination playbook to CDC
- Oct. 30 – Governors of DE, NJ, and RI announce asymptomatic testing efforts
- Dec. 14 – First vaccine shipment arrives in Delaware. Distribution Phase 1 to begin.
- Dec. 17 – DPH opened Vaccine Call Center
- Dec. 19 – Moderna vaccine shipment expected within days
- Dec. 30 – DPH announces 926 deaths and 11,274 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered


- Oct. 16 – DPH submits first draft vaccination playbook to CDC

- Oct. 30 – Governors of DE, NJ, and RI announce asymptomatic testing efforts
HELP US TRACE THE VIRUS.

de.gov/coronavirustracing
COVID ALERT DE: EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION APP
New capacity allows a comprehensive review of household exposure details among multiple household members and provides functional capacity to track and manage quarantine recommendations.

Updated functionality to manage and alter quarantine periods based on up-to-date household contact tracing information allows epidemiologists to provide the most informed recommendations possible.

Epidemiology also updated their review process for breakthrough cases and hospitalizations, a previously very time consuming and manual task.

Keeps individuals and the general public safe.
Scenes from 2020

Target store, Dover, DE, May 13, 2020

Egg and butter shelves, Dover Food Lion, March 23, 2020

Social distancing floor sign, south Dover, DE Rite Aid, June 5, 2020

Paper towel aisle at the Target store, Dover, DE, July 22, 2020

Delaware Division of Public Health photos.
COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ON THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

- Safety of industry employees
- Panic-buying leading to severe shortages (750 lbs to 0)
- Edibles progress stopped
- Long lines at Centers
- New product lines brought to market (vape / hash / R2R)
- Home delivery
- Online ordering and curbside pickup
CORE PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

Comprehensive Cancer
- Incidence and Mortality
- Cancer Screening

Chronic Diseases & Associated Risk Factors
- Obesity/Overweight
- Diabetes & Prediabetes

Health Equity
- Social Determinants of Health
- Population Health
Civil unrest

A rally to reopen Delaware was held on Legislative Mall in Dover, DE on May 1, 2020. Delaware Division of Public Health photo.

Protesters upset about the George Floyd death in Minneapolis held a protest in Dover, DE on June 2, 2020. Dover Post photo.

Relatively peaceful protests in Delaware
Delaware’s Coronavirus 2019 Response – Timeline 2021

Jan. 8 – DPH announces first COVID-19 child death

Jan. 29 – Three confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 variant in Delaware

Feb. 16 – FEMA, CDC, HHS, DEMA, and DPH hold six-day drive-thru vaccination event at Dover International Speedway

Feb. 27 – FDA grants Johnson & Johnson vaccine Emergency Use Authorization

March 5 – Testing at pop-up and Curative trailer sites and community sites

April 28 – Walk-in vaccination clinics open

May 21 – Governor Carney eases business capacity restrictions, and lifts mask mandate, and eliminates social distancing requirements

June 18 – DPH and Delaware National Guard deploy Vaccine Mobile Units

July 1 – Governor Carney announces 70% adults 18+ received at least one vaccine dose

Sept. 28 – K-12 and private school staff, contractors, and volunteers must get vaccinated or undergo weekly testing

Dec. 10 – 159,399 total positive COVID-19 cases since March 2020; 603.9 is 7-day average of new positive cases; 2,194 COVID-19 deaths

Jan. 22 – State holds first of numerous mass vaccination events

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CATEGORIES OF DISASTERS

- Natural
- Human System Failure
- War and Conflict

- Natural
- Chemical
- Biological
- Radiological/Nuclear
- Trauma/Explosives
**Continuity**

Actions taken to protect the campus mission from disruption. Continuity influences all four planning phases of Emergency Management.
PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

- Worldwide impact
- Lack of specific therapeutics or interventions
- Length of time
- Number of victims/deaths
ZOMBIE OUTBREAK

- Zombies often depicted as being created by an infectious virus, which is passed on via bites and contact with bodily fluids.

- Diagnosis – “Ataxic Neurodegenerative Satiety Deficiency Syndrome”

- New virus or mutations of existing infections attributed to “outbreak”

- Zombies taking over entire countries, roaming city streets eating anything living that got in their way.

- “How do I prepare for a zombie apocalypse?”
SPECIFIC COVID-19 CHALLENGES

- Lack of knowledge of the infectious agent
- Limited critical resources
- Level of pandemic preparedness
CHANGING SCIENCE

- Transmission
- Asymptomatic spread
- Isolation/Quarantine
- Diagnostics
- Management
CRISIS STANDARD OF CARE

- “Guidelines developed before disaster strikes to help health care providers decide how to provide the best possible medical care when there are not enough resources to give all patients the level of care they would receive under normal circumstances.” (IOM 2012)

- Need for specific legal/regulatory powers and protections for healthcare providers in the necessary tasks of allocating and using scarce medical resources and implementing alternate care facility operations
CONTINUUM OF CARE

- Conventional capacity
  - Consistent with daily practices

- Contingency capacity
  - Not consistent with daily practices, but functionally equivalent

- Crisis capacity
  - Not consistent with usual standards of care, but sufficient in a catastrophic disaster
LIMITED RESOURCES

- PPE
- Therapeutics
- Hospital Beds
- Health Care Staff
- Oxygen
- Ventilators
- Vaccine
107,769.6 hours worked at SHOC and the warehouse (March 2-August 28, 2020)

1,191 media inquiries (March 5-September 11, 2020)

2,350 business complaints received (June 2-September 15, 2020)

1,962 PPE requests delivered to 1,107 facilities (Feb. 10-September 11, 2020)

33,994 calls and 20,698 emails answered by the Call Center (March 4-September 11, 2020)

Source: Division of Public Health, 9/15/20.
MODULAR MEDICAL EXPANSION SYSTEM

- Warehouse
- Centralized Morgue
- Points of Dispensing
- State Health Operations Center
- Shelters
- Alternate Care Sites
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM SURVEILLANCE

Hospitals
- Census
- ICU
- Patients/Ventilators
- COVID positive/suspected
- Staffing

EMS
- Call volume
- “ Syndromic” surveillance
- Responder exposures
Delaware Pandemic Influenza Summit
February 21, 2006 – Dover Downs Conference Center
500 attended from health, business, education, and religious sectors

Governor Ruth Ann Minner greets the press at the February 2006 Pandemic Influenza Summit at Dover Downs Conference Center. She is flanked by (L-R): Delaware Department of Agriculture Secretary Michael T. Scuse; Delaware Health and Social Services Secretary Vincent Meconi; Delaware Division of Public Health Director Dr. Jaime Rivera; Alex M. Azar II, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona; and Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security Secretary David B. Mitchell.
INFECTION CONTROL

- Social Distance
- Masks
  - Respirator
  - Gaiter
  - Cloth
  - Layers
  - “Transparent”
  - Face Shields
- Hand Hygiene
- Ventilation
- Environmental Cleaning
DIAGNOSTICS

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
  - Nasopharyngeal
  - Oropharyngeal
  - Anterior nasal
  - Saliva
  - Oral fluid

- Rapid Antibody
  - IgM vs. IgG

- Rapid Antigen
  - Observed/Monitored
  - Over-the-counter

2,526,062 Tests
910,449 Persons
1,464,094 administered doses of COVID-19 vaccine reported to state system between mid-December 2020 and December 10, 2021

Source: State of Delaware – MyHealthyCommunity data portal, De.gov/healthycommunity, 3/8/21

Photo courtesy of DelDOT
DPH PLANNING ACTIVITIES

• Met internally and regularly with the Office of the Governor
• Trained Immunizations Program staff to utilize national vaccine tracking system
• Tabletop exercises
• Stakeholder meetings (Task Force & Communications Subcommittee)
• Ethics Advisory Group meetings
• Received dummy shipment from Pfizer
• Centralizing vaccine program staff
• Enrolling vaccinators in federal program

Mock vaccine delivery at DPH Warehouse, Dec. 11, 2020
LARGE AND SMALL VACCINATION EVENTS STATEWIDE

Photos by Sean Dooley and Sharon Smith, DPH.
COORDINATING MESSAGING

General messaging - social media graphics

[Images of social media graphics related to COVID-19 vaccination plan]
TESTIMONIALS

Real Delaware health care and first responders with personalized reasons why they plan to get the vaccine

"I am getting the Covid-19 vaccine because... (I want to) put my pointe shoes on and get back to ballet classes and dance."

-KATHYLN ROWAN, MD PSYCHIATRIST

de.gov/coronavirus

"I am getting the COVID-19 vaccine because... it is better to be safe than sorry."

-RAYFIELD BUSH, SECURITY, SAINT FRANCIS HEALTHCARE

de.gov/coronavirus
RESOURCES/COLLATERAL MATERIALS

- Delaware COVID-19 website is [de.gov/coronavirus](de.gov/coronavirus)
  - Sections for the public, providers, and organizations

- DPH’s COVID-19 vaccine website is [de.gov/covidvaccine](de.gov/covidvaccine)
  - Vaccine Safety section

- My Healthy Community data includes vaccination data
  [myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/](myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/)
NEXUS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND LAW

- Law is a critical public health tool
- Law can be leveraged to help public health, or it can be a constraint that inhibits public health response.
- There are occasional tensions.
PUBLIC HEALTH’S AUTHORITY

States have primary “police power” functions (10th Amendment).

Public health powers:

- Surveillance and reporting
- Epidemiological investigations
- Vaccination
- Isolation and quarantine
LAW AND POLICY FOR THE GOOD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Mandatory public health actions to protect public health
  – Clean Indoor Air Act
  – Mandatory childhood lead testing
  – Seatbelt requirements

Examples related to COVID:
  – Shelter in place requirements
  – Closing schools and daycare centers
  – Prohibiting large gatherings
  – Isolation and quarantine
Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) has authority over:

- Many disease reporting and investigation duties
- Certain types of businesses

DPH used its statutory and regulatory authority to require:

- Reporting of all COVID-19 test results to DPH (March 2020).
- Reporting of demographic information to DPH (April 2020).
LAW AND PUBLIC HEALTH USED TO CONSTRAIN INDIVIDUALS

- Travel restrictions
- Isolation and Quarantine
- Fiscal liability
  - U.S. spent $2.369 billion on Ebola in 2014-2015, including international response (CDC)
PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE CONstrained BY THE LAW

• Data privacy and security
  – Public Health Information
  – Delaware more stringent than HIPAA
• Enforcement
• State/Federal Tensions
One Health

People who protect human, animal, and environmental health, and other partners

Coordinating

Communicating

Collaborating

To achieve the best health outcomes for people, animals, plants, and our environment

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
THANK YOU

Delaware COVID-19 website
degov/coronavirus

Delaware flu website
flu.Delaware.gov

Delaware Health Alert Network online registration system
healthalertde.org/

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