Noble County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

SITUATION REPORT: COVID - 19

Date / Time Issued: 3/31/2020 16:00
Prepared By: M Muffet Approved By: C Schmelzenbach

Executive Summary:

Noble County Health Department (NCHD), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) are closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed "COVID-19") first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019 and which continues to expand. The COVID – 19 virus was first confirmed in Ohio on March 3, 2020, with 3 initial cases. As of the date and time of this report Statistics in Noble County follow:

NOBLE COUNTY: CASES-0 HOSPITALIZATIONS-0 DEATHS-0
STATE OF OHIO: CASES-2199 HOSPITALIZATIONS-585 DEATHS-55

DECLARATIONS IN EFFECT

- March 16, 2020 Noble County Declaration of Emergency
- March 9, 2020 Ohio Declaration of Emergency

EOC OPERATIONS:

Partial / Virtual EOC Activation via Knowledge Center 8:00-1700 with ESFs 5,6,8,12 &15, and report interfacing to State of Ohio WebEOC .

CURRENT ACTIONS:

March 6, 2020 the Noble County Health Department hosted a joint tabletop exercise and local support agency with Noble Correctional Institute, Noble EMA&HS and stakeholders from County to discuss pandemic.

March 9, 2020, Governor DeWine declared a state of emergency. As COVID -19 continued to spread in Ohio, Noble County prepared our government structure to execute our Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) and ensure Continuity of Government (COG).

March 16, 2020, Noble County Health Commissioner Ray issued a Public Health Emergency and gave Local Orders in addition to the Governor's Orders issued to date including closure of daycare and preschools, all little league and private club sports were to be postponed or canceled, cessation of all public meetings not required by law, public library to close and encouraged pick up curbside and delivery of all businesses not already closed by the Governor's Orders.

March 16, 2020, EMA Director Schmelzenbach, met with Board of Commissioners and requested a Declaration of Emergency to expedite purchasing and conversion of public offices to encourage employees to telework or split shifts and modify hours and workspaces. Prosecuting Attorney Riddle, and Auditor Davis, worked to advise offices and provide guidance on employees" leave to be taken if necessary, how to continue processes and identify essential functions of government.

March 17, 2020 the Nc Sheriff Pickenpaugh locked the lobby to Office and Jail building and required employees to only enter the building as necessary or in the case of Dispatchers and Correction Officers to enter through private staff entrance only and sanitize workstations at beginning and end of shift at a minimum. The public was only permitted to enter for delivery, in case of unsafe situation outside, or to attend court.

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March 19, 2020, the Noble County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to instruct county offices on precautions and establish general procedures to encourage sanitation, social distancing, limiting access except by appointment to comply with gathering limitations in these Orders, as well as limit movement of packages, mail and delivery throughout the public buildings. Two exception are to attend court and to attend legally required public meetings.

Potential Hazards

- Pandemics can cause economic damage through multiple channels, including short-term fiscal shocks and longer-term negative shocks to economic growth.
- Individual behavioral changes, such as fear-induced aversion to workplaces and other public gathering places, are a primary cause of negative shocks to economic growth during pandemics.
- Some pandemic mitigation measures can cause significant social and economic disruption.
- Several instances of cyber-criminals and scammers sending fake COVID-19 themed communications offering hard to find medical supplies or cures to the virus have been documented. Criminals will continue to attempt to exploit public anxiety and the needs of organizations for personal gain.

Community Lifelines:

Safety & Security Status:	☑ **No Current Disruption**	☐ **Limited Disruption**	☐ **Significant Disruption**	☐ **Unknown Disruption**

ESF 13-Law Enforcement:

- Support LHD mission to monitor and provide guidance regarding social distancing, activity of "Essential Businesses" and compliance with other state and locally issued Orders.
- Restructure staffing: to divide critical staff and revise scheduling to adapt to increase call volumes. Increased suicide attempts, drug overdose and domestic violence calls observed.
- Increased Community Policing Program to deter crime and support the community.
- **Search & Rescue:** No current disruption.
- **Fire Service:** No current disruption. Fire and EMS have been instructed to ration the use of PPE and review procedures for handling patients who are symptomatic of COVID-19.
- **Government Services:**

ESF 2 – Information Technology and Telecommunications

- Ordered 8 First Net phones for Health Dept Staff and 10 for Sheriff's Deputies
- Several offices, ex. Auditor and Health Department, set up VPN access to their servers
- Health Department added EMA&HS to their domain network to do virtual briefings of (ICP)
- Laptops, Webcams and WIFI boosters ordered to support teleworking

ESF 5 – Emergency Management

- EOC Staffing virtually via: forwarded main phone and Google Doc Logging to one specialist, Social Media with Google Doc Logging by one specialist, Knowledge Center Logging and email management by one specialist and a general assignment specialist. Briefing 800 daily.
- The MAC group to address Lifeline Food, Water, Shelter has been established and will hold first briefing to collect partners abilities 4/1/2020. Briefing minimum twice weekly.
- **Responder Safety & Security:** No current disruption.
- **Imminent Hazard Mitigation:** No current disruption.

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Food, Water, Sheltering Status:	☐ No Current Disruption	☑ Limited Disruption	☐ Significant Disruption	☐ Unknown Disruption

- **Evacuations:** No current disruption.
- **Food/Potable Water:**

  ESF 6 – Mass Care, ESF 11 – Food and Agriculture
- Currently NL schools are delivering 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches per student MWF by running regular bus routes and individual additional van runs as needed. Caldwell schools are running distribution at Caldwell Elementary Wednesdays 1100-1300. Both have made provisions to continue online learning and paper supplies support for students.
- Local non-profits with regular food distributions have maintained that operation with modifications such as drive through pickup of commodities from the Food Bank, delivery only of Meals on Wheels to Seniors (drivers do not enter homes)
- HARP Mission has caseworker available to support affected persons
- JFS via Child Protective and Adult Protective Services provide emergency provisions and PRC can be processed with 5-10 day turn around
- Noble Learning Center has obtained temporary emergency daycare license to care for Essential Workers
- Additional stakeholders are being added to the MAC group such as ARC, United Way, Samaritan House, Ministerial Association, Allwell, Noble Behavioral Health and Community Action. The goal is to create supply and logistics for reverse sheltering operation. (Distribution systems)
- **Shelter:** No current disruption.
- **Water:** No current disruption. Legislation passed in the Ohio Legislature on March 25, 2020 requires public water systems to restore services to customers that were disconnected due to non-payment, waive all connection/reconnection fees and prohibit service disconnection because of non-payment for the duration of the Statewide Declared Emergency.
- **Durable Goods:** Monitoring of supply chain for basic commodities within local retail. Currently minimal levels of stock but sufficient to support the community.
- Pre-plan with local grocery store owners to modify operation for shoppers and ensure maximum sanitation in establishments, monitor supply chain and workforce issues.
- **Agriculture:** Requested OSU extension service plan educational outreach segments to demonstrate planting, tending, harvesting and preparing for storage to promote adequate and safe food supply throughout the growing season.
- Inventorying social service programs including Food Bank Commodities Day, Meals-on-Wheels, WIC program, Emergency Food Assistance programs to ensure continued services to those who depend on them.

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Health & Medical Status:	☐ No Current Disruption	☑ Limited Disruption	☐ Significant Disruption	☐ Unknown Disruption

- **Medical Care:** Coordination with SEORMC, RMRS, COTS and other partners for surge planning
- **Patient Movement:** No current disruption.
- **Public Health:**

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

- Creation of local "COVID CALL CENTER" which takes local calls coming in to LHD at 740-732-4958 by nursing staff who answer medical questions, research answers, get Medical Director's Opinions and perform follow ups.
- Regional Epidemiologist provides overview of activity in Region 8 and advises for anticipated activities based upon current modeling and information/experience within the state and region.
- Completes monitoring and tracing of positive cases and those associated/exposed.
- Follows up on information or complaints from local persons regarding cases or actions inconsistent with the State or Local Public Health and Governor's Orders
- Averaging 10-15 calls per day currently
- Identified potential locations for PODs for commodities and for Alternate Care Facilities- currently seven facilities identified and in process of being vetted for viability
- Instituted COVID 19 Screening questions into dispatch protocol at the request of EMS. If indicated the dispatcher advises responders the call is to "potential COVID patient".
- **Fatality Management:** No current disruption.
- **Health Care Supply Chain:**

ESF 7 - Resource Support and Logistics Management

- Public request to solicit PPE was made March 19, 2020 and echoed at State level.
- Inventory baseline was established as of March 24, 2020
- Burn Rate Spreadsheet to demonstrate daily/weekly burn rates for each entity in coming days including: LTC, EMS, LHD, FQHC, FDs, LEs and Home Health Agencies.
- Inventory tracking and procedure established to include source, receipt/accepting, tracking, allocating and delivering of PPE as needed. As established in SOP the Health Commissioners and EMA&HS Director will approve allocations.
- Hospitals, care facilities and other healthcare providers have begun rationing PPE due to limited regional supply and global high demand for these products.

Energy Status:	☑ No Current Disruption	☐ Limited Disruption	☐ Significant Disruption	☐ Unknown Disruption

ESF 12 – Energy

- Monitoring of energy industry to include utility companies and large Shale Development Industry for workforce issues or other interruptions
- Logging contact and coordinating with those companies who activate ICS or have questions regarding Essential Employees or Operations
- **Power (Grid):** No current disruption. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) has ordered all regulated electric and natural gas providers (as well as other utilities) to review policies regarding service disconnection for the duration of the declared state of emergency.
- **Temporary Power:** No current disruption.
- **Fuel:** No current disruption.

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Communications Status:	☑ No Current Disruption	☐ Limited Disruption	☐ Significant Disruption	☐ Unknown Disruption

Communications

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

- **Infrastructure:** No current disruption.
- **Alerts, Warnings, and Messaging:**
- Create a minimum of two social media posts per day to encourage traffic. Diversify between educational material and real life- videos, photos, etc.
- Issued a Facebook Challenge: Played a 30 sec clip of EMA Dir. Grandson's 5th Birthday via a Zoom meeting platform and challenged others to post their examples of following the Governor's Orders
- LHD posts to Facebook at least daily with updated information and has begun including photos etc. of staff following Governor's Orders.
- LHD established a Twitter handle
- County website was updated to reflect current COOP modifications to access county offices and services.
- PIOs work to issue press releases and forward OEMA or Governor's Press releases to local media daily.
- Media engagement includes newspaper, radio, website and social media
- Interviews by County Commissioners, Health Commissioner and EMA&HS Director provided to print media and radio stations.
- **911 and Dispatch:** No current disruption.
- **Responder Communications:**
- The ICP is established virtually on Microsoft Teams and SharePoint via the Noble County Health Dept. Briefing occurs at 830 daily.
- EMA&HS established Virtual EOC by using Knowledge Center both county level incident and joined Region 8 COVID incident
- EMA&HS establish communications via email groups, zoom meetings and Google Docs
- **Financial Services:** No current disruption.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

- Provide PA program guidance and cost documentation forms to potential applicants.
- Engage the Chamber of Commerce to provide information to local businesses on SBA programs, stimulus and unemployment funding.
- Request the Chamber of Commerce to develop an Advisory Council of its members from various business sectors to consider economic recovery strategies viable for Noble County and SE Ohio regional businesses.
- Solicit donations into the accounts established with the United Way serving Guernsey and Noble Counties for our Joint Long Term Recovery Committee.

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Transportation Status:	☑	**No Current Disruption**	☐	**Limited Disruption**	☐	**Significant Disruption**	☐	**Unknown Disruption**

ESF 1 – Transportation

- Identified potential assets to be used for commodity distribution as needed: Noble Local Schools, Senior Center, Veterans Services and Ministerial Association.
- **Road:** No current disruption.
- **Rail:** No current disruption.
- **Air:** No current disruption.
- **Waterways:** No current disruption.

Hazardous Material Status:	☑	**No Current Disruption**	☐	**Limited Disruption**	☐	**Significant Disruption**	☐	**Unknown Disruption**

- **Facilities:** No current disruption.
- **Hazardous Debris, Pollutants, Contaminants:** No current disruption.
- **Pipeline:** No current disruption.

Resource Support:

- All healthcare providers have been reminded to follow CDC guidelines for proper use of PPE as supplies may become limited.
- Local Fire and EMS agencies that need to request PPE should make their requests through Noble EMA&HS via email.
- Noble County has received two shipments from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and has begun distributing these supplies to local first responder agencies and healthcare organizations.

Attachments:

Johns Hopkins Interactive COVID-19 Map:
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

Ohio Department of Health Interactive COVID-19 Dashboard
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/dashboard

Ohio Department of Health Stay at Home Order - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/03/22/file_attachments/1407841/Stay%20At%20Home%20FAQ%2003.22.20.pdf