



Veterans Health Administration
Information Access and Privacy (105HIG)
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Request No: 20-05270-F

September 29, 2021

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW
Washington, DC, 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is an initial agency decision on your March 4, 2020 request, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Central Office FOIA Office requesting – “All daily briefings or situation reports (or other similar updates designed to keep leadership apprised of breaking events) prepared for, or otherwise provided to, the leadership of your agency that contain information regarding the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. At a minimum, responsive records should include daily briefings or situational reports prepared for the following agency officials Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie and Executive in Charge Richard Stone.” Your FOIA request was received in the VHA FOIA Office on March 5, 2020 and was assigned FOIA tracking number 20-05720-F.

A search for responsive records was conducted within the electronic mailbox of Dr. Richard Stone by VA's Office of Information Technology (OI&T). The search terms applied were coronavirus and COVID-19 for the search time-period of January 28, 2020 to March 11, 2020. This search resulted in OI&T locating one-hundred and thirteen (113) PDF files totaling eight-hundred and forty-eight (848) pages of responsive records. It is noted that the Office of the Secretary (OSVA) addressed your search request of the electronic mailbox of Robert Wilkie under FOIA tracking number 20-05075-F. Upon my review of the one-hundred and thirteen (113) PDF files, I have determined that documents are required to be held in part under FOIA exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) and FOIA exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

FOIA exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) permits VA to withhold a document or information within a document if disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of a living individual's personal privacy. Stated another way, VA may withhold information under FOIA exemption 6 where disclosure of the information, either by itself or in conjunction with other information available to either the public or the FOIA requester, would result in an unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy without contributing significantly to the public's understanding of the activities of the federal government.

Upon completion of the analysis in balancing personal privacy interests against

public interest, it has been determined that the personal privacy interest of the individuals outweighs the public interest. Specifically, withheld in part are employees' names, work, and cell phone numbers along with pictures of individuals.

The coverage of FOIA exemption 6 is absolute unless the FOIA requester can demonstrate a countervailing public interest in the requested information by demonstrating that the individual is in a position to provide the requested information to members of the general public and that the information requested contributes significantly to the public's understanding of the activities of the Federal government. Additionally, the requester must demonstrate how the public's need to understand the information significantly outweighs the privacy interest of the person to whom the information pertains. Upon consideration of the materials you provided, we have not been able to identify a countervailing public interest of sufficient magnitude to outweigh the privacy interest in this case. The individuals associated with this information have a personal privacy interest in the information that outweighs any public interest served by disclosure of the information under FOIA. Consequently, this information is withheld under FOIA exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6).

Upon my review I have found information protected under, FOIA Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). FOIA Exemption 5 permits VA to withhold a document or information contained within a document as "pre-decisional" if two requirements are met. First, there must be an identifiable deliberative process. That is, the document must be a direct part of the deliberative process. Second, the agency generated the information or document as part of the agency decision process. Stated another way, VA may withhold information under Exemption 5 where the document or its content makes recommendations or expresses opinions about legal or policy matters during a decision-making process and the document is not the decision document or incorporated into the decision document. Additionally, in accordance with the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, an agency shall withhold information under the FOIA only if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption or disclosure is prohibited by law. Therefore, if the disclosure is not prohibited by law, the agency must state an articulable, foreseeable harm to the agency or its activities that could occur as a result of release of the document or information.

There are several categories of documents that routinely are protected by the deliberative process privilege of Exemption 5. Among the protected documents are advisory opinions, recommendations, and deliberations comprising parts of a process by which governmental decisions and policies are formulated. They are protected because, by their very nature, their release would likely "stifle honest and frank communication within the agency." Materials of this nature go to the very heart of the privilege, for, as the Supreme Court has stated, "the deliberative process privilege rests on the obvious realization that officials will not communicate candidly among themselves if each remark is a potential item of discovery and front-page news." *Department of Interior v. Klamath Water Users Protective Ass'n*, 532 U.S. 1, 8-9 (2001). "A subordinate who wishes to provide information candidly should not fear that the public will be privy to his views merely because his superiors have not yet acted on his

recommendations." *Schell v. U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services*, 843 F.2d 933, 941(6th Cir 1988).

In determining whether a document is pre-decisional, an agency does not necessarily have to point specifically to an agency final decision, but merely establish "what deliberative process is involved, and the role played by the documents in issue in the course of that process. " Thus, so long as a document is generated as part of such a continuing process of agency decision making, courts have found Exemption 5 can be applicable. In a particularly instructive decision, *Access Reports v. DOJ*, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit emphasized the importance of identifying the larger process to which a document sometimes contributes. Further, "pre-decisional" documents are not only those circulated within the agency but can also be those from an agency lacking decisional authority that advises another agency possessing such authority. They even can be "documents which the agency decision maker herself prepared as part of her deliberation and decision-making process, or documents that do not end up being considered by the agency decision maker at all." Release of this information would inhibit employees from freely exchanging opinions resulting in harm to deliberative process itself. If employees believed that their open and frank feedback were to become public, staff would be less likely to freely communicate their opinions. See, e.g., *Russell v. Dep't of the Air Force*, 682 F.2d 1045, 1048 (D.C. Cir. 1982); *Coastal States Gas Corp. v. DOE*, 617 F.2d 854, 866 (D.C. Cir. 1980); *Jordan v. DOJ*, 591 F.2d 753, 772-73 (D.C. Cir. 1978) (en banc); *Brown v. EEOC*, No. 09-111, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46466, at *9 (W.D. Ky. May 12, 2010) (holding that Exemption 5 was properly applied to prevent potential chilling effect on agency's discussions and undermining of agency's ability to perform its duties); *Morley v. CIA*, 699 F. Supp. 2d 244, 255-56 (D.D.C. 2010) (stating that privilege is "intended to prevent chilling future government employees from engaging in frank discussions during the deliberative process" (citing *Coastal States*, 617 F.2d at 866)), *aff'd* in pertinent part, vacated and remanded on other grounds, 466 Fed. App'x. 1 (D.C. Cir. 2012). Thus exemption 5 is applied to protect against public confusion that might result from disclosure of reasons or rationales that were not in fact ultimately the grounds for the agency's decision.

Upon my review of Bates numbered pages 000064, 000112, 000275, 000407, 000451, 000510, 000800 and 000827 an individual is providing their opinion. Bates page 000080 individual are expressing open and frank conversation and Bates page 000109 information in regarding a predecisional report. These pages have been withheld in part and are redacted with (B5) to indicate the redaction made.

Please be advised, you may appeal the determinations made in this response to the VA, Office of General Counsel. Appeals may be submitted electronically to their electronic appeal mailbox, ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov or mailed to the following address:

Office of General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

If you should choose to file an appeal, your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter. Please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal, identify the determination(s) you are appealing and clearly state why you disagree with the determination(s).

In addition to filing an appeal with the Office of General Counsel, you may also seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services regarding your FOIA request from VHA's FOIA Public Liaison and or Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) as provided below:

VHA FOIA Public Liaison:
Email Address: vhafoia2@va.gov
Phone Number: (877) 461-5038

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
Email Address: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: (202) 741-5769
Mailing address:
Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (717) 675-8363.

Sincerely,

DEANA M.
MARAKOWSKI
262091

Digitally signed by DEANA
M. MARAKOWSKI 262091
Date: 2021.09.29 14:05:42
-04'00'

Deana Marakowski
VHA FOIA Officer

Enclosures

From:	Stone, Richard A., MD </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BD16619615D64ADEA22E45E63FF6462A-STONE, RICH>
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To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	SECVA WH CALL: All Cabinet Call
Date:	2020/02/14 09:49:46
Start Date:	2020/02/14 11:00:00
End Date:	2020/02/14 11:30:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Appointment
Location:	SEC OFF.

Sender:	Stone, Richard A., MD </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BD16619615D64ADEA22E45E63FF6462A-STONE, RICH>; Felan, Leilani </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=62469214402347e690a6dca6e028f1d6-Felan, Leil>
Recipient:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/02/14 09:49:46
From:	Butler, Kristi /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Colli, Jacqueline /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9d21386fb099450d9a51ae5cdf06dd2a-Colli, Jacq (B6) @va.gov>; Felan, Leilani /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=62469214402347e690a6dca6e028f1d6-Felan, Leil (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: All Cabinet Call - TOMORROW
Date:	2020/02/14 09:47:34
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sounds good, thanks!

From: Colli, Jacqueline (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 9:47 AM
To: Butler, Kristi (B6) @va.gov>; Felan, Leilani (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: All Cabinet Call - TOMORROW

YES, please. Thank you!

From: Butler, Kristi <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Colli, Jacqueline (B6)@va.gov; Felan, Leilani (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: All Cabinet Call - TOMORROW

Of course! Should he come upstairs?

From: Colli, Jacqueline (B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 9:41 AM
To: Butler, Kristi <(B6)@va.gov>; Felan, Leilani (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: All Cabinet Call - TOMORROW

Would Dr. Stone be able to sit in on this call this morning at 11:00am with WH staff and Cabinet re: Corona virus. Sorry for the short notice. Please keep this email close hold. Thank you!

From: Connor, Cameron M. EOP (B6) (B6)@ (B6).eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Connor, Cameron M. EOP (B6) (B6)@ (B6).eop.gov>
Cc: Nevins, Kristan K. EOP (B6) (B6)@ (B6).eop.gov>; McBride, Emily J. EOP (B6) (B6)@ (B6).eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] All Cabinet Call - TOMORROW

All—please see the attached agenda for tomorrow's call. As a reminder, the call will begin at 11:00 AM.

The dial-in information is as follows:

Participant Dial-In: (B6)
Participant Code: (B6)

Kindly confirm receipt of this email.

Thank you!

Best,
Cami

From: Connor, Cameron M. EOP (B6) (B6)@ (B6).eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Connor, Cameron M. EOP (B6) (B6)@ (B6).eop.gov>
Cc: McBride, Emily J. EOP (B6) (B6)@ (B6).eop.gov>
Subject: RE: All Cabinet Call

Hi everyone—please hold **Friday, February 14th from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** on your Principal's calendar for this call.

We will be circling back with additional details.

Thank you!

Best,
Cami

From: Connor, Cameron M. EOP/(B6) 6) @ (B6)eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Connor, Cameron M. EOP/(B6) B6) @ (B6)eop.gov>
Cc: McBride, Emily J. EOP/(B6) B6) @ (B6)eop.gov>
Subject: All Cabinet Call

All,

The White House would like to host a conference call for the Cabinet to be updated on the status of the coronavirus.

Please respond by COB today with your Principal's availability for the following times:

- • * Thursday, February 13th from 5:00 – 6:00 PM
- • * Friday, February 14th from 8:00 – 9:00 AM
- • * Friday, February 14th from 10:00 – 11:00 AM
- • * Friday, February 14th from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Thank you,
Cami

Cameron Connor
Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House
M:(B6)

Sender:	Butler, Kristi /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri (B6) @va.gov>
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Sent Date:	2020/02/14 09:47:33
Delivered Date:	2020/02/14 09:47:34

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 Andrew Bartlett <(B6)@va.gov>;
 Lynch, Thomas (VHA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a58e51b52edf486a8d25a13f9342ead0-Lynch, Thom <(B6)@va.gov>;

To: Dulaney, Douglas /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8e00f24937534d738c2175bae75e8da0-Dulaney, Do <(B6)@va.gov>;
 Tammy Czamecki /o=VA/ou=VA Martinsburg/cn=Recipients/cn=vhacoczamt <(B6)@va.gov>;
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 Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon <(B6)@va.gov>;
 Kristi Howard <(B6)@va.gov>

CC: Field, Annette /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=26ad323540f948ed9680f93c0fdce497-Field, Anne <(B6)@va.gov>;
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 Belue, Dottie E. (Dorothy) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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 Hendley, William Dale SAMVAMC /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
 (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=accffc5a908a4024bd06a2fe3166fb16-Hendley, Wi
 (B6)@va.gov>;
 Ballard, Dana DURVAMC ((B6)@va.gov) /o=VA/ou=VISN
 06/cn=Recipients/cn=VHADURBallad (B6)@va.gov>;
 Cyrus, Olive L. VISN 6 /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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	(B6)@va.gov>; Perea-Boettcher, Shay /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3611968412b24ddaabe9deed194316a1-Perea-Boett <(B6)@va.gov>; Dick, Matt (V17) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6c7fd8b01f7a47c2aedbc72a632b4d71-Dick, Charl (B6)@va.gov>; Ellis, Amanda L. (VISN 16) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dfd2b7799275485392e504e14a6b7861-Ellis, Aman (B6)@va.gov>
Subject:	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparation Call
Date:	2020/03/03 10:00:57
Start Date:	2020/03/03 12:00:00
End Date:	2020/03/03 13:00:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Appointment
Location:	(B6) Code (B6)
Attendees:	Oshinski, Renee; VHA VISN Directors; VHA VISN DNDs; Kim, Paul D., MD; Andrew Bartlett; Lynch, Thomas (VHA); Dulaney, Douglas; Tammy Czarnicki; VHA VISN Planners; Mole, Larry A.; Lieberman, Steven; Connell, Lawrence B.; Jensen, Jon M.; Kristi Howard; Field, Annette; Johnson, Daniel; Spillman, Tyler D.; Selvidge, Sandra, VHAV10; Fertil, Bertha; Huth, Karl D.; Marvin, Kimberly; Moore, Wendell A.; VHA HOC Field Operations; VHA HOC Action; Mimmall, Rebecca; Breyfogle, Cynthia; Chesney, Colin; McClure, Lori; VanderStek, Elliott R.; Mureebe, Leila DURVAMC; Hollar, Paul E. SBYVAMC; Kuhn, Keith W., VISN 6 HQ; Omotosho, Rotimi R.; Bazemore, Webster C VISN 6 HQ; Geiss, Jennifer J. VISN 6; Sangutei, Brian; Belue, Dottie E. (Dorothy); Slade, Thomas C, VISN 6; Hendley, William Dale SAMVAMC; Ballard, Dana DURVAMC (B6)@va.gov); Cyrus, Olive L. VISN 6; Krueger, Tammy A; Sconiers, Sonya; Landrum, Coy L., VISN 6; Perea-Boettcher, Shay; Dick, Matt (V17); Ellis, Amanda L. (VISN 16); Stone, Richard A., MD

Good Morning Network Directors,

The Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, Renee Oshinski, will be hosting a Coronavirus preparation call today, **March 3, 2020 at 12 PM EST**. A calendar invite will be sent in a separate email. Networks should request their VISN Planners to attend the meeting.

Thank you for your support

Thank you

Sender:	Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R <(B6)@va.gov>
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Ballard, Dana DURVAMC (Dana.Ballard1@va.gov) /o=VA/ou=VISN
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Subject:	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparation Call
Date:	2020/03/04 09:19:25
Start Date:	2020/03/04 15:00:00
End Date:	2020/03/04 16:00:00

Priority:	Normal
Type:	Appointment
Location:	802 or Skype: 844-376-0278 Code 3505234563#
Attendees:	VHA VISN Directors; VHA HOC Action; VHA VISN DNDs; VHA VISN Planners; Kim, Paul D., MD; Andrew Bartlett; Lynch, Thomas (VHA); Dulaney, Douglas; Tammy Czarnecki; Mole, Larry A.; Lieberman, Steven; Connell, Lawrence B.; Jensen, Jon M.; Kristi Howard; Stone, Richard A., MD; VISN Support Team 3; VISN Support Team 2; VISN Support Team 1

Good Morning Network Directors,

The Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, Renee Oshinski, will be hosting a Coronavirus preparation call today, **March 4, 2020 at 3 PM EST.**

10N would like to limit the meeting to 2 lines per Network.

Thank you for your support

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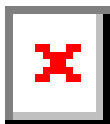
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Sent Date:	2020/03/04 09:19:25

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SentVia:	Butler, Kristi </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Raftery, Meghan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de63b6f3ba3e48f190ffaad4dad37165-Raferty, Me (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	Chairman Takano Call
Date:	2020/03/04 12:14:53
Start Date:	2020/03/04 14:00:00
End Date:	2020/03/04 14:30:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Appointment
Location:	VANTS 25766

Sender:	Stone, Richard A., MD </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BD16619615D64ADEA22E45E63FF6462A-STONE, RICH>; Butler, Kristi </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri>
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Sent Date:	2020/03/04 12:14:53
From:	Butler, Kristi /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Raftery, Meghan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de63b6f3ba3e48f190ffaad4dad37165-Raferty, Me (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; VHA USH Meeting Requests /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ca775dc76d6140fdb5fc70e6c695c9f1-VHA USH Mee (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call HVAC Chairman Takano
Date:	2020/03/04 12:13:51
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

SECVA was able to accommodate the change, so Dr. Stone can meet with Takano at 2pm and SECVA at 2:30pm. Is it possible to let them know he has a hard stop? What will the call in number be? Thanks!

From: Raftery, Meghan (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Butler, Kristi (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; VHA USH Meeting Requests (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call | HVAC Chairman Takano

Chairman can also be available at 130

V/r,

Meghan Raftery
Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
Desk: (B6) [REDACTED]
Cell: (B6) [REDACTED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Butler, Kristi (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Date: Wednesday, Mar 04, 2020, 11:28 AM
To: Raftery, Meghan <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; VHA USH Meeting Requests <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call | HVAC Chairman Takano

He is supposed to be with SECVA at 2pm. Any chance Chairman could talk at 2:30? If not, will call OSVA.

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From: Raftery, Meghan (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 11:18:33 AM
To: Butler, Kristi (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; VHA USH Meeting Requests (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call | HVAC Chairman Takano

Hey guys,

Are we able to accommodate the below?

V/r,

Meghan Raftery
Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
Desk: (B6)
Cell: (B6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Wroten, Desiree (B6) @mail.house.gov>
Date: Wednesday, Mar 04, 2020, 10:50 AM
To: Raftery, Meghan <(B6) va.gov>
Cc: Kelley, Ray (B6) @mail.house.gov>, Rodden, Grace (B6) @mail.house.gov>, Beckelman, Yuri (B6) @mail.house.gov>, Mackenzie, Elizabeth (B6) @mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call | HVAC Chairman Takano

Hello Meghan,

I hope all is well. Chairman Takano would like to schedule a phone call as soon as possible, preferably today, with Dr. Stone to discuss the recent announcement of the veteran testing positive for COVID-19. The Chairman is available today at 2:00pm EST, would this timing work well for Dr. Stone?

Thank you for any consideration,

Desiree Wroten, MPA
Director of Operations
Congressman Mark Takano (CA-41)
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
420 Cannon House Office Building (O) (B6)
More updates from Congressman Takano:

Sender:	Butler, Kristi /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri (B6) @va.gov>
Recipient:	Raftery, Meghan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de63b6f3ba3e48f190ffaad4dad37165-Raferty, Me (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>;

	VHA USH Meeting Requests /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ca775dc76d6140fdb5fc70e6c695c9f1-VHA USH Mee (B6) [REDACTED] va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/04 12:13:49
Delivered Date:	2020/03/04 12:13:51

From:	Carrington, Belinda L. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3F6A31B30BF144ECB8C851E434B63E26-CARRINGTON, <(B6)@va.gov>
To:	Carrington, Belinda L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3f6a31b30bf144ecb8c851e434b63e26-Carrington, (B6)@va.gov>; Colli, Jacqueline <(B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; VHA USH Meeting Requests <(B6)@va.gov>; Bumpus, Meredith <(B6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject:	SECVA Coronavirus Update w/ Dr. Stone
Date:	2020/03/04 09:56:07
Start Date:	2020/03/04 14:30:00
End Date:	2020/03/04 15:00:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Appointment
Location:	SECVA Suite
Attendees:	Jacqueline Colli; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov); VHA USH Meeting Requests; Bumpus, Meredith

Sender:	Carrington, Belinda L. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3F6A31B30BF144ECB8C851E434B63E26-CARRINGTON, (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Carrington, Belinda L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3f6a31b30bf144ecb8c851e434b63e26-Carrington, (B6)@va.gov>; Colli, Jacqueline <(B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; VHA USH Meeting Requests <(B6)@va.gov>; Bumpus, Meredith <(B6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/04 12:12:48
Delivered Date:	2020/03/04 09:56:07

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Known Veteran Cases

1 within VHA (Palo Alto) and 1 in a non-VA health care system

Summary of VHA Capabilities

Screening-

- Implementing coronavirus screening at entry sites at all facilities including off campus clinics.
- Already instituted at nearly 100% of our sites in the Pacific Northwest.
- Rolling out elsewhere with the initial priority for implementing at emergency rooms, urgent care centers and in our nursing homes where screening at one site of entry is not feasible due to the size of the campus

Testing – VA has received CDC test kits to conduct 1000 tests with more on the way

Negative Pressure and Isolation Rooms

used to contain coronavirus airborne contaminants from escaping the room.

- 979 total negative pressure beds (as of today 3/4/2020) of which
 - 264 (27%) available/715 (73%) occupied
- Guidance on how to create additional temporary negative pressure rooms has been provided to the field

Ventilators – 3015 available – this number includes those currently in use for patient care and those not

Veterans Canteen and Food Services – Completed a plan to ensure there will be no interruptions in the food and water supply for feeding Veterans and employees.

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Current supplies could be utilized to treat up to 3500 patients for 14 days
- We are working to ensure the ability to treat up to 4500 Veterans for 30 days
- Orders for additional protect equipment placed on March 3

Mobile Assets: potential available to support future unmet needs

- 1) 15 Containerized Fold Out Rigid Tactical Shelters (C-FORTS)- can be utilized as clinics throughout the US. 3 exam rooms per C-FORT.
- 2) We have ability to consolidate mobile units to create a 250 bed hospital using assets currently deployed across the Southwest. These can be consolidated on an acre of land – will need 1 week to deploy and set up.
- 3) Purchasing four additional 125 bed portable shelter systems that will provide the structure for a mobile hospital. Will provide an additional 500 isolation beds.

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Communication/Contingency Planning Activities

- Published a VHA COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan – to guide medical centers how to segregate patient populations to protect uninfected Veterans via screening and infection control prevention measures
- Continuing a series of tabletop exercises in all VISNs, VAMC's, CBOCs (1241 total), Domiciliary (261 total), Community Living Centers (134 total), Central Office including and Staff Offices to prepare all staff.
- Daily leadership calls with the field addressing a variety of preparedness and response activities
- Identifying buildings and vacant land to establish alternate sites of care for coronavirus

From:	Stone, Richard A., MD </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BD16619615D64ADEA22E45E63FF6462A-STONE, RICH>
SentVia:	Butler, Kristi </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Raftery, Meghan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de63b6f3ba3e48f190ffaad4dad37165-Raferty, Me (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>
Subject:	COVID-19 Briefing for HVAC Members and Staff
Date:	2020/03/04 15:17:52
Start Date:	2020/03/05 11:00:00
End Date:	2020/03/05 12:30:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Appointment
Location:	TBD

Sender:	Stone, Richard A., MD </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BD16619615D64ADEA22E45E63FF6462A-STONE, RICH>; Butler, Kristi </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri>
Recipient:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Raftery, Meghan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de63b6f3ba3e48f190ffaad4dad37165-Raferty, Me (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/04 15:17:52
From:	Raftery, Meghan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de63b6f3ba3e48f190ffaad4dad37165-Raferty, Me (B6)@va.gov>
To:	Butler, Kristi /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>
Subject:	RE: [EXTERNAL] Dr. Stone's COVID-19 briefing for HVAC members and staff - tomorrow (March 5)
Date:	2020/03/04 17:01:55
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

He says he is fine - I'll double check with him though. I told the Hill he had a 1pm stop.

V/r,
Meghan Raftery
Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
Desk: (B6)
Cell: (B6)
Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Butler, Kristi (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Wednesday, Mar 04, 2020, 4:58 PM
To: Raftery, Meghan (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Dr. Stone's COVID-19 briefing for HVAC members and staff - tomorrow (March 5)

Timing it will work. He is clear until the SECVA EHRM Update at 1:30pm, and even then I have Dr. Lieberman attending as well in case he gets tied up.

Does he have what he needs for this though?

From: Raftery, Meghan (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Butler, Kristi (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Dr. Stone's COVID-19 briefing for HVAC members and staff - tomorrow (March 5)
Importance: High

Just want to confirm with you this is good.

Dr Stone said he was fine with rolling directly into this.

V/r,

Meghan Raftery
Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
Desk: (B6)
Cell: 2 (B6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: MacDonald, Alexis (B6) [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>
Date: Wednesday, Mar 04, 2020, 4:49 PM
To: Raftery, Meghan (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Rodden, Grace (B6) [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>, Mackenzie, Elizabeth (B6) [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>, Dean, Sarah (B6) [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>, Kelley, Ray (B6) [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>, Salazar, Miguel (B6) [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>, Geurink, Jenni (B6) [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dr. Stone's COVID-19 briefing for HVAC members and staff - tomorrow (March 5)

Hey there—

We've checked with all the players on our end and will plan to hold Dr. Stone's bipartisan COVID-19 briefing *immediately after* the 9:00 a.m. TechMod Subcommittee hearing on EHRM. That hearing could be interrupted by votes, so it's a little tough to predict exactly what time it will end.

Our clerk (Rasheedah Hasan) will send out an invitation to all HVAC members and staff before she leaves today.

We'll also take care of the location (which most likely will be our hearing room...after we shoo out the public).

Let us know if you have any questions!

Alexis C. MacDonald
Professional Staff Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
B234 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
(B6) [REDACTED]



Sender:	Raftery, Meghan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de63b6f3ba3e48f190ffaad4dad37165-Raferty, Me (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Recipient:	Butler, Kristi /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/04 17:01:54
Delivered Date:	2020/03/04 17:01:55



VA Supply Chain Modernization Update March 06, 2020



VALOR Planning continues for Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support (DMLSS) demonstration at Brook Army Medical Center in March
3/11/20: Brief House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HVAC) Technology Modernization staffers
3/23/20: Brief House Committee on Appropriations (HAC) and Senate Committee on Appropriations (SAC) staffers on the FY21 budget request
Unfunded Request (UFR) for FY20 Medical Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) Next Generation (NG), NG-Bridge, and 2.0
3/2020: Award MSPV-NG Bridge Prime Vendor (PV) Contract
4/01/20: MSPV-NG Bridge Start
12/2020: MSPV 2.0 Implementation complete if no post-protest of PV award
MSPV Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)
3/03/20: Office of Acquisition Logistics and Construction (OALC) and Medical Supply Program Office (MSPO) visited VA Financial Services Center (FSC) in Austin, TX
4/30/20: DLA MSPV Pilot Go-Live at Spokane, Puget Sound, and American Lake
Clinically Driven Strategic Sourcing (CDSS)
3/26/20: Conduct clinician interviews for Product Value Analysis Team (PVAT)
002-204/23/20: Conduct second PVAT
002-20 Supply Chain Master Catalog (SCMC)
6/2020: Authority To Operate (ATO) process late to start and will impact deployment; exact date TBD due to new ATO requirements



COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- 2/24/20: Notified that MSPV may not be able to adequately support due to China constraintsCurrently possess PPE sufficient to support approximately 3,200 patients2/25/20: \$3.3M received for additional PPEPhased purchase for additional N95 masks, isolations gowns, face shields, and surgical gowns to be processed this weekGloves are currently not an issueNational challenge in getting surgical gowns



COVID-19 PPE

- Tracking mechanism has been established for reporting to Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) Tracks operational and contingency supply for following 8 items: Eye Protection, Gloves, Gowns, Mask (Generic or Surgical) N95 Mask, Hand sanitizer, and PAPRS Contains Facility level supply, and cumulative VISN supply

PPE/COVID-19				
Overview				
VISNs and Facilities	Supplies On Hand	Supplies Needed	Days of Supply on Hand	Days of Supply Needed
VISN 1				
VISN Eye Protection Total:				
VISN Gloves Total:				
VISN Gowns Total:				
VISN Mask Totals:				
VISN N95 Mask Totals:				
VISN Hand Sanitizer Totals:				
VISN PAPRS Total:				
VISN 2				
VISN Eye Protection Total:				
VISN Gloves Total:				
VISN Gowns Total:				
VISN Mask Totals:				
VISN N95 Mask Totals:				
VISN Hand Sanitizer Totals:				
VISN PAPRS Total:				
VISN 4				
VISN Eye Protection Total:				
VISN Gloves Total:				
VISN Gowns Total:				
VISN Mask Totals:				
VISN N95 Mask Totals:				
VISN Hand Sanitizer Totals:				
VISN PAPRS Total:				
VISN 5				
VISN Eye Protection Total:				
VISN Gloves Total:				
VISN Gowns Total:				

PPE/COVID-19					
Operational Supply					
VISNs and Facilities	Supplies On Hand	Supplies Required	Days of Supply on Hand	Days of Supply Required	Remarks
VISN 1					
Togus VA Medical Center					
Eye Protection (shield or goggles)	5				
Gloves					
Gowns - isolation					
Mask (Generic or surgical)					
N95 Masks					
Hand sanitizer					
PAPRS					
White River Junction VA Medical Center					
Eye Protection (shield or goggles)	5				
Gloves					
Gowns - isolation					
Mask (Generic or surgical)					
N95 Masks					
Hand sanitizer					
PAPRS					
Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VA Hospital					
Eye Protection (shield or goggles)	5				
Gloves					
Gowns - isolation					
Mask (Generic or surgical)					
N95 Masks					
Hand sanitizer					
PAPRS					
Jamaica Plain VA Medical Center					
Eye Protection (shield or goggles)	5				
Gloves					
Gowns - isolation					
Mask (Generic or surgical)					
N95 Masks					
Hand sanitizer					
PAPRS					



VA MSPV Executive Summary

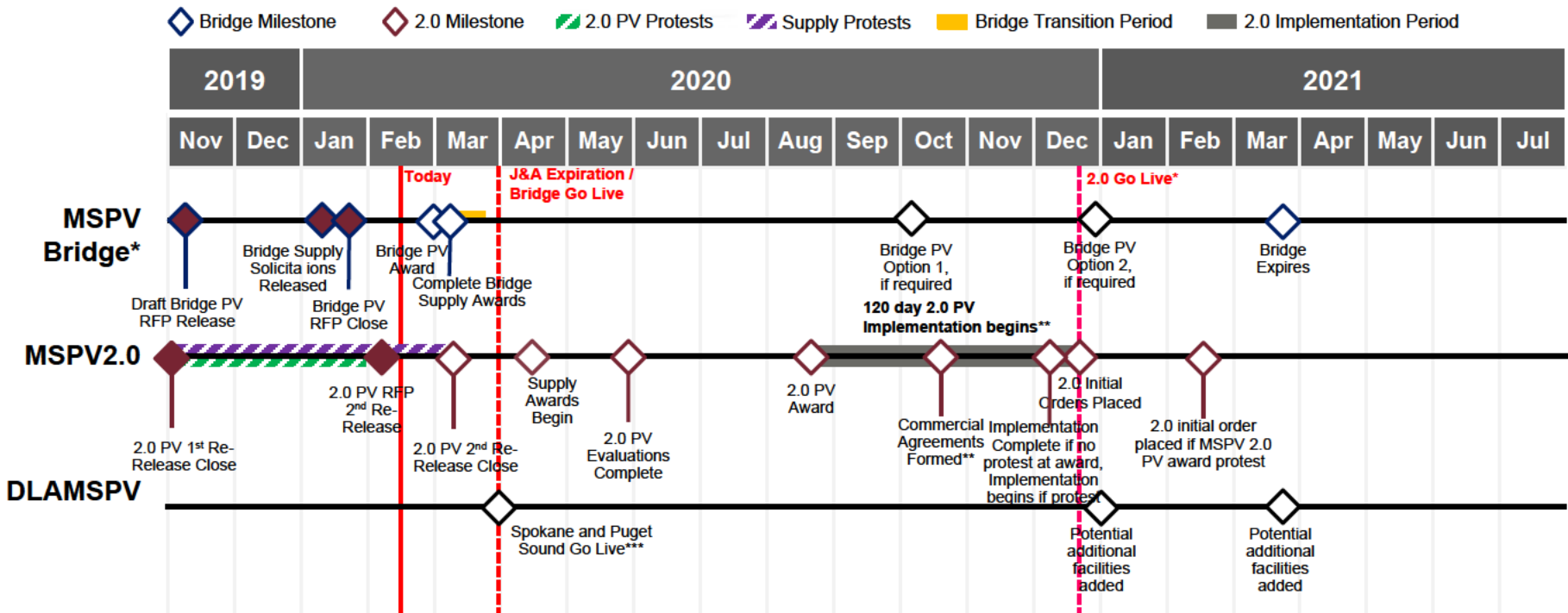
Purpose: To explain path forward for MSPV

- 3/31/20: MSPV-NG contract expires 12/2020: Replacement (MSPV 2.0) available, protest could delay this date to 2/2021 3/2020 – 12/2020: MSPV Bridge will be implemented (subject to change pending protests) 1/17/20: MSPV Bridge PV's were contacted to propose pricing for supplies to cover the gap between MSPV-NG and MSPV 2.0 1/23/20: MSPV Bridge PV Request for Proposal (RFP) for distribution closed and will maintain the existing PVs Distribution and pricing agreements (DAPAs) established for MSPV Bridge supplies Facilities allowed to order supplemental supplies to MSPV from Electronic Catalog (ECAT) and Government Purchase Card when not available via MSPV Bridge Metrics are being reviewed for adjustments to allow supplemental ordering without penalty against facilities/VISNs 8/2020: Award MSPV 2.0 PV Contracts; VISNs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 17, and 22 will be set-aside for Small Business concerns using a Tiered Evaluation approach MSPV 2.0 expected to provide >100,000 discrete medical products VA/DLA cost analysis to be updated to include MSPV 2.0 pricing



Overall MSPV Program Timeline

The abbreviated timeline below shows the schedule for MSPV-NG Bridge, MSPV 2.0, and DLA MSPV.



*MSPV-NG Bridge Milestones based on SAC IMS – "BridgeIMS_JW_TS.mpp" received on 01/14/20***DLA MSPV dependent on PV concurrence and business process resolutions



DLA MSPV ECAT; Spokane and Puget Sound

- Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) currently sourcing DLA MSPV via ECAT Portal Cardinal is the Prime Vendor for both VA MSPV-NG contract and DLA MSPV contract in VISN 20 via ECAT Trading Partner agreements complete for Spokane and Puget Sound to use DLA MSPV via ECAT Portal Minor gap training needed to support transition to DLA MSPV ECAT Portal Proposed processes for VISN 20 to use DLA MSPV via ECAT Portal provided to VISN 20 for review Possible manual process may be necessary to support order certification, being worked with VISN, FSC, and DLAVA FSC to work on data exchange to establish an automated certification process; estimation to complete this work – TBD



Proposed DMLSS IOC Timeline

TODAY

Aug. 2020

Sept. 2020

Oct. 2020

Nov. 2020

**FHCC Go-
Live 8/3/20**



**Puget Sound Go-
Live 9/1/20**



**Spokane Go-
Live 10/13/20**



**EHRM Go-
Live 11/30/20**



Ongoing Requirements Prioritization via VALOR ChCB

From:	Stone, Richard A., MD </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BD16619615D64ADEA22E45E63FF6462A-STONE, RICH>
SentVia:	Felan, Leilani </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=62469214402347e690a6dca6e028f1d6-Felan, Leil>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Adams, Jennifer L. (VHACO) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2d6fa69f6594473691f5f4d87a9d4412-Adams, Jenn (B6) @va.gov>; Butler, Kristi /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8d0afc371994181883d8861127791c3-Howard, Kri (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	COVID-19 Preparations/Info Review
Date:	2020/03/06 10:45:15
Start Date:	2020/03/06 15:00:00
End Date:	2020/03/06 15:30:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Appointment
Location:	800/31244#

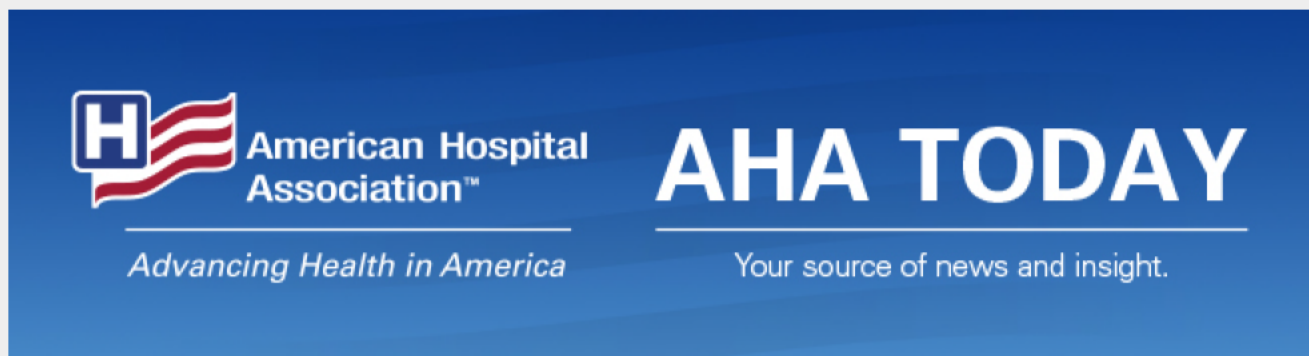
Sender:	Stone, Richard A., MD </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BD16619615D64ADEA22E45E63FF6462A-STONE, RICH>; Felan, Leilani </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=62469214402347e690a6dca6e028f1d6-Felan, Leil>
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Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates - News on CJR Program
Date:	2020/02/22 10:09:57
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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[AHA Today](#)

February 22, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Latest Updates and Resources for Hospitals and Health Systems on Coronavirus

The AHA continues to track the latest news on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and share updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and other organizations. See the latest updates and resources on [AHA's webpage](#).

Trending This Week

1. CMS proposes changes to hip and knee bundled payment program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Feb. 20 issued a rule proposing changes to the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement model, which bundles payment to acute care hospitals for hip and knee replacement surgery. [Read more.](#)

2. VA offers resources to help prevent suicide among veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers a host of materials to help community partners, including health care organizations, prevent suicide among veterans. The resources include a Coaching into Care website and national telephone service; community provider toolkit; safe messaging practices; and family suicide prevention guides, among others. [Read more.](#)

3. AHA launches resources on public health approaches to address gun violence

The AHA through its Hospitals Against Violence initiative has launched a new webpage to support hospitals and health systems' efforts to combat the public health issue of gun violence. [Read more.](#)

4. AHA Stat Blog: Research letter on charity care incomplete

The authors fail to account for the full range of costs nonprofit hospitals incur, and neglect to acknowledge the plethora of other benefits non-profit hospitals and health systems contribute to their communities, writes AHA General Counsel Melinda Hatton. [Read more.](#)

5. AHA podcast: A conversation about the future of health care innovation

On this podcast, Jay Bhatt, D.O., AHA senior vice president and chief medical officer, and Andy Shir, chief operating officer of the AHA Center for Health Innovation, discuss major trends for 2020 and beyond as health care organizations build teams to advance clinical care and drive innovation. [Listen here.](#)

A banner for the 2020 AHA Annual Membership Meeting. The background shows the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., surrounded by green trees under a clear blue sky. The year '2020' is prominently displayed in the center, with the '20' in red and the '20' in blue. Below the year, the text 'Annual Membership Meeting' is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the dates and location 'April 19-21, 2020 | Washington, D.C.' are written in a smaller, dark blue font. At the bottom center, there are three red stars above the AHA logo, which consists of the letters 'AHA' in a blue, sans-serif font.

2020

Annual Membership Meeting

April 19-21, 2020 | Washington, D.C.



[AHA](https://www.aha.org)

Events & Education

April 19-21 AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Register today for the year's pre-eminent advocacy and public policy conference, where leaders from health care, politics, public policy and the media will discuss the issues that matter most to hospitals and health systems, and the patients and communities they serve. **To register, view meeting detail and travel information, visit AnnualMeeting.aha.org.**

Feb. 27 webinar at 1 p.m. ET on infusion strategies, featuring specialty pharmacy services

Leaders from Comprehensive Pharmacy Services will take part in an AHA webinar on the importance of developing a comprehensive enterprise strategy for infusion services. Learn how to reduce gaps in therapy, create opportunities for optimal patient outcomes, minimize patient "leakage" from the health system, improve patient access to care and maintain favorable economics to support infusion services. **[View more information and register.](#)**

March 4 webinar at 1 p.m. ET on system-wide alarm, alert and notification plan implementation

A case study by Advocate Aurora Health that examines the components to consider when

implementing a system-wide alarm management strategy is the subject of an AHA webinar. The case study is designed to improve patient care and support patient safety by reducing non-actionable alarms, noise and alarm fatigue, with experts identifying best practices related to alarm and noise management and potential research areas. [View more information and register.](#)

March 4-5 workshop on design thinking principles and TeamSTEPPS

Learn to become an influencer within your organization by attending AHA's TeamSTEPPS Next Step workshop in Seattle designed to create meaningful change and drive quality and patient safety. You'll use TeamSTEPPS tools and principles to define problems and brainstorm new solutions to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of patients, colleagues and stakeholders. [View more information and register.](#)

March 17 webinar at 1 p.m. ET on promoting resilience and preventing burnout

AHA's Physician Alliance will lead a conversation on how to move beyond the prevention of burnout during the webinar. Speakers from Parkview Physician Group and the National Taskforce for Humanism in Healthcare will discuss the systemic cultivation of human thriving and connection to promote resilience, well-being and joy for all health care team members. [View more information and register.](#)

March 18-21 American Organization of Nursing Leadership Conference in Nashville

Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin keynotes AHA's American Organization for Nursing Leadership 2020 conference March 18-21 in Nashville. She will discuss how today's leaders can learn from the past. Nurse entrepreneur and inventor Rebecca Love will also speak about empowering nurses and fostering innovation, creativity and collaboration to transform health care. [View more information and register.](#)

March 22-25 ASHE Future of Health Care Summit in San Antonio

AHA's American Society for Health Care Engineering will co-host a Future of Health Care Summit for health care planning, design and construction professionals. The event combines great education and long-lasting connections with a robust exhibit floor. [View more information and register.](#)

March 25 webinar at 2 p.m. ET on the role of public health research in gun prevention

Megan Ranney, M.D., emergency physician at Rhode Island Hospital, associate professor at Brown University and chief research officer for the American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine, will provide an overview of existing data on the epidemiology of gun violence during an AHA Hospitals Against Violence Initiative webinar. She'll detail promising research on prevention and the difference health systems can make by expanding the evidence base for gun violence prevention. [View more information and register.](#)

June 3-5 AHA Team Training national conference in New Orleans

Learn how to improve patient care, increase staff satisfaction, foster resilience and supercharge quality improvement efforts during AHA's Team Training National Conference. Participants will use this conference as a hub for different interdisciplinary groups from diverse health care settings to meet. *Early bird registration rates are available through March 31.* [View more information and register.](#)

June 15-19 ACHI and IFDHE national conferences

Executives and leaders from the nation's hospitals, health systems, community health and other health-related organizations will gather in Cleveland for the Association for Community Health Improvement and the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity national conferences. Discounted registration fees are available to those attending both conferences. [View more information and register for the ACHI and IFDHE conferences.](#)



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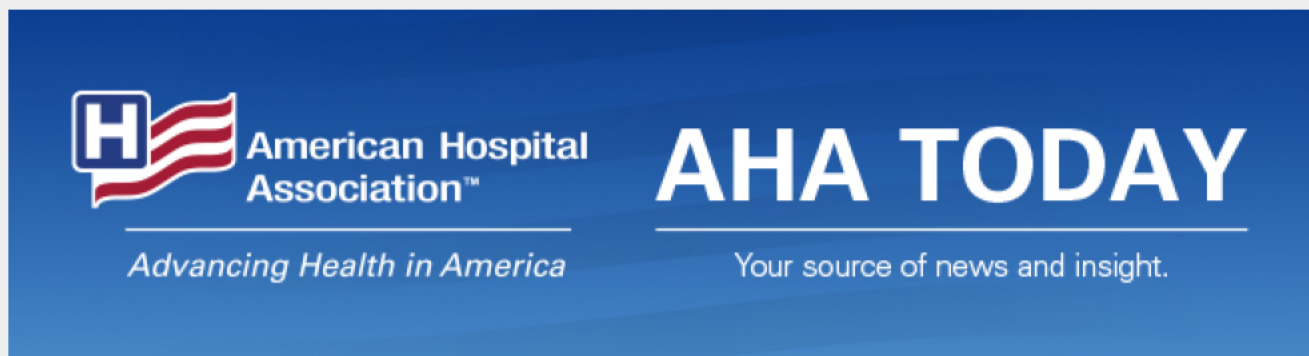
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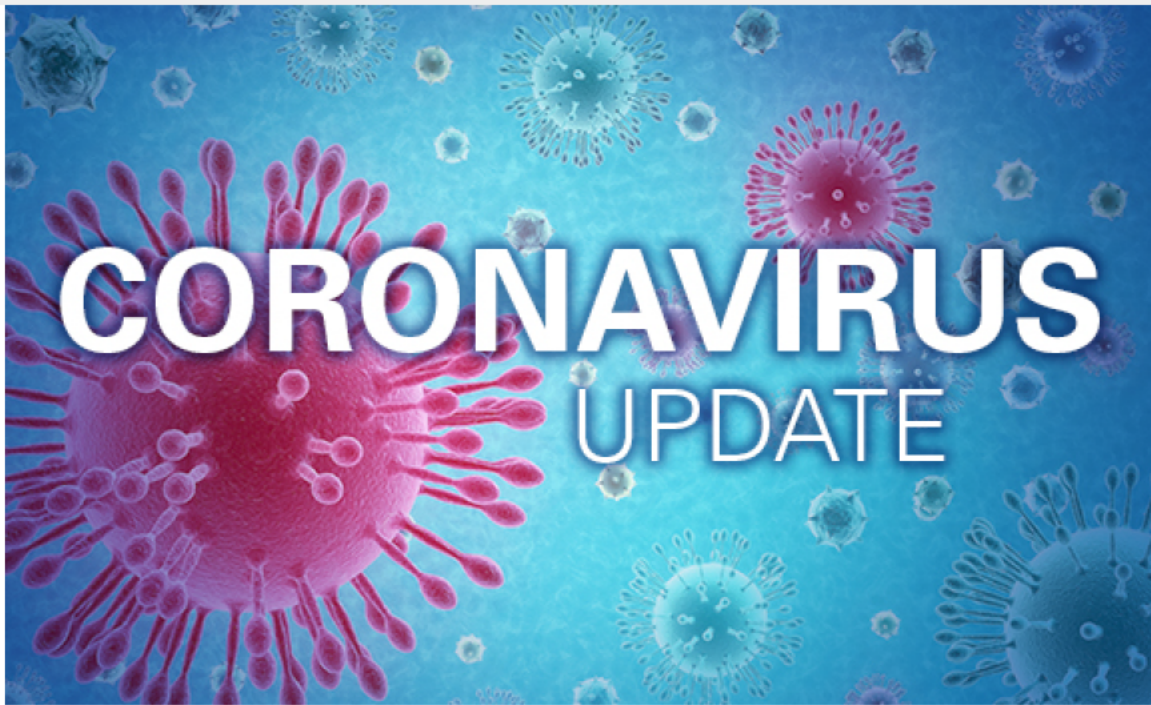


[AHA Today](#)

February 11, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

CDC Offers Strategies for Conserving PPE Supplies, Confirms 13th Coronavirus Case in U.S.

As hospitals and health systems raise concerns over possible shortages of personal protective equipment, including respirators, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to [update guidance](#) and provide strategies that health care providers can use during the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak now and in the event of a shortage of N95 respirators.



[today-coronavirus-575x350-V2_981590.jpg](#)

CDC recommends the use of a [hierarchy of controls](#) in health care settings to prevent infectious disease transmission. These include:

- engineering controls to reduce exposures by placing a barrier between health care personnel and the people who may be infected;
- administrative controls, such as work practices and policies to reduce or prevent exposures and
- the use of PPE as part of a comprehensive program in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Respiratory Protection Standard.

CDC today [confirmed](#) the 13th case of 2019-nCoV in the U.S. The patient recently returned from Wuhan, China, to California as an evacuee and was released from UC San Diego Health after [testing negative](#) for the virus. However further testing showed a positive result, and the patient was returned to the hospital from mandatory quarantine at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, along with one other individual from the base.

The World Health Organization today [reported](#) over 43,000 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV and more than 1,000 related deaths, with the vast majority of both in China.

WHO also announced its official name for the virus — [COVID-19](#).

"We had to find a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual or group of people, and which is also pronounceable and related to the disease," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said today in a [press briefing](#). "Having a name matters to prevent the use of other names that can be inaccurate or stigmatizing."

For the latest information and resources, visit [AHA's coronavirus webpage](#).

Today's Headlines

1. • Ban Surprise Billing Act clears committee
2. • Appeals court to hear oral arguments April 17 in outpatient payment case
3. • Minnesota association names president and CEO

[See Full Stories Below](#)

Insights & Analysis



[190x127ph.jpg](#)

Challenge encourages nurse leadership and development training

AHA's American Organization for Nursing Leadership supports 2020 Nightingale Challenge to recruit health care organizations commit to providing leadership and development training for the nurses aged 35 and younger, writes Robyn Begley, AHA senior vice president and chief nursing officer and CEO of AONL. [Read more.](#)

AHA Market Scan: Studies prove value of telehealth in rural areas

The latest edition of Market Scan — a newsletter from AHA's Center for Health Innovation — looks at recent reports validating the use of virtual health care in rural communities; and how utilizing artificial intelligence can improve the rural "retail medicine"

MARKET SCAN

[190x127ph.jpg](#)

experience for providers and patients. [Read more.](#)



The banner features a man in a light blue shirt gesturing while speaking. To his left, the text 'NEXT GEN' is displayed in large white letters, with 'AHA Leaders Fellowship' underneath. To his right, the American Hospital Association logo and 'AHA CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION' are shown. Further right, text encourages sending 'rising leaders' to drive the next generation of health care, with a yellow button that says 'Nominations Now Open »'. The AHA logo is at the bottom center.

**NEXT
XT
GEN**
AHA Leaders Fellowship

American Hospital Association
Advancing Health in America

AHA CENTER FOR HEALTH
INNOVATION

Send us your **rising
leaders** to drive the
next generation of
health care!

Nominations Now Open »

[AHA](#)

Today's Headlines Continued

1. Ban Surprise Billing Act clears committee

The House Education and Labor Committee today voted 32-13 to report out an amended version of the Ban Surprise Billing Act (H.R. 5800), legislation to address surprise medical bills. The bill relies on a median in-network rate to resolve out-of-network payments. For amounts paid above \$750 (or \$25,000 for air ambulance services), the legislation allows for an independent dispute resolution process to determine the final payment.

In [comments](#) shared with committee leaders yesterday, AHA said it supports efforts to shield patients

from the financial burden of unexpected medical expenses, but expressed concerns with the committee's legislative approach to determining reimbursement for out-of-network providers.

Reps. Joseph Morelle, D-N.Y., Donna Shalala, D-Fla., Phil Roe, R-Tenn., Kim Schrier, D-Wash., Rick Allen, R-Ga., and Jeff Van Drew, R-N.J., expressed concerns that the bill would benefit insurance companies at the expense of health care providers, especially rural, children's and teaching hospitals.

Morelle said the bill would have the effect of "allowing a health plan to set the rate it will provide to out-of-network providers."

Shalala, who served as Health and Human Services Secretary under President Clinton, said the bill essentially "asks my Republican colleagues to support government rate setting in the private sector and asks my Democratic colleagues to take money from their local hospitals and give it to insurance companies."

Morelle offered an amendment to replace the bill with [AHA-supported](#) legislation released last week by leaders of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Shalala, Roe, Schrier and Susie Lee, D-Nev., cosponsored the amendment, which the committee ruled not germane due to provisions beyond its jurisdiction.

The Ways and Means Committee is scheduled to mark up its surprise medical billing legislation tomorrow.

2. Appeals court to hear oral arguments April 17 in outpatient payment case

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will hear [oral arguments](#) April 17 in the Department of Health and Human Services' appeal of a [district court ruling](#) in favor of the AHA and hospital organizations that found the agency could not reduce calendar year 2019 payments for hospital outpatient services provided in grandfathered off-campus provider-based departments. The AHA, joined by the Association of American Medical Colleges and several member hospitals, last month [amended](#) the lawsuit against HHS to challenge the agency's continuation of the payment cut in 2020, arguing that the 2020 reduction is unlawful for the same reasons as the 2019 cuts.

3. Minnesota association names president and CEO

The Minnesota Hospital Association recently [named](#) as its president and CEO Rahul Koranne, M.D., who has served as senior vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer for the association since 2015. He succeeds Lawrence Massa, who retired in September and [died](#) Nov. 22. Koranne has 20 years of health care experience spanning the continuum of care.

"Rahul's experience includes leadership in both a large health system and one of Minnesota's smallest critical access hospitals," said MHA Board Chair Sara Criger, senior vice president, Allina Health, and president, Mercy Hospital and United Hospital. "In addition, Rahul brings the leadership qualities the board of directors was seeking as well as a deep commitment to our mission of improving the health of the community."

Minnesotans. He will accelerate the association's strong collaboration with other health care stakeholders in Minnesota."



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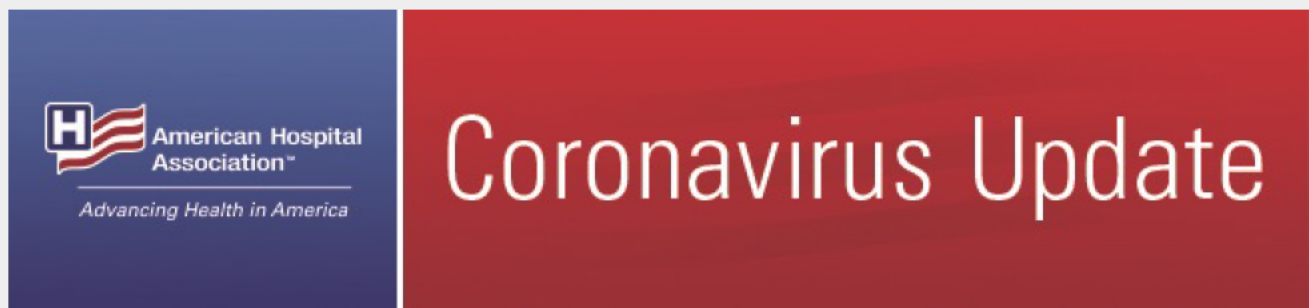
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Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Advisory: New Resources on Coronavirus
Date:	2020/02/18 16:37:51
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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AHA Special Bulletin

February 18, 2020

Updated Resources for U.S. Hospitals and Health Systems on Preparing for COVID-19 and Stewardship of Personal Protective Equipment

Register for AHA member webinar Feb. 21 with Providence St. Joseph Health, which treated the first patient in the U.S. with COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring and collaborating with the World Health Organization on an outbreak caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

The AHA continues to closely track the progress of this outbreak, its impact on hospitals and health systems, and the status of the supply chain for personal protective equipment and other critical medical supplies and products.

Download a new [AHA Advisory](#), which highlights a number of updated resources, including a CDC hospital preparedness assessment tool and information on ways to conserve supplies of PPE in hospitals. Please share this advisory with your chief medical officer, chief nursing officer, chief quality officer, hospital epidemiologist, infection control leadership, emergency department

director, emergency preparedness staff, employee health and heads of services (e.g., environmental services, resources and materials managers, hospital engineers, pediatrics and critical care).

In addition, AHA will host a webinar with Rebecca Bartles, executive director of system infection prevention at Providence St. Joseph Health in Washington state, which was the first health care organization to treat a patient in the U.S. with COVID-19. [To register for this members-only Feb. 21 webinar from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET, click here.](#)

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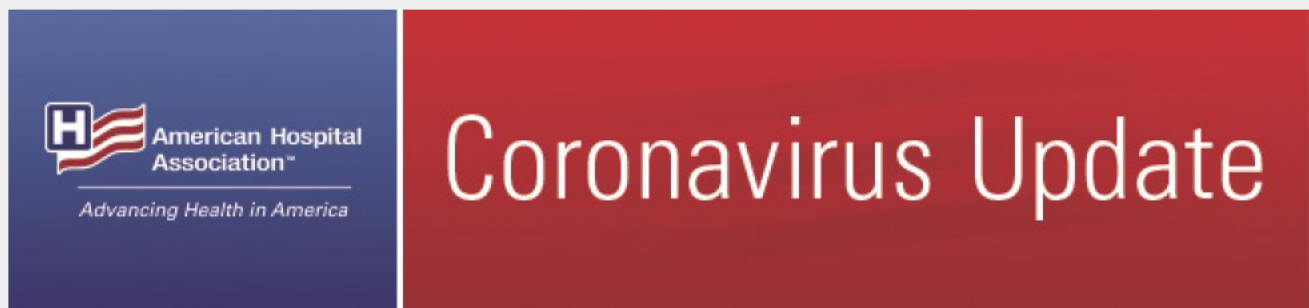
Advancing Health in America American
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Date:	2020/03/04 18:27:50
Priority:	Normal
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[Click here to access a web or mobile friendly version of the newsletter.](#)



AHA Special Bulletin

March 4, 2020

Congress Reaches Deal on \$8.3 Billion Coronavirus Spending Package

Congressional leaders today reached a deal on an [\\$8.3 billion spending package](#) to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The House passed the bill this afternoon, and the Senate is expected to take it up soon.

Select highlights of the package follow.

CDC Funding for Public Health Funding for Prevention, Preparedness and Response. The bill provides \$2.2 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support federal, state and local public health agencies to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. This includes \$950 million, of which \$475 million must be allocated within 30 days, to conduct public health activities, such as:

- surveillance for coronavirus;
- laboratory testing to detect positive cases;
- contact tracing to identify additional positive cases;
- infection control at the local level to prevent additional cases;

- migration in areas with person-to-person transmission to prevent additional cases; and
- other public health preparedness and response activities.

HHS Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. The bill provides more than \$3 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to develop and purchase vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies and medical surge capacity, plus an additional \$300 million in contingency funds to buy vaccines if HHS certifies that it is necessary. In addition, the bill includes funding for grants for the construction, alteration or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at state and local levels.

National Institutes of Health. The bill provides \$836 million to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for research and development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. Of that amount, \$10 million is transferred to the National Institute on Environmental Health Sciences for worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure for hospital employees, emergency first responders and other workers on the front lines combatting the virus.

Emergency Telehealth Waiver. The bill allows the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to waive certain Medicare telehealth restrictions during the coronavirus public health emergency. The waivers would allow Medicare providers to furnish telehealth services to Medicare patients regardless of whether the patient is in a rural community. This provision also would allow Medicare patients to receive care from physicians and other practitioners in their homes. This provision is estimated to cost \$500 million.

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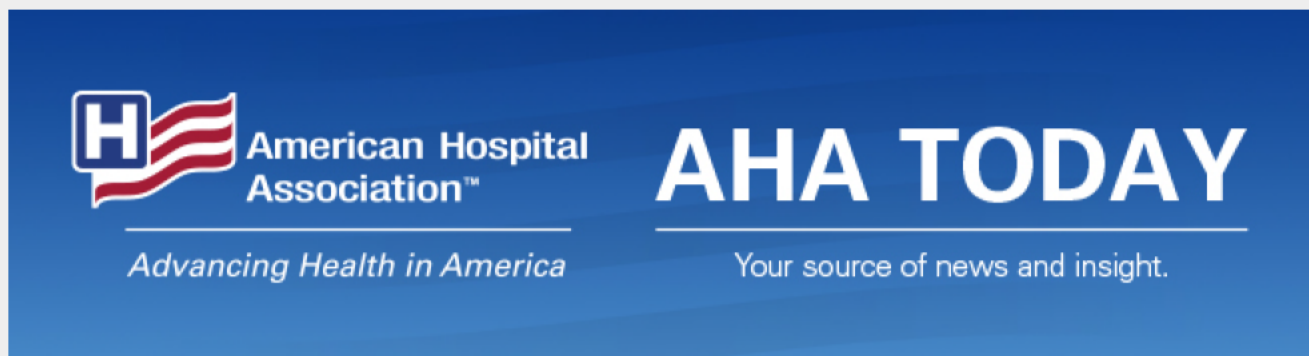
Advancing Health in America American Hospital Association

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Date:	2020/02/29 10:16:32
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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[AHA Today](#)

February 29, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Updates and Resources on Novel Coronavirus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Feb. 27 issued [updated guidance](#) for health care professionals evaluating and reporting patients under investigation for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition, CDC said it hopes to have every state and local public health department able to test for COVID-19 by the end of next week.

See [AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack's Feb. 28 Perspective](#) for more on COVID-19.

The AHA will continue to keep members informed on the latest developments on this issue. For more information and resources, visit [AHA's coronavirus update page](#).

Trending This Week

1. AHA, state hospital associations file briefs in case to prevent disclosure of negotiated contracts

The AHA, joined by three other national organizations representing hospitals and health systems, last yesterday filed a reply brief in their [lawsuit](#) challenging a 2019 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services final rule mandating that hospitals disclose their privately negotiated rates with commercial health insurers.

Among other areas, the AHA and other hospital groups continued to highlight why the Department of Health and Human Services does not have statutory authority to require and enforce a provision that mandates public disclosure of individually negotiated rates between commercial health insurers and hospitals under the authority it has to compel disclosure of "standard charges."

Thirty-seven state hospital associations yesterday also filed an [amicus brief](#) in support of the AHA's position. Watch for more next week in AHA Today.

2. Congress urged to consider value-based addiction recovery services payment

The Alliance for Addiction Payment Reform, whose members include the AHA, Feb. 26 showcased its value-based payment model for addiction and recovery support services at a briefing for congressional lawmakers and staff. [Read more.](#)

3. Local health systems promote healthy behaviors

Smoking, diabetes and hospital readmission rates fall and exercising and healthy eating increase in communities where hospitals and health systems use effective strategies to encourage healthy behavior changes, writes Nancy Myers, vice president of leadership and system innovation at the AHA Center for Health Innovation. [Read more.](#)

4. AHA: Article does not tell full story about hospitals' community investments

"The recent Modern Healthcare article 'Top not-for-profit hospitals offer less charity care, study finds,' does not tell the full story of how hospitals and health systems improve community health," writes AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack in a letter to the editor published Feb. 22. [Read more.](#)

5. Sharing examples of how we are making health care more affordable

Examples captured in a recent summary from AHA's The Value Initiative highlight ways hospitals and health systems are leading efforts to advance affordability by transforming the way health care is delivered in our communities, writes AHA Board Chair Melinda L. Estes, M.D. [Read more.](#)

6. Atrium Health receives CMS Health Equity Award

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Feb. 27 presented a 2020 CMS Health Equity Award to Atrium Health, formerly known as Carolinas HealthCare System, for its efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in colorectal cancer screening rates. [Read more.](#)



Events & Education

April 19-21 AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Don't miss networking with hospital and health care leaders from across the country at AHA's Annual Meeting. Meeting attendees report that networking is a key benefit of the meeting. Connect with your colleagues and experience the value of a meeting designed for national health care leaders. **To**

register with early bird rates, view meeting details and travel information, visit AnnualMeeting.aha.org. The early bird rate ends next Friday. Check this space often for updates.

March 4-5 workshop on design thinking principles and TeamSTEPPS

Learn to become an influencer within your organization by attending AHA's TeamSTEPPS Next Step workshop in Seattle. This event is designed to help you instill meaningful change and drive quality and patient safety. You'll use TeamSTEPPS tools and principles to define problems and brainstorm new solutions to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of patients, colleagues and stakeholders. [View more information and register.](#)

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Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Resources - Letter on Drug Shortages Bill
Date:	2020/03/05 18:20:45
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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March 5, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Today's Headlines

1. • Coronavirus latest: Updates from Congress, CDC and CMS
2. • AHA, others voice support for drug shortages bill
3. • Bill would align privacy regulations to improve care for SUD patients
4. • List prices for branded drugs in U.S. rose 159% over 11 years

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Insights & Analysis



CASE STUDY

[190x127ph.jpg](#)

Case Study: Wellness model optimizes prenatal care for low-risk expectant mothers

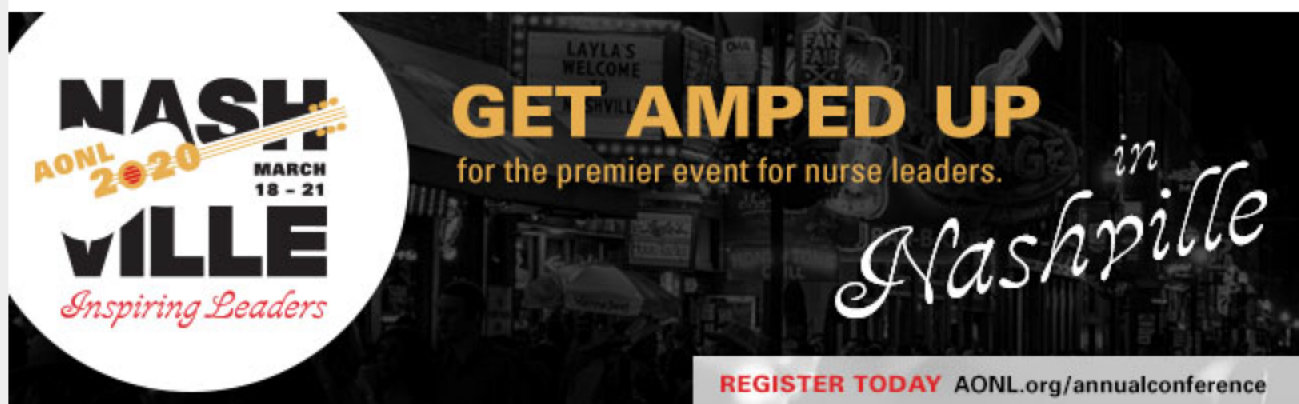
The Mayo Clinic's OB Nest program allows women experiencing low-risk pregnancies to reduce in-person prenatal doctor visits by using technology and enhanced communication techniques. Enrolled patients report more satisfaction with the care received and less prenatal stress. [Read more in this case study.](#)



[190x127ph.jpg](#)

AHA Podcast: Value of using collaboration to advance health equity

In part two of this AHA Advancing Health podcast, Jay Bhatt, DHA senior vice president and chief medical officer, and Maurice Jones, president and CEO of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, continue their discussion on social determinants of health and how collaborations between hospitals and community development organizations advance health equity. [Listen here.](#)



[AHA](#)

Today's Headlines Continued

1. Coronavirus latest: Updates from Congress, CDC and CMS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday updated its [guidance](#) for risk assessment and public health management of health care personnel with potential exposure to patients with novel coronavirus (COVID-19). In the setting of community transmission, CDC says facilities should shift emphasis to more routine practices, which include asking health care personnel to "report recognized exposures, regularly monitor themselves for fever and symptoms of respiratory infection and not report work when ill." In addition, CDC says facilities could consider allowing asymptomatic health care personnel who have had exposure to a COVID-19 patient to continue to work after consultation with occupational health program.

The Senate today [passed](#) the \$8.3 billion funding package that the House passed yesterday for COVID-19 preparedness and response.

In other news, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services yesterday [said](#) that until further notice, state agencies and accrediting organizations inspecting nursing homes and hospitals should focus "exclusively on issues related to infection control and other serious health and safety threats, like allegations of abuse."

Meanwhile, California [declared](#) a state of emergency yesterday due to the broader spread of COVID-19. The proclamation will "protect consumers against price gouging, allow for health care workers to come from out of state to assist at health care facilities, and give health care facilities the flexibility to plan and adapt to accommodate incoming patients."

In a [media briefing](#) today, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "This epidemic is a threat for every country, rich and poor. As we have said before, even high-

income countries should expect surprises. The solution is aggressive preparedness."

For the latest information and resources, visit aha.org/COVID19.

2. AHA, others voice support for drug shortages bill

Reps. Scott Peters, D-Calif., Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., Brett Guthrie, R-KY, Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., Richard Hudson, R-N.C., Michael McCaul, R-Texas, Kurt Schrader, D-Ore., and Gus Bilirakis, D-Fla., yesterday [introduced](#) the Preventing Drug Shortages Act (H.R. 6080).

The AHA-supported bill would strengthen drug shortage reporting requirements under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 to include manufacturers of active pharmaceutical ingredients and information such as the cause, extent and expected duration of shortages. It also would require manufacturers to implement risk management plans.

"The Preventing Drug Shortages Act builds upon the prior work of Congress to provide additional authority to the FDA to help mitigate drug shortages to ensure a stable supply of medications critical to patient care," AHA and other 12 national organizations [said](#) in a letter of support for the bill.

Last week, AHA and others [urged](#) the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to quickly advance the Mitigating Emergency Drug Shortages (MEDS) Act (S.2723), bipartisan legislation that also would strengthen drug shortage reporting requirements and include manufacturers of active pharmaceutical ingredients, among other provisions.

3. Bill would align privacy regulations to improve care for SUD patients

Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., this week [reintroduced](#) the Protecting Patient Privacy Act (S. 3374), AHA-supported legislation that would modernize privacy regulations affecting the disclosure of substance use disorder treatment records to better enable health care providers to coordinate care. The bipartisan bill would more closely align 42 CFR Part 2 with HIPAA regulations and strengthen protections against discrimination, while allowing patients to opt-in to share their addiction records in a variety of coordinated care settings.

The Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2, a coalition of health care organizations including the AHA [applauded](#) the bill. "The Partnership strongly believes that the modernization of privacy regulations affecting medical records for persons with substance use disorders, while protecting this information with enhanced penalties for unlawful disclosure and use, is a critical component for tackling the opioid crisis and will improve the overall coordination of care in the United States."

4. List prices for branded drugs in U.S. rose 159% over 11 years

List prices for branded pharmaceutical products in the United States increased 159% between 2007 and 2018, an average of 9.1% per year, according to a [study](#) reported this week in JAMA. List prices

represent the manufacturers' price to wholesalers or direct purchasers, but do not account for discounts. Net prices for branded pharmaceutical products, which represent per unit revenue after all discounts and manufacturer concessions, increased 60% over the period, or an average 4.5% per year, the study found.



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February 15, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Publishing Note

AHA Today will not publish on Monday, Feb. 17 in observance of Presidents Day.

Trending This Week

1. Latest updates and resources for hospitals and health systems on

coronavirus

The AHA continues to track the latest news on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and share updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and other organizations. See the latest updates and resources on [AHA's webpage](#).

2. President releases budget request with cuts to Medicare, Medicaid

President Trump Feb. 10 submitted to Congress his budget request for fiscal year 2021. The budget request, which is not binding, proposes hundreds of billions of dollars in reductions to Medicare and Medicaid over 10 years. The budget request also contains a number of provisions related to drug pricing, opioids and other health-related issues. [Read more](#).

3. Applications open for 2020 AHA Innovation Challenge

The AHA has launched its 2020 Innovation Challenge — a competition to accelerate health care innovation. This year's challenge asks AHA members and their partners to help make behavioral health care more accessible and affordable. [Read more](#).

4. Rural health system prioritizes workforce diversity to meet community needs

Northern Light Health, an integrated health system serving Maine, embraces the shifting demography of its patients and increasingly diverse, foreign-born workforce, which allows the system to strengthen access to high-quality, equitable health care. [Read more](#).

5. NJ leader cites AHA TrendWatch as a resource to address workforce challenges

Cathy Bennett, president and CEO of the New Jersey Hospital Association, talks about the latest AHA workforce TrendWatch and how hospitals and health systems in her state champion programs to support a skilled and dynamic workforce. [Read more](#).

The banner features a background image of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., surrounded by green trees. The year '2020' is prominently displayed in the center, with the first '0' in red and the other three digits in blue.

2020

Annual Membership Meeting

April 19-21, 2020 | Washington, D.C.



[AHA](#)

Events & Education

April 19-21 AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Register today for the year's pre-eminent advocacy and public policy conference, where leaders from health care, politics, public policy and the media will discuss the issues that matter most to hospitals and health systems, and the patients and communities they serve. *Early bird registration is now open.* To register, view meeting details and travel information, visit AnnualMeeting.aha.org.

Feb. 18 webinar on creating a clinically integrated supply chain

Learn how clinically integrated supply chains are implemented and help align health care leaders, clinicians and supply chain professionals with today's value-based payment models. This webinar, hosted by AHA's Physician Alliance on Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. ET, will feature Teresa Dail, chief supply chain officer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. [View more information and register.](#)

Feb. 19 webinar on measuring teamwork culture

The U.S. Army Medical Command's use of TeamSTEPPS tools and strategies to create high-performing teams is the next topic of an AHA Team Training webinar on Feb. 19 at 12 p.m. ET. [View more information and register.](#)

Feb. 19 webinar on gun violence as a biopsychosocial issue

AHA's Hospitals Against Violence initiative will host a webinar framing gun violence as a complex biopsychosocial disease on Feb. 19 at 12 p.m. ET. Learn about the biopsychosocial model, how it applies to gun violence, and identify prevention and care opportunities that can inform your health system's approach to reducing deaths and injuries while making the communities we serve healthier and safer. [View more information and register.](#)

Feb. 20 webinar on digital workforce solutions

Experts from AHA's Center for Health Innovation will discuss how digital solutions are achieving results with key capabilities that move the needle on cost, quality and productivity. The Feb. 20 webinar with AVIA will be held at 1 p.m. ET, and will also include a solutions-and-metrics framework for the most important problems. [View more information and register.](#)

Feb. 27 webinar on infusion strategies, featuring specialty pharmacy services

Leaders from Comprehensive Pharmacy Services will take part in an AHA webinar on the importance of developing a comprehensive enterprise strategy for infusion services. During this event, on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. ET, you'll hear how to reduce gaps in therapy, create opportunities for optimal patient outcomes, minimize patient "leakage" from the health system, improve patient access to care and maintain favorable economics to support infusion services. [View more information and register.](#)

March 4 webinar on system-wide alarm, alert and notification plan implementation

A case study by Advocate Aurora Health that examines the components to consider when implementing a system-wide alarm management strategy is the subject of an AHA webinar on March 4 at 1 p.m. ET. The case study is designed to improve patient care and support patient safety by reducing non-actionable alarms, noise and alarm fatigue, with experts identifying best practices related to alarm and noise management and potential research areas. [View more information and register.](#)

March 4-5 workshop on design thinking principles and TeamSTEPPS

Learn to become an influencer within your organization by attending AHA's TeamSTEPPS Next Step workshop on March 4-5 in Seattle. The workshop is an immersive, collaborative learning environment designed to create meaningful change and drive quality and patient safety. You'll use TeamSTEPPS tools and principles to define problems and brainstorm new solutions to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of patients, colleagues and stakeholders. [View more information and register.](#)

March 10 webinar on how telehealth improves patient access and engagement

Learn how hospitals are improving access to care, enhancing patient engagement and driving better outcomes through telehealth. Sponsored by AHA's The Value Initiative, the March 10 virtual workshop at 2 p.m. ET will cover provider-to-provider and provider-to-patient telehealth services. [View more information and register.](#)

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February 26, 2020 | www.aha.org/calendar

Don't Miss Today's Members-Only Coronavirus Update Webinar

The AHA today at 12:30 p.m. ET is hosting a members-only webinar for health care leadership on how to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. Today's event features experts from University of Nebraska Medical Center, Emory University, HCA Healthcare and Massachusetts General Hospital. [Register here.](#)



[AHA](#)

April 19-21 AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington D.C.

Among the new sessions being added to AHA's Annual Membership Meeting, is one offering executive leaders insight on strategic cybersecurity and risk issues. In this session, Paul Abbate, associate deputy director for the FBI, and John Riggi, AHA's senior advisor for cybersecurity, will outline the latest tactics cyber adversaries are using and share how the FBI and the AHA are working together to assist hospitals in preventing and responding to cyberattacks. Attendees will walk away with a strategic cyber risk profile and tips for minimizing risk of cyber-attacks. [To register, view meeting details and travel information, visit \[AnnualMeeting.aha.org\]\(https://AnnualMeeting.aha.org\).](#) *More sessions are being added regularly — check this space often for updates!*



[AHA](#)

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April 1-3 Physician Leadership Experience tackles burnout

Learn to create new professional strategies to offset the demands of the 24/7/365, fast-paced and unrelenting health care environment and combat burnout during AHA's next Physician Leadership Experience. The Physician Alliance event takes place April 1-3 in Charlotte, N.C. *Register by March for early bird pricing.* Please contact physicianalliance@aha.org with any questions. [View more information and register.](#)

April 7 AHA Executive Forum: Accelerating the momentum on maternal and child health

Interact with AHA leadership, hospital and health system thought leaders, and your executive peers at the AHA Executive Forum in Austin, Texas. We'll explore opportunities and challenges in addressing maternal and child health, along with strategies for reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. This discussion includes strategies for evaluating and acting on data, examining disparities, engaging mothers and families, and partnering with clinicians and organizations in the community. [View more information and register.](#)

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May 7 AHA Executive Forum — Minneapolis: Low-tech solutions that improve value

Explore how local hospitals and health systems are driving innovation and value through collaboration with providers, payers, employers and community partners during the AHA Executive Forum. This event includes a discussion led by AHA Board Immediate Past Chair Brian Gragnolati on the low-tech solutions that health care organizations are deploying to improve value for their patients and communities. [View more information and register.](#)

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July 9 AHA Executive Forum — Louisville: Value through addressing health's social determinants

Explore how hospitals and health systems from the Louisville, Ky., region and beyond are driving innovation and value through collaboration with providers, payers, employers and community partners at AHA's upcoming Executive Forum. AHA Board Chair Melinda L. Estes, M.D., will lead a discussion at this event on how hospitals in the region are improving value by addressing the social determinants of health. [View more information and register.](#)



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To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) i@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) 8@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/21 16:44:33
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thank you (B6) and (B6) for the awesome work

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6)@va.gov>
Date: Friday, Feb 21, 2020, 4:32 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov, Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov, Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov, Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov, Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov, Carroll, William D. <(B6)@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>, MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6)@va.gov, Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Today is 1 full month of EMCC operations – spirits are high and team is committed. The EMCC will be staggering coverage to include some virtual support to allow time to recharge.

- As a result of a sub quality at the Quality Inn and Suites, DEMPS and DMORT staff have been moved to new lodging. Our DEMPS are at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord CA: 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord, CA 94520
- Area Emergency Manager has arrived as part of the IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio TX
- 1000 – 2oz bottles of hand sanitizer will arrive Thursday for 810, 811, M Street and other VACO buildings, Logs has set aside enough for Senior Leadership
- 21895 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran and spouse transferred from Travis to Kaiser Vallejo have been allowed by CA Health Department to return home and home isolate.
- (B6) briefed the Network Directors on the COVID-19 TTX
- Network Directors were provided with guidance on Telework, Non-GFE and GFE connectivity and how to access OIT equipment in an emergency
- Occ Health briefed the 2:00pm call (110 participants) on employee protection
- I briefed and reminded all participants on the 2:00pm and 3:00pm calls of the SecVA's position to continue focusing on current contingency plans and preparations for a surge of sick Veterans.
- EMCC Logistics coordinated with PL&O and Contracting for the order of 50,000 – N95 masks and 50,000 isolation gowns
- EMCC Logistics, PL&O and Contracting have worked out a plan to spread future orders out in a way not to impact the supply chain. The plan will allow VHA to treat 4500 patients with the appropriate PPE.
- The 50,000 masks and 50,000 gowns will be shipped and stored at the NAC, should a facility need these supplies they will contact the EMCC and the EMCC will coordinate with the NAC for shipment. Only a select few individuals within the EMCC will have the authority to release these emergency supplies.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming “At the emergency room of the hospital, employees attending sick patients whom recently came from China with flu like symptoms are not being provided with respiratory protection, potentially exposing employees to the 2019 novel coronavirus.” The facility in question was the Tampa VAMC. On follow-up this morning the unofficial reports are the claims are unfounded. A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.
- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.
- A draft document is under development concerning “stay home” messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.
- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA's ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.
- I advise Palo Alto of VHA's current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is "not enforceable".
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)
- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
 - Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
 - Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
 - Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
 - DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
 - HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
 - Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- • **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- • One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- • DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- • Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- • 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- • EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- • It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- • The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- • The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- • The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- • San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet Marc Fisher with HHS Public Health Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.
- • VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.
- • (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- • (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- • I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness

and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.

- • (B5) [REDACTED] (my opinion).
- • Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- • The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- • The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- • Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries outside of mainland China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained. [02/18/20]
- • HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- • HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- • HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- • HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.

- I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his February 6th appointment at the Freemont, CA CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.
- The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - • Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - • Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- • Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - • **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - • Two (2) are PUIs
- • One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- • Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- • AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- • This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- • Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- • Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- • Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- • Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- • The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- • The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- • As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is 69 and the other is 72. Both are Air Force Veterans
- • One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.

- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply

- • Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.

- • OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- • HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- • TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- • HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- • DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- • A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- • I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and

requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.

- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.

- • HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- • HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- • HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- • HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- • HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- • HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- • The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- • Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- • Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- • OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- • OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- • Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- • Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- • Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received

- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called “Health Pulse” and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

- Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
- 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
- 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
- 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
- Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
- 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
- Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- Total persons quarantined: 809

- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell,

Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of “Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don’t believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions.”

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today’s National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as “US citizens.” There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don’t describe everyone as “repatriated.” Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. Gretchen Michael reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT “repatriated.”

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- • 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- • I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- • At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- • At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- • At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- • At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- • Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- • At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- • Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- • Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- • The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- • The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of

- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with Tammy and Ray they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska

Medical Center – 75 evacuees

Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees

Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees

Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2

128 minors over 2

20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Czarnecki, Tammy /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6)@va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6)@va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6)@va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/02/21 16:44:31
Delivered Date:	2020/02/21 16:44:33
Message Flags:	Unread

From:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/21 16:58:23
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

You may be seeing the attached report. We are currently on the phone with the VISN and have been dealing with this issue. I did not provide information in my update below due to much of the

information is in the planning stages and the VISN has not released the full plan. There is much more to the story. I will provide the details once all the information has been verified by the VISN.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:33 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Today is 1 full month of EMCC operations – spirits are high and team is committed. The EMCC will be staggering coverage to include some virtual support to allow time to recharge.

- As a result of a sub quality at the Quality Inn and Suites, DEMPS and DMORT staff have been moved to new lodging. Our DEMPS are at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord CA: 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord, CA 94520
- Area Emergency Manager has arrived as part of the IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio TX
- 1000 – 2oz bottles of hand sanitizer will arrive Thursday for 810, 811, M Street and other VACO buildings, Logs has set aside enough for Senior Leadership
- 21895 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran and spouse transferred from Travis to Kaiser Vallejo have been allowed by CA Health Department to return home and home isolate.
- (B6) and I briefed the Network Directors on the COVID-19 TTX
- Network Directors were provided with guidance on Telework, Non-GFE and GFE connectivity and how to access OIT equipment in an emergency
- Occ Health briefed the 2:00pm call (110 participants) on employee protection
- I briefed and reminded all participants on the 2:00pm and 3:00pm calls of the SecVA's position to continue focusing on current contingency plans and preparations for a surge of sick Veterans.
- EMCC Logistics coordinated with PL&O and Contracting for the order of 50,000 – N95 masks and 50,000 isolation gowns
- EMCC Logistics, PL&O and Contracting have worked out a plan to spread future orders out in a way not to impact the supply chain. The plan will allow VHA to treat 4500 patients with the appropriate PPE.
- The 50,000 masks and 50,000 gowns will be shipped and stored at the NAC, should a facility need these supplies they will contact the EMCC and the EMCC will coordinate with the NAC for shipment. Only a select few individuals within the EMCC will have the authority to release these emergency supplies.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming “At the emergency room of the hospital, employees attending sick patients whom recently came from China with flu like symptoms are not being provided with respiratory protection, potentially exposing employees to the 2019 novel coronavirus.” The facility in question was the Tampa VAMC. On follow-up this morning the unofficial reports are the claims are unfounded. A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.
- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.
- A draft document is under development concerning “stay home” messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.
- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) r@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA's ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.
- I advise Palo Alto of VHA's current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is "not enforceable".
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)

- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
- Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
- DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- • **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- • One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- • DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- • Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- • 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- • EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- • It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- • The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- • The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- • The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- • San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet (B6) with HHS Public Health Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.
- • VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.
- • (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- • (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- • I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness

and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.

- • (B5) [REDACTED] (my opinion).
- • Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- • The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- • The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- • Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D.

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E.

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries outside of mainland China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained. [02/18/20]
- • HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- • HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- • HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- • HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.

- I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his (B6) appointment at the (B6). His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.
- The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - • Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - • Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- • Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - • **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - • Two (2) are PUIs
- • One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>;
Oshinski, Renee <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell,
Lawrence B. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D.
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- • Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- • AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- • This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>;
Oshinski, Renee <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell,
Lawrence B. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D.
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis
<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick

(B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.
(B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- • Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- • Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- • Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) [REDACTED] @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- • Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- • The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- • The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- • As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is (B6) [REDACTED] and the other is (B6) [REDACTED] Both are (B6) [REDACTED] Veterans
- • One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.

- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply

- • Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.

- • OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- • HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- • TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- • HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- • DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- • A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- • I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and

requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.

- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCIIs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.

- • HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- • HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- • HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- • HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- • HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- • HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- • The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- • Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- • Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- • OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- • OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- • Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- • Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- • Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received

- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called “Health Pulse” and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- Total persons quarantined: 809

- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell,

Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of “Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don’t believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions.”

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov;
Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy
<(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M.
(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A.
(B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L.
(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov;
Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) i@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy
<(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M.
<(B6) a.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.
(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.
(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today’s National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

(B5) [REDACTED]

(B5) [REDACTED]

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- At approximately 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) r@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- • Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- • Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- • The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- • The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of

- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) and (B6) they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) l@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska

Medical Center – 75 evacuees

Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees

Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees

Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2

128 minors over 2

20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>,
Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]i@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy
(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M.
(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6)@va.gov>
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Subject:	FW: FYSA Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) Not for Public Release - Vallejo, CA; 2-21-2020; Incident Command Center Activation
Date:	2020/02/21 16:46:35
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: Del Barrio, Joseph C. (B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Watch Officer - OS&LE (B6)@va.gov>; Watch Officer - OIG <(B6)@va.gov>; Watch Officer - VHA <(B6)@va.gov>; VAIOC (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: VACO OSLE Duty Agent (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) Not for Public Release - Vallejo, CA; 2-21-2020; Incident Command Center Activation

Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) Not for Public Release
 Report may contain For Official Use Only information

Date: February 21, 2020

VA IOC Reportable: yes/no **VA IOC Notified:** yes/no

Personal Demographic Data: Age: N/A Veteran: N/A

Subject: Incident Command Center Activation

Location: Vallejo, CA

- • * On February 21, 2020, at 1457 hours (EST), the OSLE Duty Agent was notified by the VA Police Chief, Denver, CO, regarding VISN 21's activation of their Incident Command Center (ICC).

- • * On February 21, 2020, at 0930 hours (PST), VISN 21 HQ on Mare Island activated their ICC to aid in the response efforts in dealing with potential cases of the Coronavirus.
- • * Per the VA Police Chief, there were a total of 16 Veterans who were suspected of contracting the Coronavirus. Those veterans were transported to Travis Airforce Base for testing.
- • * 14 of those 16 cases remain at Travis Airforce Base. 1 of the Veterans tested positive for the Coronavirus and was subsequently transported to a local Kaiser Permanente Hospital for further treatment.
- • * The Palo Alto VAMC is projected to take only those Veterans who test positive for the virus or Veterans that require hospitalization and request to be at the Palo Alto VAMC.
- • * The DOD were not housing those individuals who tested positive for the virus.
- • * U.S. Marshals were aiding with escorting suspected cases from Mare Island to Travis Airforce Base.

Recommendation: The reporting Police Service did not meet the required 2-hour notification time. Recommendation is compliance with VA Directive 0321 and VA Police SOP 2no Notification Requirement.

Please note the above report is based on preliminary information supplied to the OSLE Duty Agent by the reporting parties. Therefore, the data contained in the report may reflect information not yet verified by further investigation, information that may include attempted and reported crime, preliminary crime classifications that may be changed at a later date based upon further investigation, information that may include mechanical or human error, and arrest information

Preparer's Name: (B6)
SOURCE: VA Police / IR

07A/07B:____ EA_

V/R

(B6)

Special Agent

Infrastructure Protection, Policy, Intel & Crimes Analysis Division

Office of Security and Law Enforcement

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Ave NW

Washington, DC 20420

Office: (B6)

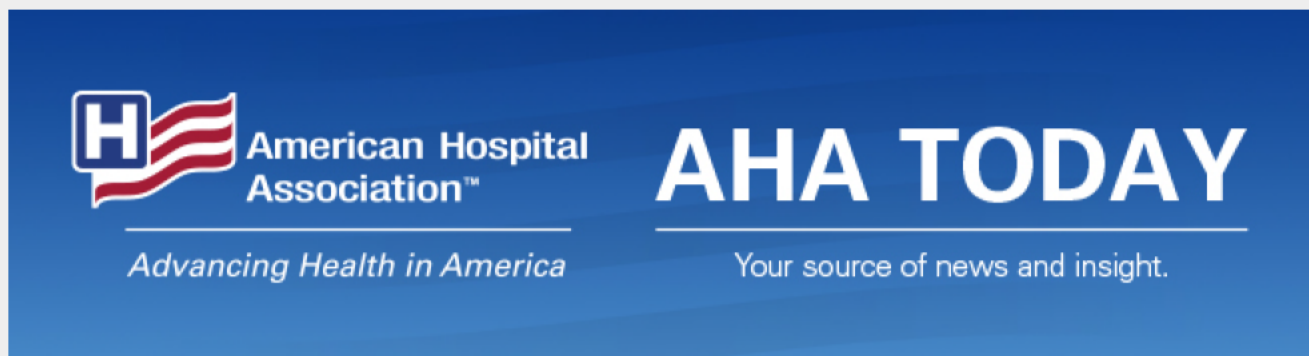
Cell: (B6)
Email: (B6) @va.gov; (B6) @leo.gov

Walk in wisdom towards outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. – Colossians 4:5-6 ESV

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Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] CMS Proposes Changes to Hip and Knee Bundled Payment Program
Date:	2020/02/21 17:38:44
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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[AHA Today](#)

February 21, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Perspective: Only 58 Days Until the 2020 AHA Annual Meeting Begins



Rick Pollack

What does the upcoming election mean for health care? What do we need to do stand up for patient care and our communities? And, most importantly given that we be in Washington: how do we influence the upcoming policy cliff on May 22 when moratorium on cuts to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments and funding for other health programs expire? Also at that time it is expected that legislation addressing surprise medical billing may be attached to what could be the last health care legislative train leaving the station this election year.

At this year's AHA Annual Membership Meeting — April 19-21 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. — we will dive into these issues and more ... and give you a chance to take your message directly to Capitol Hill.

We're working to lock down a full program of key players from Capitol Hill and federal agencies, and

usual, we will have a great lineup: our AHAPAC Appreciation Luncheon features John Heilemann and Mark McKinnon, co-hosts of Showtime's popular political documentary series, *The Circus*; FOX News Sunday host Chris Wallace will share his insights at the Health Care Leadership Breakfast; *Washington Post* columnist and associate editor Eugene Robinson will headline our Government Relations Office Network Luncheon; and our Trustee Leadership Breakfast will be led by Mia Love, a former hospital trustee, former Utah GOP congresswoman and current CNN contributor ... just to name a few.

Please mark Sunday night's AHA Leadership Celebration on your calendars, where we'll honor the 2019 Chair of the Board of Trustees, Melinda Estes, M.D. On Monday, we will also honor leaders in our field during the special AHA Recognition Luncheon — hosted by Melinda Estes and retired NFL quarterback and current CBS Sports broadcaster and cystic fibrosis research advocate Boomer Esiason — to recognize our colleagues for distinguished service, outstanding contributions to the AHA, and outstanding contributions to our field.

Finally, on Tuesday, we will recognize members for excellence in federal health care service and community service. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates — who served eight different presidents during his career — will close the meeting by speaking about leadership in divided times ... very relevant in an election year.

Throughout the meeting, we'll hear from leaders in the field through Executive Insights sessions and special briefings on a number of pressing topics including advancing better health for mothers and babies, evolving post-acute care, strategic cybersecurity and risk issues, building the health care workforce of the future, enhancing diversity in leadership and governance to advance health equity, enhancing value through collaboration, health plan oversight, improving the patient experience, innovative thinking in rural health care and more.

We are working to provide substantive and valuable opportunities for you to learn, connect with peers, tackle tough issues together and advocate for our field. Hope you will walk away from the meeting with new ideas on how to make a positive impact for the patients and communities you serve ... and ensure our message as a field is united, powerful and able to break through all the noise this year. And — if the weather cooperates — the cherry blossoms could be in bloom.

[Early-bird registration ends on March 6](#) so please register today.

Hope to see you in April!

Rick Pollack
President and CEO

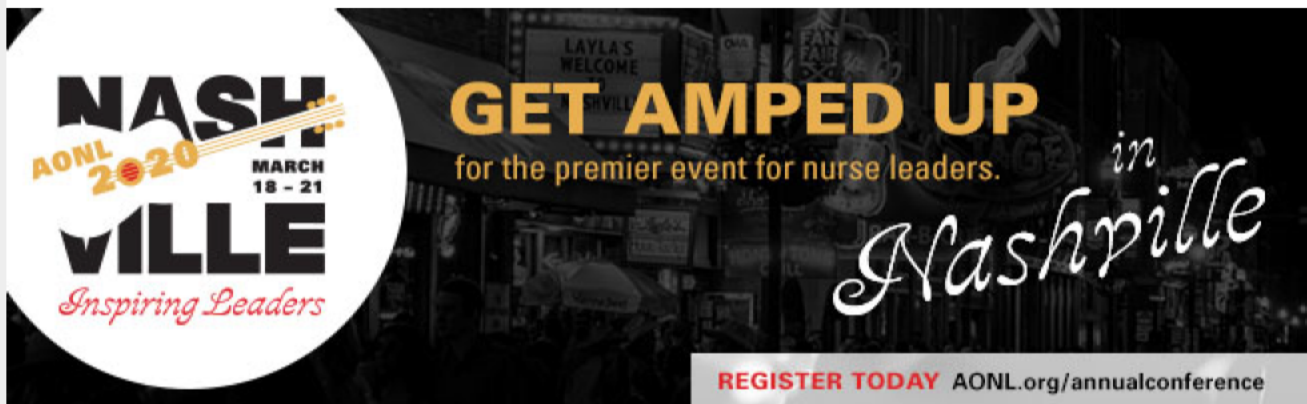
CMS Proposes Changes to Hip and Knee Bundled Payment Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Feb. 20 issued a rule proposing changes to the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement model, which bundles payment to acute care hospitals for hip and knee replacement surgery. [Read more.](#)

Today's Headlines

1. • CDC confirms new U.S. coronavirus patient, changes how it reports cases
2. • Appeals court urged to reject CMS argument in outpatient payment case
3. • HHS finalizes strategy to reduce health IT burdens
4. • VA offers resources to help prevent suicide among veterans
5. • Next Age-Friendly Health System Action Community opens in March

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Today's Headlines Continued

1. **CDC confirms new U.S. coronavirus patient, changes how it reports cases**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today [confirmed](#) a new travel-related case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in northern California. The Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services [said](#) it is also monitoring one other person who had close contact with the patient.

CDC changed how it [reports](#) confirmed cases in the U.S. — counting the 21 cases from quarantined repatriated citizens separately from the 13 identified in the U.S. by health networks — to better help monitor for community spread in the U.S. Ian Brownlee, acting principal deputy assistant secretary of Bureau of Consular Affairs at the Department of State, said repatriation in these scenarios is not standard and pointed toward an [updated travel alert](#) advising U.S. citizen to reconsider travel by cruise ship to or within Asia.

While the U.S. has to date only seen travel-related or close-contact COVID-19 cases, CDC continues to prepare for the possibility of wide spread within communities. CDC noted that it would soon release mitigation guidance to prevent pandemic COVID-19 based on an update of its current pandemic influenza guidelines. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [said](#) today, "Although the total number of COVID-19 cases outside China remains relatively small, we are concerned about the number of cases with no clear epidemiological link, such as travel history to China or contact with a confirmed case."

CDC yesterday released [ICD-10-CM diagnosis coding guidance](#) for COVID-19 infections and deaths developed with input from the AHA, and plans to release a new [unique diagnosis code](#) for the virus in October. For the latest information and resources, visit [AHA's coronavirus webpage](#).

2. Appeals court urged to reject CMS argument in outpatient payment case

The AHA, joined by the Association of American Medical Colleges and a number of member hospitals, late yesterday [filed a brief](#) urging the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to affirm [district court ruling](#) that voided the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' calendar year 2019 payment cut for hospital outpatient services provided in grandfathered off-campus provider-based departments.

"CMS claims that a sub-sub-sub provision of the Medicare Act implicitly permits the agency to upend longstanding Medicare reimbursement scheme, and to replace it with the scheme of its choice," the hospital groups wrote, responding to the agency's opening brief in its appeal. "The provision CMS cites, however, authorizes CMS to 'develop a method for controlling unnecessary increases in the volume covered [outpatient department] services.' It does not say anything about payment rates at all. ... The legislative history, and CMS's own prior interpretation of the relevant statutory text, further demonstrate that CMS lacks the power to adopt its new payment rates for outpatient clinic services. Indeed, Congress expressly considered whether to adopt the payment scheme that CMS now seeks to impose by regulation, and it declined to do so."

The hospital groups last month [challenged](#) the agency's continuation of the payment cut in 2020, arguing that the 2020 reduction is unlawful for the same reasons as the 2019 cuts. The appeals court will hear [oral arguments](#) in the case on April 17.

3. HHS finalizes strategy to reduce health IT burdens

The Department of Health and Human Services today finalized its strategy to reduce regulatory and administrative burdens for health care providers using electronic health records and other health information technology. Required by the AHA-supported 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, the [report](#) from HHS' Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT outlines a series of policies the agency may enact over the next several years to reduce burdens related to clinical documentation, health IT usability, a EHR and public health reporting. Commenting on the draft report last year, AHA [urged](#) the agency to look at EHR clinical documentation, prior authorization and the ongoing lack of interoperability between EHR systems, among other concerns.

4. VA offers resources to help prevent suicide among veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers a host of materials to help community partners, including health care organizations, prevent suicide among veterans. The resources include a Coaching into Care website and national telephone service; community provider toolkit; safe messaging practices; and fact sheets and suicide prevention guides, among others. To access these and other suicide prevention tools and information, visit https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/resources.asp.

5. Next Age-Friendly Health System Action Community opens in March

The next [Age-Friendly Health System Action Community](#) will commence March 25 and run through October, offering free monthly webinars and an in-person meeting to help hospitals and health systems integrate "age-friendly" health care. Participants will learn to use the 4Ms Framework — an evidence-based model focused on what matters, medications, mentation and mobility — to support the needs of aging communities in clinical settings. For more on Age-Friendly Health Systems, an initiative of the John A. Hartford Foundation and Institute for Healthcare Improvement in partnership with the AHA and Catholic Health Association of the United States, [click here](#).

The John A. Hartford Foundation also is providing [scholarships](#) for a cohort of Age-Friendly Fellows who will participate in [AHA's Next Generation Leaders Fellowship](#). The deadline to apply is Feb. 28. Scholarship recipients will implement the 4Ms Framework at their organization for their change project in the fellowship program.



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(B6) @med.va.gov>

Subject: Storyboard: CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK for Friday, 21 February 2020

Date:	2020/02/21 18:46:42
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Please see the attached Storyboard for the CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK for Friday, 21 February 2020.

Thank you.

VHA Watch Officer
VHA Office of Emergency Management
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC 20420

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov
(B6) [REDACTED]

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Murphy, Kathleen R (Portland) <Kathleen.Murphy2@va.gov>;

Heyworth, Leonie K. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=04e5c306359c473e8e5f77dfac81c407-Heyworth, L (B6) @va.gov>;

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Sent Date: 2020/02/21 18:46:37

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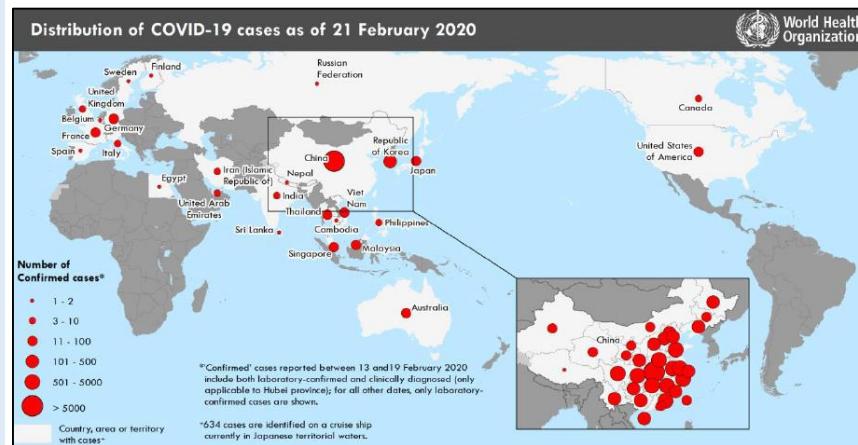
Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 21 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 76,769 (+1,021) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 2,239 (+118). According to the WHO, there are now 1,200 (+127) confirmed cases outside China in 26 countries with 8 (NC) deaths reported. On Friday, Iran reported 18 cases, an increase of 16 in three separate cities, with four deaths. As a result, countries are closing their borders to Iran. South Korea is also experiencing increased infections related to an outbreak at a church that is now associated with over 200 confirmed cases and 540 suspected cases of the coronavirus. Italy reported a significant increase from 3 confirmed cases to 17 that necessitated new quarantine measures. On Friday, Lebanon and Israel reported their first coronavirus cases. China is also dealing with increased confirmed cases in hospitals in Beijing and multiple prisons in the country with 512 prisoners with confirmed cases to date.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Friday, Feb. 21, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Friday, Feb. 21 at 1800, the number of U.S. citizens in the United States with confirmed cases of the coronavirus is 41 (+11). There are 36 active cases and 5 people have recovered.
- Diamond Princess cruise ship: Yokohama, Japan:**
 - 66 (+6) U.S. citizens that tested positive are located in Japanese hospitals.
 - 23 citizens voluntarily remain onboard; awaiting test results.
 - CDC has barred released U.S. citizens from entering the U.S. for 14 days.
- Westerdam Holland American cruise ship: Cambodia.**
 - 157 U.S. citizens that tested negative for the virus remain in Cambodia; awaiting transportation.

Significant Activities

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Thursday, Feb. 20: Website has been visited 21,895 (+357) times with 20,371 (+341) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Wednesday, Feb. 19: 95 (+2) Questions submitted; 63 (+1) Answered; 32 (-3) Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).



South Korean health official sprays disinfectant in front of a hospital where a total of 16 infections have now been identified with the coronavirus, near the southeastern city of Daegu on Feb. 21. (Getty)

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**: Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Lackland AFB, TX.
 - DEMPs: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (6) Nursing Assistants onsite at Travis AFB.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) will continue to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
- San Antonio VAMC:** On Feb. 21, providing healthcare team to assist HHS out-process U.S. citizens being released from Lackland AFB 14 day quarantine; will identify Veterans and provide support as required.



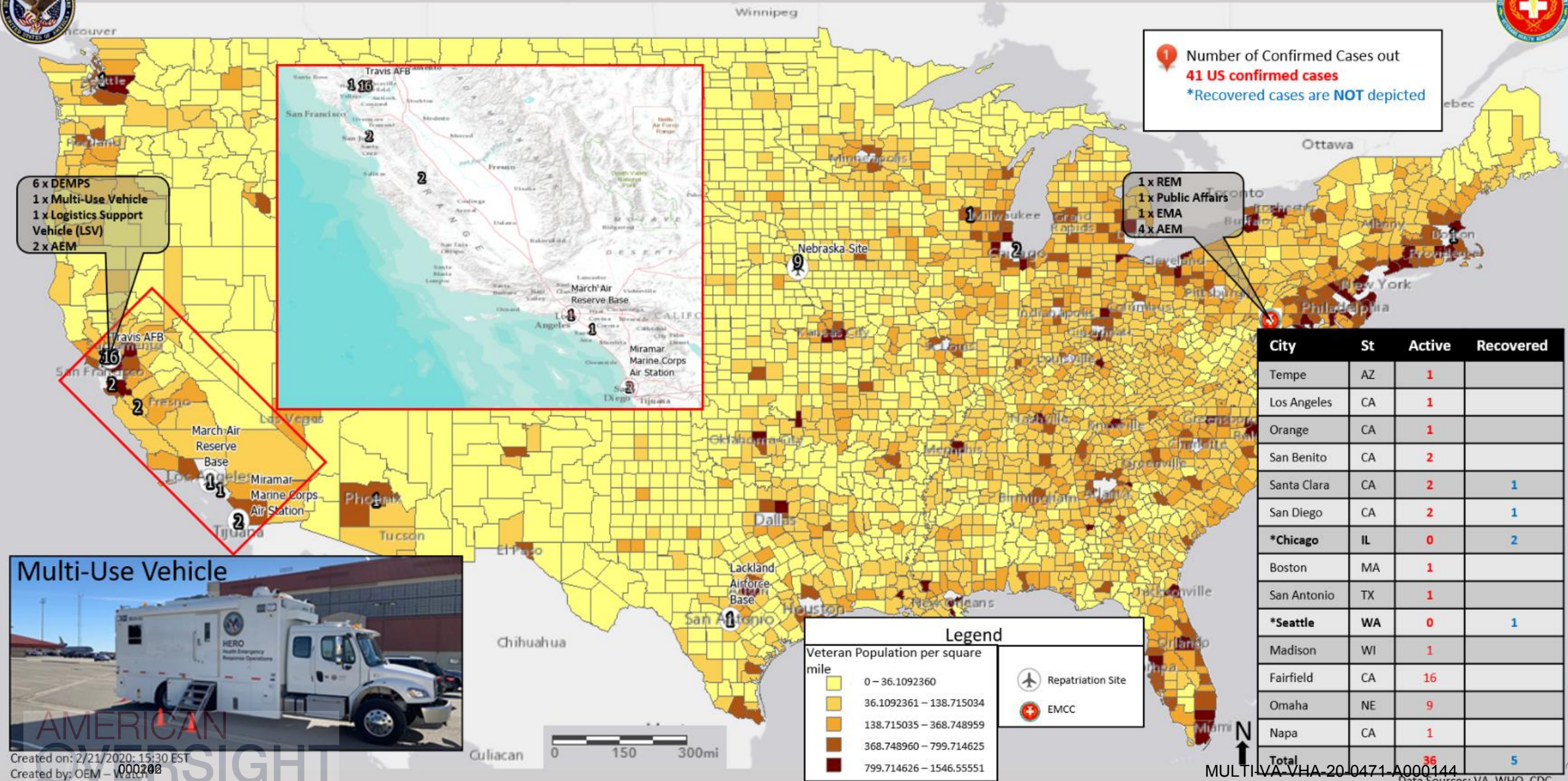
A Diamond Princess cruise ship passenger heads for a temperature check after disembarking from the ship on Friday, Feb. 21 in Yokohama, Japan. (Getty) The last passengers who tested negative for the coronavirus left the ship on Friday. A total of 634 former passengers are confirmed to have the coronavirus to date. This does not include 104 Australians who previously tested negative in Japan and released that are now positive. Two former passengers have died.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000143

UNCLASS/FOUO



Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases with Veteran Population Density - 2/21/2020



1 Number of Confirmed Cases out
41 US confirmed cases
*Recovered cases are NOT depicted

6 x DEMPS
1 x Multi-Use Vehicle
1 x Logistics Support
Vehicle (LSV)
2 x AEM

1 x REM
1 x Public Affairs
1 x EMA
4 x AEM

City	St	Active	Recovered
Tempe	AZ	1	
Los Angeles	CA	1	
Orange	CA	1	
San Benito	CA	2	
Santa Clara	CA	2	1
San Diego	CA	2	1
*Chicago	IL	0	2
Boston	MA	1	
San Antonio	TX	1	
*Seattle	WA	0	1
Madison	WI	1	
Fairfield	CA	16	
Omaha	NE	9	
Napa	CA	1	
Total		36	5

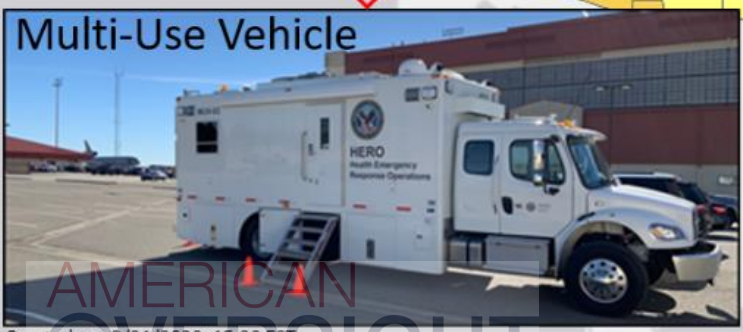
Legend

Veteran Population per square mile

- 0 - 36.1092360
- 36.1092361 - 138.715034
- 138.715035 - 368.748959
- 368.748960 - 799.714625
- 799.714626 - 1546.55551

✈ Repatriation Site

✚ EMCC



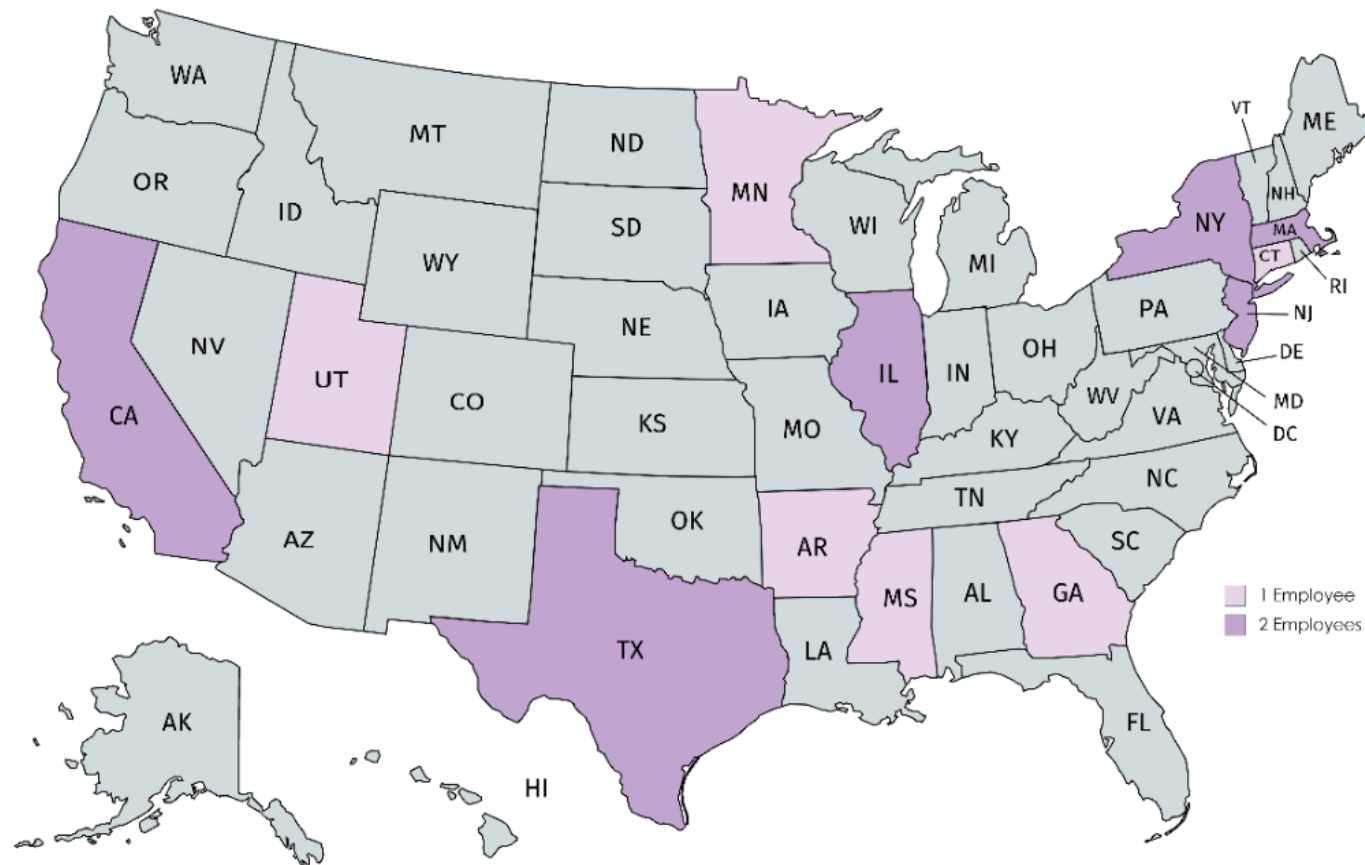
Created on: 2/21/2020: 15:30 EST
Created by: OEM - Watch

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/21/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 21):*

- 3 in home quarantine
- 14 completed home quarantine or work under supervision

*1 new in last 24 hours



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net

VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/21/2020

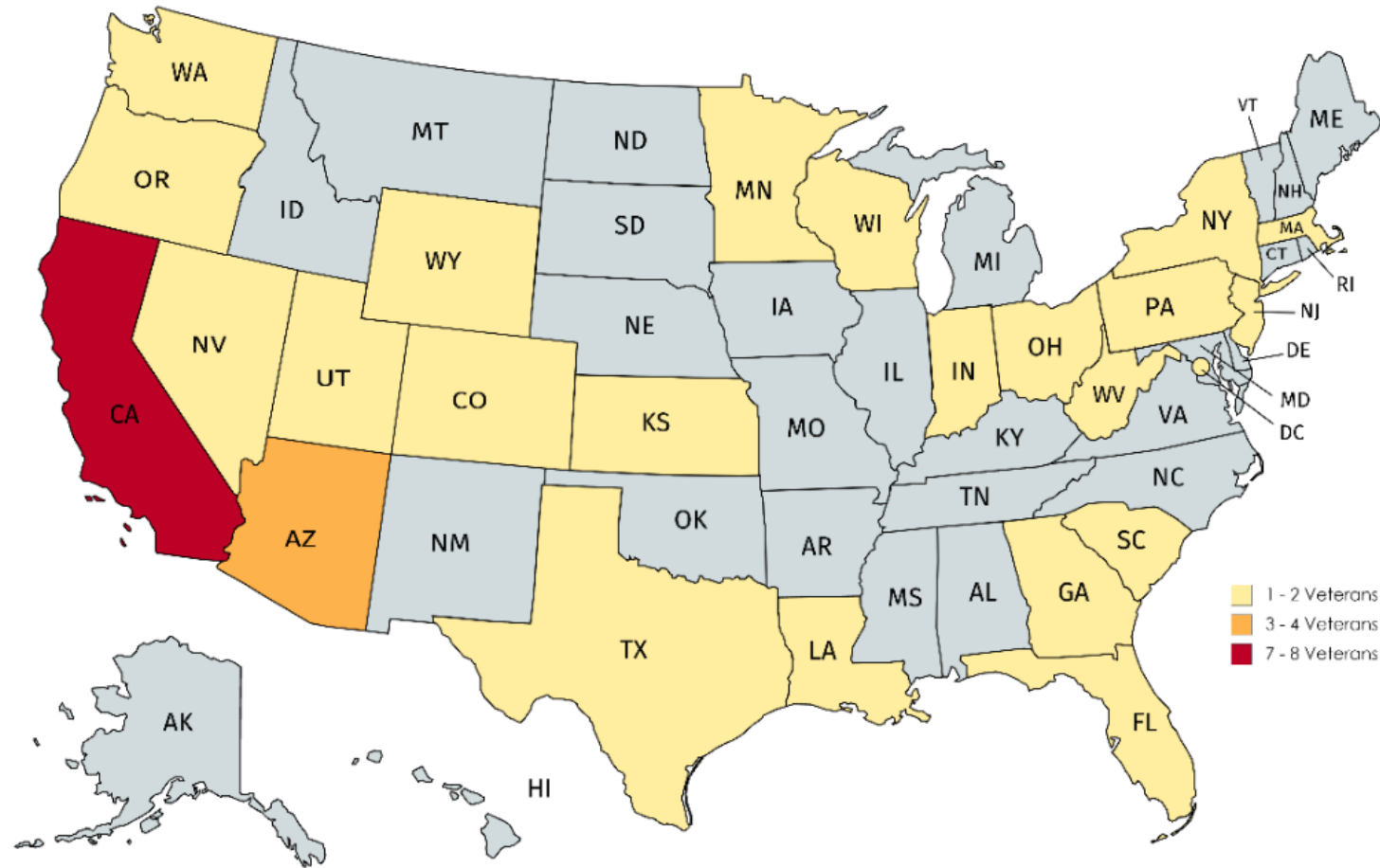
Status of Veterans screened (N =39):*

- 2 Veterans tested for COVID-19 – NEGATIVE (one of whom was in home isolation and is now removed)
- 37 ruled out for PUI**

*1 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



Created with mapchart.net ©

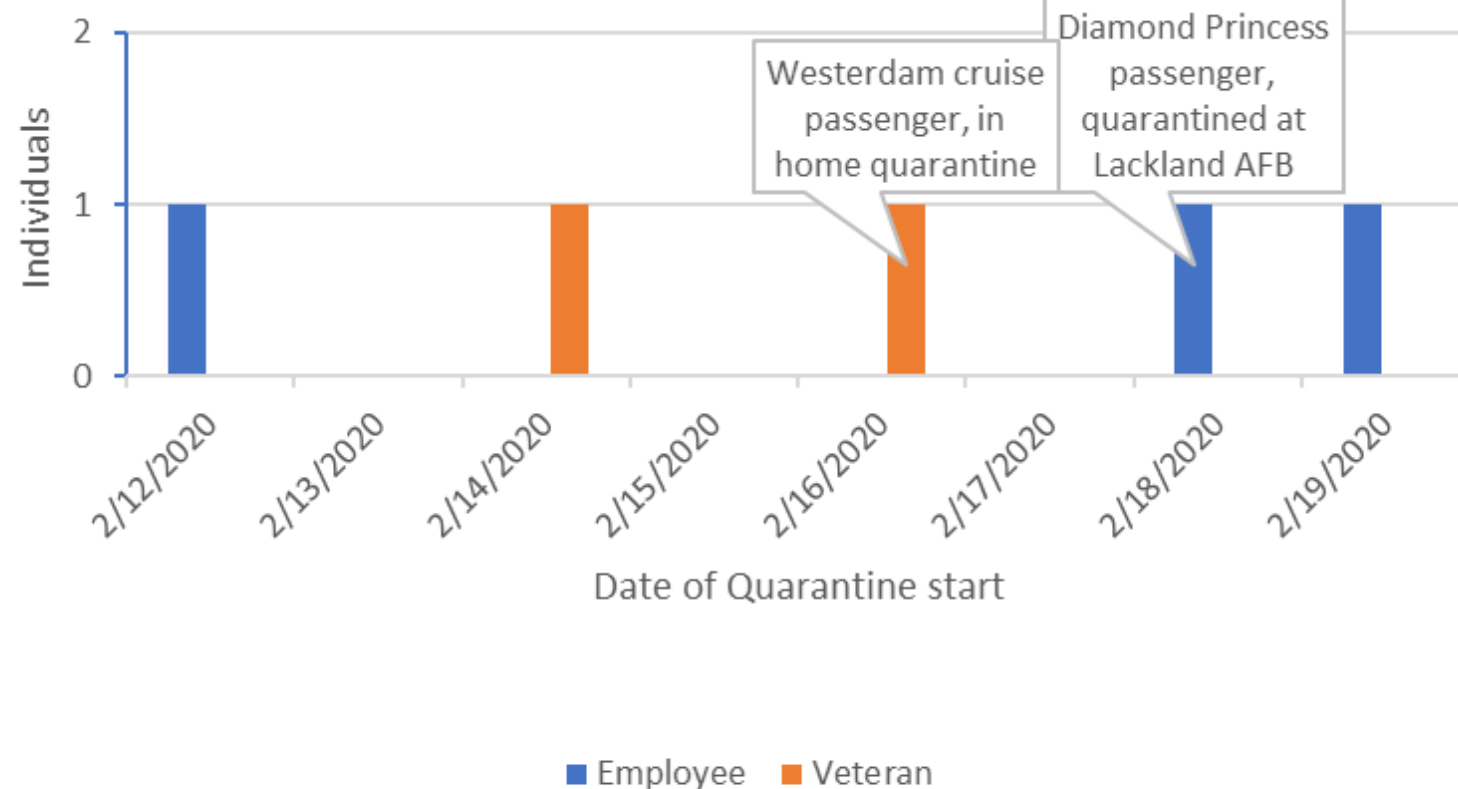
Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHA=29&Category=146> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 2/21/2020

N = 5*

3 Employees,
2 Veteran patients)

*0 new Veteran patients, and 1 new employee
added in last 24 hours.



From:	Czarnecki, Tammy /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/21 19:07:07
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Let's please not call these SCI beds

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Date: Friday, Feb 21, 2020, 6:50 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov, Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov, Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov, Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov, Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov, MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov, Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

VISN 21 Update:

- VISN 21 is "leaning forward" to identify capabilities for isolation of any confirmed COVID19 veterans that are currently at Travis AFB in quarantine.
- An initial planning meeting occurred today with key VISN, SFVAMC and Palo Alto stakeholders. (ID, ER, CMO, VA Police, DND)
- The VISN 21 Incident Command Center was not activated at any time.
- The VISN has tentatively identified the Palo Alto VAMC as a primary receiving VAMC and San Francisco as a secondary receiving VAMC for COVID19 positive veterans who REQUEST to be transported to a VAMC versus County designated hospital.
- There are 14 veterans in quarantine.
- 6 are identified as being enrolled in a VAMC as a beneficiary.
- 2 Veterans are husband and wife
- Palo Alto would activate 7H (new spinal cord unit) – there are no patients in this unit – these are not currently operating beds.
- Engineering has tested the air flow and they have achieved negative air flow
- The floor plan is attached.
- The VAMC still is in the planning stages regarding staffing, training, equipment, etc.
- The EMCC will remain connected with the facility and the VISN to ensure there are no unmet needs.
- The EMCC has reminded the VISN that the desire of leadership is not to separate family members
- I received a call at 6:46pm from (B6), Deputy Director, Center for Health Care Quality, California Department of Public Health requesting a conversation of what space VA has to assist the State. I reiterated VA/VHA's position and discussed Veteran's care and our inability to care for non-Veteran spouses. I suspect this will not be the last call.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov;

Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

You may be seeing the attached report. We are currently on the phone with the VISN and have been dealing with this issue. I did not provide information in my update below due to much of the information is in the planning stages and the VISN has not released the full plan. There is much more to the story. I will provide the details once all the information has been verified by the VISN.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Today is 1 full month of EMCC operations – spirits are high and team is committed. The EMCC will be staggering coverage to include some virtual support to allow time to recharge.

- As a result of a sub quality at the Quality Inn and Suites, DEMPS and DMORT staff have been moved to new lodging. Our DEMPS are at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord CA: 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord, CA 94520
- Area Emergency Manager has arrived as part of the IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio TX
- 1000 – 2oz bottles of hand sanitizer will arrive Thursday for 810, 811, M Street and other VACO buildings, Logs has set aside enough for Senior Leadership
- 21895 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran and spouse transferred from Travis to Kaiser Vallejo have been allowed by CA Health Department to return home and home isolate.
- (B6) and I briefed the Network Directors on the COVID-19 TTX
- Network Directors were provided with guidance on Telework, Non-GFE and GFE connectivity and how to access OIT equipment in an emergency
- Occ Health briefed the 2:00pm call (110 participants) on employee protection

- I briefed and reminded all participants on the 2:00pm and 3:00pm calls of the SecVA's position to continue focusing on current contingency plans and preparations for a surge of sick Veterans.
- EMCC Logistics coordinated with PL&O and Contracting for the order of 50,000 – N95 masks and 50,000 isolation gowns
- EMCC Logistics, PL&O and Contracting have worked out a plan to spread future orders out in a way not to impact the supply chain. The plan will allow VHA to treat 4500 patients with the appropriate PPE.
- The 50,000 masks and 50,000 gowns will be shipped and stored at the NAC, should a facility need these supplies they will contact the EMCC and the EMCC will coordinate with the NAC for shipment. Only a select few individuals within the EMCC will have the authority to release these emergency supplies.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming (B5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.
- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.

- A draft document is under development concerning “stay home” messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.
- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA’s ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.
- I advise Palo Alto of VHA’s current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is “not enforceable”.
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)

- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
- Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
- DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet (B6) with HHS Public Health

Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.

- VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.
- (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.
- The major takeaway from this session – (B5) (my opinion).
- Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries

outside of mainland

China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained.

[02/18/20]

- • HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- • HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- • HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- • HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.
- • I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- • Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- • NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- • HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- • Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- • The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- • On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his [REDACTED] (B6) appointment at the (B6) CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- • As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.

- The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - Two (2) are PUIs
- One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.

- AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS

- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is 69 and the other is 72. Both are (B6) Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday

at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.

- • Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- • Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- • The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- • Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- • Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - • PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - • Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.

- • OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- • HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.

- • TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- • HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- • DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- • A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- • I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- • OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- • Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- • 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- • The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- • Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- • Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- • First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.
The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- • Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- • Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- • Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)2@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- • Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - • Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - • Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - • Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- • HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - • DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - • Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- • Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- • 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E.
(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) [REDACTED] will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – "follow the plan and you will be safe"
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell,

Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.
<(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.
(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O

- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- • The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- • It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- • The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- • 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- • CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- • Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- • US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- • CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- • Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- • Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- • Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- • Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- • Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- • All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live

- • Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- • Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- • Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- • (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- • PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- • CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- • No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- • 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- • Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- • 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- • Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- • Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- • Global draw down will continue
- • Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- • The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- • The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- • The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- • The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- • The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.

- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.

- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of "Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don't believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions."

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.

- At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov;

Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with Tammy and Ray they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska
Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
128 minors over 2
20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>,
Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy
(B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M.
<(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians

- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Czarnecki, Tammy /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6)@va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

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(B6) @va.gov>;
Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar
<(B6) @va.gov>;
Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri
(B6) @va.gov>;
Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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<(B6) @va.gov>;
Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic
<(B6) va.gov>;
MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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(B6) @va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/21 19:07:05

Delivered Date: 2020/02/21 19:07:07

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Walters, Ronald /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9248cf4ffcbf44f9b61f6f4a637ff441-Walters, Ro (B6)@va.gov>;

Wagner, John (Wolf) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ea81beb53184e9681d18d786ac92fe1-Wagner, Joh (B6)@va.gov>;

Uchalik, Nicholas /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=984b5dc641d04726ada43fa03131fb81-Uchalik, Ni (B6)@va.gov>;

Tucker, Brooks /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=24ae47cff629405aa8557cc2cc792903-Tucker, Bro (B6)r@va.gov>;

Tran, Dat VACO /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5672e7e4b20d42719eb55eb33d001ca9-Tran, Dat (B6)@va.gov>;

Tallman, Gary /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a07d34184b7245e4abc96693bce25ac7-Tallman, Ga (B6)@va.gov>;

Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7699e816dfb941bf8048852495d7c4c9-Syrek, Chri (B6)@va.gov>;

Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>;

Smith, Jeffrey M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=78851e399c8b4b2da86c6f822ec65378-Smith, Jeff (B6)@va.gov>;

To: Sitterly, Daniel /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41e58b2e9c85435b9f292a5c9e8a3865-Sitterly, D (B6)@va.gov>;

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Roa, Richard (OCLA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=182caeb6a25e412d99ee1cdec3666d0-Roa, Richar (B6)@va.gov>;

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Reeves, Randy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=55fbd2850c004c9bac4aaae38ee699df-Reeves, Ran (B6)@va.gov>;

Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6)@va.gov>;

Powers, Pamela /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6021d9c02594b52bc57194848ca7ef6-Powers, Pam (B6)@va.gov>;

Perez, Susan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=724e966e836e4e55a2b7cbe18fb052c9-Perez, Susa (B6)@va.gov>;

Page, Nealie /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9ccc19d0be6046fdb4f00947b2e63b1a-Page, Neali (B6)@va.gov>;

Murray, Edward /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=33c1a9d3dab54f97bc6ef70a882b8b0d-Murray, Edw (B6)@va.gov>;

Morton, Barbara C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53eb88b4a0814ce198ed30a1909042be-Morton, Bar (B6)@va.gov>;

Mitrano, Catherine (SES) (OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

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 (B6) @va.gov>;
 Missal, Michael J. (OIG) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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 (B6) @va.gov>;
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 (B6) @va.gov>;
 Lee, Andrea M., VBAVACO /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
 (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3bc2db9bdaad4fdda35e96c22ab2ac7-Lee, Andrea
 (B6) @va.gov>;
 Lawrence, Paul R., VBAVACO /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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 (B6) @va.gov>;
 Lapuz, Miguel H. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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 (B6) @va.gov>;
 Jackson, Frederick R. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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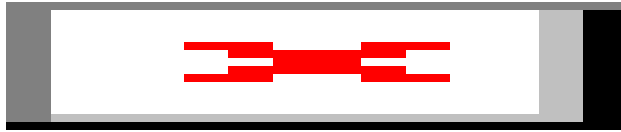
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Subject: SITREP (Update 28): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/02/22 10:12:15

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



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SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 22 Feb 20 / 1011 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. [Novel Coronavirus CDC info](#)
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.

Update 28:

- 22 Feb, 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 77,794 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,359 deaths, throughout 29 countries.
- The United States have 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

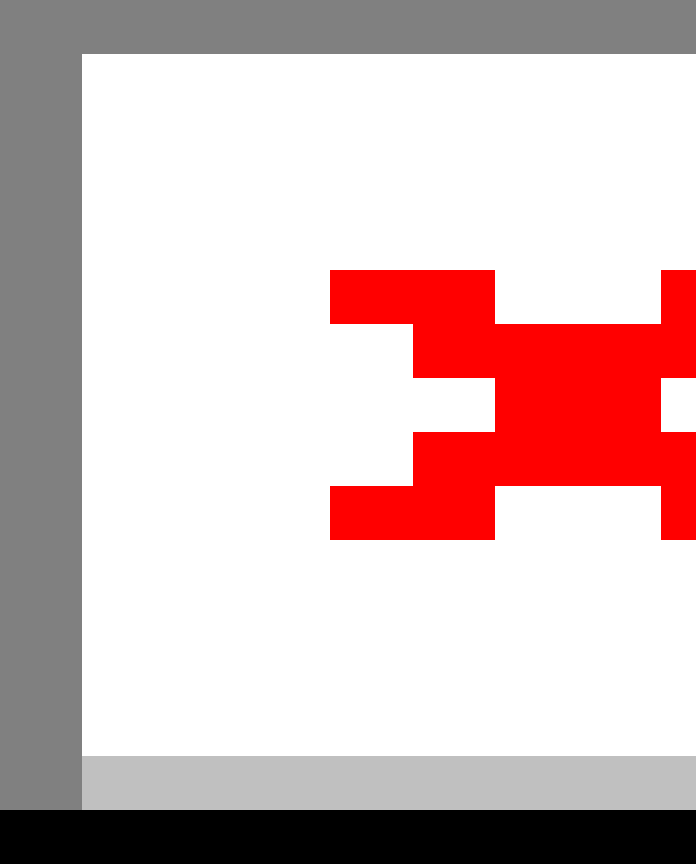
Update 27:

- 21 Feb, 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 76,767 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,247 deaths, throughout 27 countries.
- The United States have 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- HHS/CDC are reporting an additional 19 (unconfirmed) domestic cases from the Diamond Princess cruise ship.
- 157 U.S. citizens remain in Cambodia; departing on commercial flights 21 Feb. The U.S. citizen who previously reported positive for COVID-19 in Malaysia has now tested negative for the virus.

VA:

- • As of 21 Feb, San Antonio VAMC, TX, is providing healthcare team to assist HHS in out-processing U.S. citizens being released from Lackland AFB 14 day quarantine.
 - • Will identify Veterans and provide support as required.
- • Six Nursing Assistants supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, C A.
- HHS Task Order 4.32: On 19 Feb, HHS requested VA LNO to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB.
 - 19 Feb, HHS has requested 1 Area Emergency Manager (AEM) at Lackland AFB, TX.
 - AEM is now in place at Lackland AFB, TX.
- • HHS Task Order 7.75: requested one VA MVU and one VA emergency manager. Second wave of DEMPS volunteers expect to arrive at Travis AFB today; 8 DEMPS returning to home station(s) tomorrow.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



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FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved and Released by: (B6), Watch Officer

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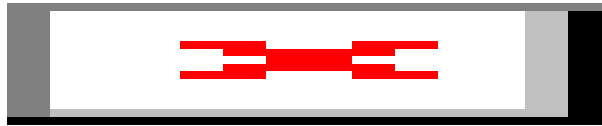
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Subject: SECVA Weekend Summary Report for February 22, 2020

Date: 2020/02/22 10:17:48

Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



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Good Morning,

The current SECVA Weekend-Summary Report is below.

Good Morning,

The current SECVA Weekend-Summary Report is below.

National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

1. • **Executive Summary**

- Monitoring outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Facility Closures: Bronx Community Living Center (CLC), NYC, NY and the Faleomavaega Eni Fa'aua'a Hunkin CBOC, Pago Pago, AS.

2. • **Significant Weather Source: NWS**

- Southwest thunderstorms; Locally heavy, potential for flash flooding through the weekend.

2. • **Mardi Gras, New Orleans, LA (SEAR 2), 22-25 Feb**

- Numerous parades/events are scheduled, with different parade routes through the city.
- Approximately 300,000 to 400,000 people are expected to attend daily.
- Mardi Gras Day is 25 Feb.

3. • **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, VHA**

- As of 22 Feb, the WHO reports 77,794 confirmed cases globally; 2,359 deaths. Total confirmed cases in the U.S. is 35.

• **VA Response Efforts**

- VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB.
- Six Nursing Assistants Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
- VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.
- Further details can be found in the COVID-19 VA SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.

4. • **Short Term Facility Disruptions**

- **Faleomavaega Eni Fa'aua'a Hunkin CBOC, Pago Pago, AS** *Source: VHA*
 - On 20 Feb, the facility closed due to a disruption in electrical power, water, telephone service and dangerous driving conditions caused by Tropical Storm Wasi.
 - Wasi is located 125 miles W-NW of Pago Pago, moving SE at 10 mph.
 - High Surf Warnings and Flash Flood Watch are in effect for all islands.
- **Bronx Community Living Center (CLC), NYC, NY** *Source: VHA*
 - On 20 Feb, the Bronx CLC was closed to new admissions to prevent the spread of an influenza virus.
 - Nine residents tested positive for an influenza virus and were isolated.
 - Currently, no staff have presented any flu-like symptoms.
 - EMS is cleaning the facility and ensuring that hygienic supplies are on hand.

5. • **Long Term Facility Disruptions**

- **Blythe CBOC, CA** *Source: VHA*
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimate project will be completed in less than 30 days.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.
 - An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.
- **Arecibo CBOC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
- **Vieques Rural OPC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.

6. • **Ten Day Outlook**

- No known significant events affecting the VA in the next ten days.

Approved and Released by: (B6) , Watch Officer

V/R,

(B6)

VA Integrated Operations Center

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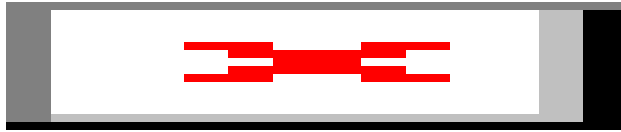
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Subject: SITREP (Update 29): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/02/23 10:08:15

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



cid:image001.jpg@01D58B33.C0773B10

SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 23 Feb 20 / 1007 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. [Novel Coronavirus CDC info](#)
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.

Update 29:

- 23 Feb, 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 78,810 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,462 deaths, throughout 29 countries.
- The United States has 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

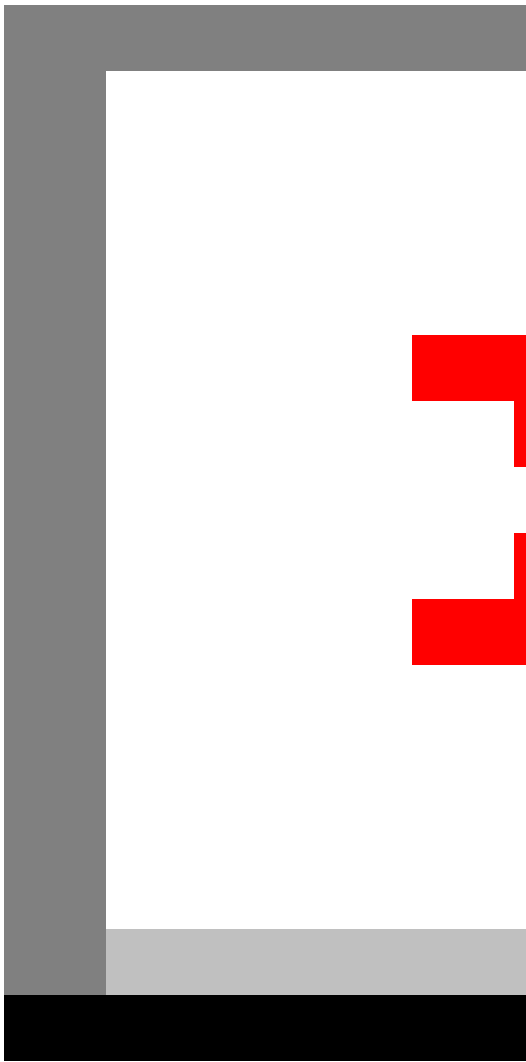
Update 28:

- 22 Feb, 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 77,794 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,359 deaths, throughout 29 countries.
- The United States have 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

VA:

- • As of 21 Feb, San Antonio VAMC, TX, is providing healthcare team to assist HHS in out-processing U.S. citizens being released from Lackland AFB 14 day quarantine.
 - • Will identify Veterans and provide support as required.
- • Six Nursing Assistants supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, C A.
- HHS Task Order 4.32: On 19 Feb, HHS requested VA LNO to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB.
 - 19 Feb, HHS has requested 1 Area Emergency Manager (AEM) at Lackland AFB, TX.
 - AEM is now in place at Lackland AFB, TX.
- • HHS Task Order 7.75: requested one VA MVU and one VA emergency manager. Second wave of DEMPS volunteers expect to arrive at Travis AFB today; 8 DEMPS returning to home station(s) tomorrow.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



cid:image002.png@01D5EA2C.F571BC70

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved and Released by: (B6) and (B6), Watch Officers

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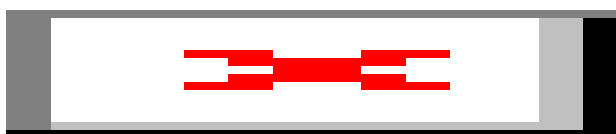
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Subject: SECVA Weekend Summary Report for February 23, 2020

Date: 2020/02/23 10:08:52

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



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National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

- **Executive Summary**
 - Monitoring outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - Facility Closures: Bronx Community Living Center (CLC), NYC, NY and the Faleomavaega Eni Fa'aua'a Hunkin CBOC, Pago Pago, AS.
- **Significant Weather Source: NWS**
 - Heavy rain (excess of 1 inch) in south-central U.S. and mid-Mississippi River Valley.
 - Heavy snow expected over northern Cascades.
- **Mardi Gras, New Orleans, LA (SEAR 2), 22-25 Feb**
 - Numerous parades/events are scheduled, with different parade routes through the city.
 - Approximately 300,000 to 400,000 people are expected to attend daily.
 - Mardi Gras Day is 25 Feb.
- **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, VHA**
 - As of 23 Feb, the WHO reports 78,810 confirmed cases globally; 2,462 deaths. Total confirmed cases in the U.S. is 35.
 - **VA Response Efforts**
 - VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
 - Six Nursing Assistants Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.
 - Further details can be found in the COVID-19 VA SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.
- **Short Term Facility Disruptions**
 - **Faleomavaega Eni Fa'aua'a Hunkin CBOC, Pago Pago, AS Source: VHA**
 - On 20 Feb, the facility closed due to a disruption in electrical power, water, telephone service and dangerous driving conditions caused by Tropical Storm Wasi.

- 23 Feb, facility will remain closed until determination is made if it is safe to reopen once power is restored.
 - Wasi is 130 miles south of AS. On track S-SE and moving away from AS.
 - Flash Flood Watch remains in effect for all islands through midday.
 - **Bronx Community Living Center (CLC), NYC, NY** *Source: VHA*
 - On 20 Feb, the Bronx CLC was closed to new admissions to prevent the spread of an influenza virus.
 - Nine residents tested positive for an influenza virus and were isolated.
 - Currently, no staff have presented any flu-like symptoms.
 - EMS is cleaning the facility and ensuring that hygienic supplies are on hand.
5. ● **Long Term Facility Disruptions**
- **Blythe CBOC, CA** *Source: VHA*
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimate project will be completed in less than 30 days.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.
 - An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.
 - **Arecibo CBOC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
 - **Vieques Rural OPC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.
6. ● **Ten Day Outlook**
- No known significant events affecting the VA in the next ten days.

Approved and Released by: (B6) and (B6) Watch Officers

V/R,
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 (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88ddb600fb454885b83567e4ec98a141-Julaton, Ni
 <(B6)@va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/23 10:08:51

Delivered Date: 2020/02/23 10:08:52

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To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) i@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/03/01 19:15:01
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thank you Paul!

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6) @va.gov>
Date: Sunday, Mar 01, 2020, 5:36 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) 2@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>, Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

No Veterans or contracts with the nursing home in V20. Just confirmed

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) <(B6)@va.gov>
Date: Sunday, Mar 01, 2020, 3:52 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) <(B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) <(B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) <(B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Mole, Larry A. (B6) <(B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6) <(B6)@va.gov>, Carroll, William D. <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Limited distro due to some sensitive information

- Officials in Washington State and the CDC are tracking a possible outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care nursing facility in Washington State. There are currently two presumptive positive cases associated with the facility (one healthcare worker and one resident). Officials are also reporting that approximately 27 of the 108 residents and 25 of the 180 staff have some symptoms and are being tested.
- Japan has reported and confirmed the first patient to be re-infected with COVID-19 after showing signs of full recovery. The woman tested positive for the second time after testing positive in late January, she was released from the hospital on February 1 after recovering without any signs of the virus.
- HHS we are no longer in the containment phase, we are now in the community mitigation phase.
- The CDC is sending a team to help local officials investigate and test.
- The facility has been identified as Life Care Nursing Facility, 10101 NE 120st Kirkland, Washington - King County.

EMCC Actions:

- Palo Alto completed the dry run for receiving the Veteran patient on Sunday
- 24 additional employees will complete PPE training and fit testing today
- CDC test kits remain an issue and we have been on the phone throughout the day to shake them loose. We are being told the state Public Health labs have priority. I have communicated my displeasure with CDC particularly since we are receiving our first patient tomorrow and we continue to ask for kits and testing guidance.
- Preliminary search has indicated that VHA does not contract with the Washington State Nursing Home where cases have been reported. We are awaiting verification from V20
- Due to the admission of an active TB patient V8 may have a need for additional N95s, we are in the process of verifying that information and requirement.

- • EMCC continues to push for a decision on the shelf life extension for N95s.

COVID-19 Patient Transfer:

- • Conference call between Mercy Hospital System, Palo Alto VAMC and EMCC was conducted at 1:30 EST
- • Patient arrived at Folsom Hospital on February 27th, his latest COVID-19 laboratory information will be shared with the VAMC once contact is made with CDC – numbers were exchanged. Folsom is not permitted to reveal lab results per CDC.
- • Patient was described as a delight to care for and he is full ambulatory. When the patient arrived he run up the stairs and hospital personnel had to remind him to slow down.
- • Patient has remained asymptomatic, normal labs, normal vitals. The patient does express a daily concern for his wife currently hospitalized in Japan.
- • Contracted ambulance services will depart Travis AFB at 0700 on Monday, March 2, 2020. Expected arrival at Folsom Hospital is 0800.
- • Constant communications will be maintained throughout the trip from Travis to ensure an exact arrival time at Folsom.
- • Patient will be ready upon arrival of the contract ambulance.
- • Physician to Physician contact information has been exchanged and contact will be maintained throughout the transfer.
- • Arrival time at Palo Alto is unknown due to a number of variables.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 6:57 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The number of U.S. Citizens in the United States with confirmed cases of coronavirus is 61.
- • HHS ASPR is having issues with the media targeting individuals using social media to contact officials in an attempt to obtain inside information concerning PPE contracts and supplies.
- • HHS is requesting the virtual activation of the following LNOs:
 - • ESF 1— Transportation
 - • ESF 6 — Mass Care
 - • ESF 13 — Public Safety
 - • ESF 14 — Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure
 - • ESF 15 — External Affairs

EMCC Actions:

- All DEMPS personnel deployed to Travis AFB have returned home safely and the VHA mission there is complete.
- Requested NCA and VBA to participate in joint planning efforts for the Pandemic Base Plan and COVID-19 Annex.
- Distributed updated guidance from CDC on PUIs.
- The IT/Telework COVID-19 workgroup conducted their initial meeting. The workgroup's purpose is to develop plans, policy, procedures and identify any necessary equipment to support the ability of VHA to conduct a small to large telework operation in response to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Workgroups completed draft information document concerning isolation gowns required for COVID-19, based on CDC and FDA documents.
- Workgroups produced Clinical Contact Center Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Screen Instructions, Actions, and Scripting v 2.0 27FEB2020.
- 23,278 unique visits to the forward-facing Public Health Website.
- Developing TTX for VHA leadership.
- Completed shift rotation of OEM field staff into the EMCC.
- (B6) took a day off.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS – future transfer of asymptomatic positive patients to home isolation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- One new positive at Travis transferred to hospital, 3 positives transferred to home isolation.
- HHS is working on a memo to DoD to extend operations at the three military bases.
- HHS is working on contact tracing for the patient admitted to UC Davis.
- HHS working on DEMOB plan for low-risk patients currently quarantined in Japan.
- ASPR asked if CDC is going to change the testing guidance “because the California cases was tested late.”

EMCC Actions:

- • Due to notifications from suppliers the EMCC is developed and provided guidance on the proper use and type of gowns for treating/caring for COVID-19 patients.
- • EMCC will conduct a nationwide conference call with VA Police to bring them up to speed on the COVID-19 response.
- • Discussed PPE prioritization with HHS ASPR leadership. At this time HHS and the COVID-19 Task Force have not made any policy decisions that will drive prioritization, however one is expected as they review the needs. I provided the details of VHA's request in writing – the ability to treat 5000 patients for 30 days.
- • HHS ASPR leadership did reveal that the COVID-19 Task Force has crunched the numbers and if the worst case scenario develops the US will require 300 million N95s per month to sustain the healthcare system. The manufacturing capabilities to meet that demand does NOT exist.
- • EMCC was made aware of the “possibility” of the San Antonio VAMC receiving repatriated Veterans. There are currently 15 identified Veterans – 9 have tested negative, 4 have refused testing, 1 is being re-tested due to an inconclusive result, 1 Veteran just revealed he is a Veteran and will undergo testing. HHS has not requested VAMC assistance at this time. The contact with the VAMC was through the OEM AEM asking the question, “can you accept a positive Veteran if needed”. I reminded the AEM to call the EMCC prior to any discussions with facilities so we can ensure 1) the Veteran is enrolled and eligible for care, 2) work out any details with HHS prior to involving the VAMC.
- • ALL 6 Veteran enrollees at Travis have tested negative!
- • HHS IMT has asked for Chaplain Services for the Veterans at Lackland – the request is for a 15-30 minute service by phone this weekend. The EMCC has placed the request and awaiting a response
- • EMCC will participate on the VHA VA Police call and provide and bring all Chiefs up to date on the current VHA response tomorrow.
- • EMCC is working on securing PPE for RCS and developing a shipment strategy.
- • EMCC has made a request through WMC to meet with and brief the Unions of current VHA response plans and future scenarios should there be a worst case scenario.
- • 25059 unique visits to the Public Health Website

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Czarnecki, Tammy /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman,

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(B6)@va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/03/01 19:15:00

Delivered Date: 2020/03/01 19:15:01

From:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; Thompson, Kevin D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0b513d034f3540dda865a59659f56a5f-Thompson, K (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: Princess Cruise Ship
Date:	2020/02/15 13:40:19
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

HHS has advised that the AMCITS they will be evacuating are “sick and will require hospitalization and not necessarily related to COVID-19”. The major problem is – these travelers planned for an 14 day cruise, it has now been extended to 25 days (and counting). Many are seniors and HHS is having a great deal of trouble finding a state that will accept these individuals. This has been kept close hold

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Thompson, Kevin D. (B6) @va.gov>;
Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Princess Cruise Ship

The first arrivals at Travis are currently scheduled for Sunday

From: Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 1:18 PM
To: Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Thompson, Kevin D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Princess Cruise Ship

I agree.

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(www.blackberry.com)

From: Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020, 1:07 PM
To: Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Thompson, Kevin D. (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Princess Cruise Ship

My experience is that separating families should only be used as an option of a last resort. The family typically wants to stay Together and also does a lot better when they are together during stressful situations such as this.

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(www.blackberry.com)

From: Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020, 10:03 AM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E.

(B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Mole, Larry A.
(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>, Thompson, Kevin D. (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: Princess Cruise Ship

I certainly think our VSMCs could handle this — I can contact the NDs in those areas to be sure.

However, I think it will be very challenging to separate a Vet from their family unit if that is how they are traveling. I also do not see us being able to take family members without some legislative relief.

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From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Date: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020, 11:44 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>, Thompson, Kevin D. (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: Princess Cruise Ship

This may also be an issue for those going to Lackland (San Antonio)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 12:43 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov> (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: Princess Cruise Ship

Importance: High

Good afternoon everyone:

HHS is in the final planning of repatriating all AMCITS from the Princess Cruise ship. HHS feels there is a much higher probability of Veterans being among this group. The current arrangement is for any AMCITS needing medical care whether it is related or unrelated to the COVID-19 are sent to a Kaiser facility in the vicinity of Travis.

The question posed to the EMCC: If Veterans are identified in the repatriated group (we won't know that until they arrive) and they need medical care should arrangements be made to bring the Veteran to

the nearest VA Medical Center (Sacramento)? There is also a high likelihood that any Veteran identified needing medical care will be accompanied by family and do we want to separate the family?

If the Veteran is in need of prescription refills (only) the EMCC working with PBM would be able to expedite refills through the MUV.

Paul

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
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Sent Date:	2020/02/15 13:40:18
Delivered Date:	2020/02/15 13:40:19
Message Flags:	Unread

From:	Boyd, Teresa D. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6886A7D555A43E0BEE23C1E40E1C234-BOYD, TERES (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>
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Subject:	RE: Princess Cruise Ship
Date:	2020/02/15 13:59:35
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Fully concur

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020, 1:17 PM
To: Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D.

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A.
(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Thompson, Kevin D (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>,
Newell, Karen L. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Princess Cruise Ship

I agree.

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From: Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020, 1:07 PM
To: Oshinski, Renee <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
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Subject: RE: Princess Cruise Ship

(B5)
[REDACTED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020, 10:03 AM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Thompson, Kevin D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
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(B5)
[REDACTED]

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Date: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020, 11:44 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>, Czamecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>, Thompson, Kevin D. (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>
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Subject: Princess Cruise Ship
Importance: High

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Paul

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office

(B6) Cell

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Sent Date:	2020/02/15 13:59:34
Delivered Date:	2020/02/15 13:59:35
Message Flags:	Unread

From: VAIOC /o=EXCHANGELABS/ou=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=RECIPIENTS/cn=028F129D5C2D4A4C81F95B2BA8CA56E2-VAIOC (B6) @va.gov>

Lawrence, Paul R., VBAVACO /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fd460951f51d42b0ac7a7b90416b47d4-Lawrence, P (B6) @va.gov>;

Devlin, Margarita, VBAVACO /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2a2392ff58924698a2ac5327dd3425e6-Devlin, Mar (B6) @va.gov>;

Lee, Andrea M., VBAVACO /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3bc2db9bdaad4fdda35e96c22ab2acb7-Lee, Andrea (B6) @va.gov>;

Reeves, Randy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=55fbd2850c004c9bac4aaae38ee699df-Reeves, Ran (B6) @va.gov>;

Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>;

Tucker, Brooks /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=24ae47cff629405aa8557cc2cc792903-Tucker, Bro (B6) @va.gov>;

Glynn, Melissa S. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d19f152166d4ca5b5f7ca53e83a2959-Glynn, Meli (B6) @va.gov>;

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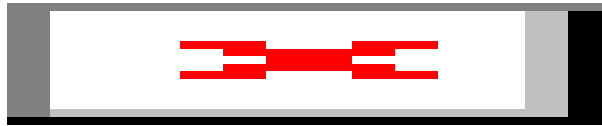
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Subject: SECVA Weekend Summary Report for February 16, 2020

Date: 2020/02/16 10:16:08

Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



Good Morning,

The current SECVA Weekend-Summary Report is below.

National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

1. • **Executive Summary**

- Monitoring outbreak of Novel Coronavirus.
- Tropical Cyclone Invest 93P, Pago Pago, American Samoa.

2. • **Significant Weather Source: NWS**

- Heavy snow will continue in the higher elevations of the Cascades, Bitterroot mountains and Tetons, to the Northern and Central Rockies with accumulations between 18 inches to 3 feet and wind gusts up to 60 mph.
- Heavy snow expected for the Upper Great Lakes.
- Rain over the Middle/Lower Mississippi Valley moving into the Lower Great Lakes/Ohio Valley into parts of the Southeast.

3. • **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, VHA**

- As of 15 Feb, the WHO reports 51,857 confirmed cases globally; 1,669 deaths. Total confirmed cases in the U.S. is 15.
- CDC coordinating with companies to manufacture and validate additional kits for domestic and international distribution. Kits will be provided to VHA.
- 13 Feb, 14,840 cases, including 13,332 clinically diagnosed cases were reported from Hubei. This is the first time China has reported clinically diagnosed cases in addition to laboratory-confirmed cases. For consistency, the WHO reports only the number of laboratory-confirmed cases.
- VA Response Efforts:
 - DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA. DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (8) of 11 deployed Nursing Assistants (NA) demobilizing Saturday, Feb. 15.

- (3) Deployed Nursing Assistants extending.
 - (3) Nursing Assistants enroute to Travis AFB.
 - VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.
 - Further details on this situation can be found in the COVID-19 SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.
4. • **Tropical Cyclone (TC) Invest 93P** *Source: FEMA, JTMC*
- 16 Feb, FEMA reported formation of a significant Tropical Cyclone is possible near an area of convection (Invest 93P) located approximately 796 miles west of Pago Pago, American Samoa.
 - The development of a Tropical Cyclone within the next 24 hours is high.
 - High Wind Watch and Flash Flood Watch are in effect through Monday for American Samoa.
5. • **Short Term Facility Disruptions**
- **Natural Gas Leak, Oklahoma City VAMC, OK** *Source: VHA*
 - On Friday 14 Feb, Oklahoma Natural Gas (ONG) discovered a leak that impacted the natural gas lines connecting to the Oklahoma City VAMC.
 - The gas lines affecting the Nutrition and Food Service, Laundry Center, and boilers were secured.
 - Incident Command Center was activated Friday, 14 Feb, at 1551 ET.
 - The VAMC Laundry Service have dropped to a 2.5-day supply of linens and are accessing its emergency reserve.
 - Laundry Service is considered inoperable and have reached out to multiple VA facilities to see if they can provide additional linens and resources.
 - Facility boilers are currently running on diesel fuel and has 39,000 gallons on hand.
 - VHA OEM is coordinating with Veterans Canteen Services (VCS) for the delivery of a Mobile Emergency Nutrition Unit (MENU) to support the VAMC food service. The MENU is expected to arrive on Tuesday, 18 Feb.
6. • **Long Term Facility Disruptions**
- **Blythe Community Based Outpatient Clinic, CA** *Source: VHA*
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimate project will be completed in less than 30 days.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.
 - An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.
 - **Arecibo CBOC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
 - **Vieques Rural OPC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.
7. • **Ten Day Outlook**
- **Daytona 500 Cup Race, Daytona Beach, FL (SEAR 1)**

- The 62nd Daytona Cup Race, the most prestigious race and the season opener will be run on Sunday, 16 February with approximately 160,000 people in attendance including the President.
- **President's Day**
 - On 17 Feb, Federal Holiday - President's Day will be celebrated.
- **Mardi Gras Super Krewes and Mardi Gras Day, New Orleans, LA (SEAR 2) Feb 22 - 25**
 - Numerous parades and other events are scheduled for the 3-day period, with thousands expected to attend.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED], Duty Officer
Released by: (B6) [REDACTED] Watch Officer

V/R,

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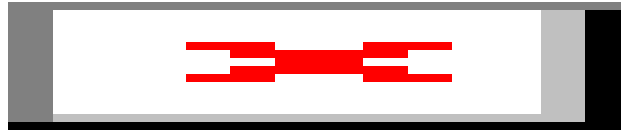
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Subject: SITREP (Update 22): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/02/16 10:31:08

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 16 Feb 20 / 1030 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. [Novel Coronavirus CDC info](#)
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.

Update 22:

- 16 Feb, 1000 ET, the WHO reports 51,857 confirmed cases globally and 1,669 deaths, throughout 26 countries, U.S. confirmed cases remains at 15.
- 328 U.S. citizens requested to be repatriated to the U.S. from the DIAMOND PRINCESS; 10 non-U.S. citizen family members also requested evacuation. Both evacuation planes are enroute to Japan and are expected to land at Haneda Airport today. HHS continues to evaluate the health of prospective evacuees to determine fitness for boarding, clearing 314 for travel. The flights will depart Haneda and arrive at Travis AFB on 17 Feb. One flight will proceed on to Lackland AFB.
- USCG reports one commercial vessel with a China port of call within the past 14 days, the M/V MANUKAI, is scheduled to arrive to Port of Long Beach today. The vessel has no personnel who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. CBP crew restrictions will be implemented while in port.

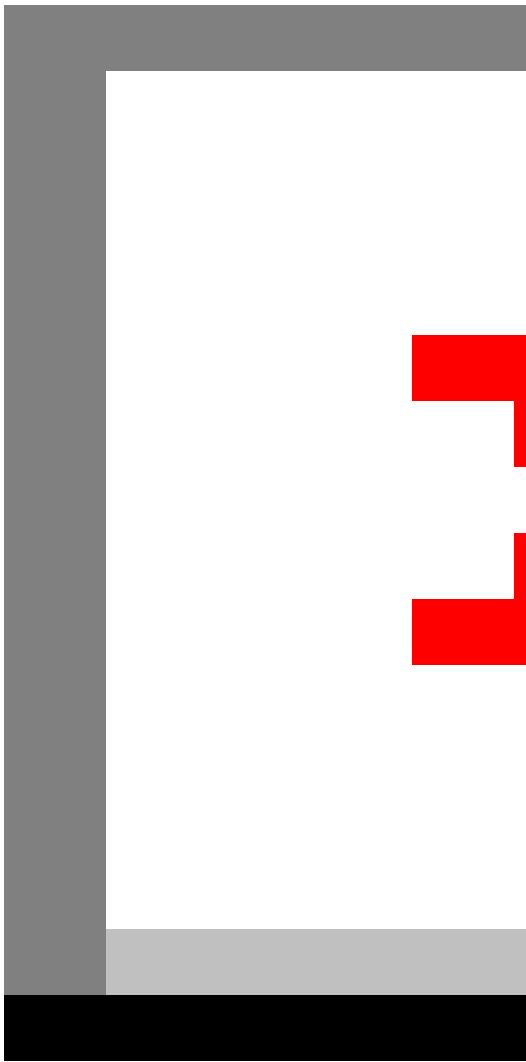
Update 21:

- • 15 Feb, 0600 ET, the WHO reports 50,580 confirmed cases globally and 1,457 deaths, throughout 26 countries, U.S. confirmed cases remains at 15.
- • Department of State has arranged for two charter planes to evacuate remaining U.S. citizen's onboard the cruise ship DIAMOND PRINCESS. Flights are scheduled to depart from Haneda, Japan on 16 Feb and arrive in Lackland AFB and Travis AFB on 17 Feb. HHS has deployed two (2) 35-person Disaster Medical Assistance Teams to support.

VA:

- • DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - • Eight (8) of 11 deployed Nursing Assistants (NA) demobilized Saturday, 15 Feb.
 - • Three (3) Deployed Nursing Assistants extended.
 - • Three (3) Nursing Assistants arrived at Travis AFB, CA.
- • HHS Task Order 7.75: requested one VA MVU and one VA emergency manager. Second wave of DEMPS volunteers expect to arrive at Travis AFB today; 8 DEMPS returning to home station(s) tomorrow.
- • VHA's PPE supply chain is not at risk; the suppliers are fully capable of meeting restocking requirements, if necessary.
- • VHA deployed 11 Medical Assistants, two AEM, and one Multi-Use Vehicle to the Travis AFB, CA repatriation site to support repatriation efforts.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6), Duty Officer

Released by: (B6)y, Watch Officer

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To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>
Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] HIMSS Update on the Coronavirus – March 2
Date:	2020/03/02 14:05:30
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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March 9–13, 2020
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL



HIMSS Update on the Coronavirus - March 2



Over the last week, COVID-19 Coronavirus has become a global topic of concern.

Our top priority remains the health and safety of all participants at HIMSS20, including attendees, exhibitors, market suppliers, staff, industry partners, and others involved in the HIMSS Global Health Conference and Exhibition.

Given the dynamic nature of this situation, HIMSS has assembled an external panel of medical professionals to further advise our evidence-based decision-making and to ensure the safety of the healthcare community currently planning to assemble in Florida for HIMSS20.

We remain committed to communicate regularly regarding our attendance and status.



HIMSS20



Global Health Conference & Exhibition



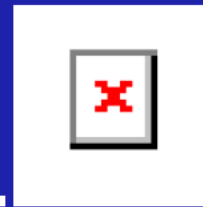
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Recipient: Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Murphy, Kathleen R (Portland) (B6)@va.gov>;
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CC: Murphy, Katherine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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(B6) @va.gov>;
VHA Healthcare Operations Center Staff (B6) @va.gov>;
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(B6) @med.va.gov>

Subject: Storyboard: CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK for Sunday, 16 February 2020

Date:	2020/02/16 18:50:52
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Please see the attached Storyboard for the CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK for Sunday, 16 February 2020.

Thank you.

VHA Watch Officer
VHA Office of Emergency Management
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC 20420

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov
(B6) [REDACTED]

Sender:	Watch Officer – VHA /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4DEE8E4EB2234AEAADA3A92B1739CA8D-WATCH OFFIC (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
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Heyworth, Leonie K. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=04e5c306359c473e8e5f77dfac81c407-Heyworth, L (B6) @va.gov>;

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VHA OEM Senior Staff /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0110a609757749d1b6338680fe762663-VHA OEM Sen (B6) @va.gov>;

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HHS ESF8 Fusion (OS/ASPR/OEM)' <ESF8.FUSION@HHS.GOV>;
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Murphy, Katherine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=87191024f4064261849ce5f51cfa6a11-Murphy, Kat (B6) @va.gov>;
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VHA OEM Staff /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f497e46cbd2a4ecbbeb08993888dc7cf-OEM.Staff <(B6) @med.va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/16 18:50:45

Delivered Date: 2020/02/16 18:50:52



Veterans Health Administration

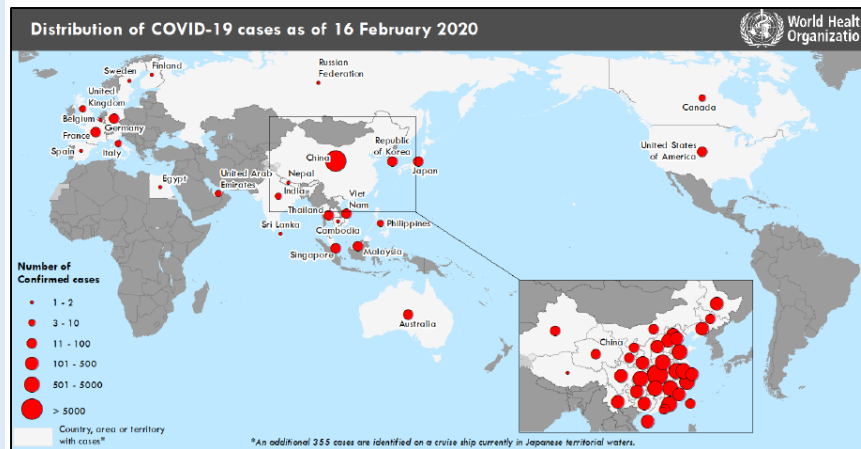
Senior Leadership Brief: 16 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per open source reporting, the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 69,288 (+1,476). The total number of confirmed deaths is now 1,670 (+143). Per the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 683 (+157) laboratory confirmed cases outside China in 25 countries with 3 deaths reported. The United States is repatriating 417 U.S. citizens from the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama, Japan. Two flights will leave Japan on Sunday, Feb. 16 and are due to arrive in the U.S. on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 16-17. All repatriated citizens will undergo a 14 day quarantine at Travis AFB and Lackland AFB, TX. An American passenger and his wife refused to be evacuated from the ship and would rather be quarantined in Japan. To date, a total of 355 (+70) passengers, 41 Americans, on the Diamond Princess have tested positive for the virus. Individuals testing positive have been evacuated to Japanese hospitals for treatment.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Sunday, Feb. 16 at 1800, the number of U.S. citizens with confirmed cases of the coronavirus remains at 15. (3) people with confirmed cases have recovered.
- As of Friday, Feb. 14, a total of 443 citizens have been tested with 347 testing negative and 81 people with tests pending (CDC).
- A total of 617 American Citizens remain quarantined at (5) locations in the United States after being repatriated from Wuhan, China.
- An 83-year-old American woman who disembarked from Holland America's MS Westerdam cruise ship in Cambodia on Friday, Feb. 14 has tested positive for coronavirus per the Malaysian Ministry of Health.

Significant Activities

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Thursday, Feb. 13: Website has been visited 19,490 (+572) times with 18,141 (+523) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Friday, Feb. 14: 93 Questions submitted; 62 Answered; 31 Being reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SME).



Volunteers disinfecting a housing complex in Taizhou, a city in China's Zhejiang Province that has had many coronavirus infections. (China Daily/Reuters)

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**. Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (2) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - DEMPs: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (6) Nursing Assistants onsite at Travis AFB.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) will continue to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.



Americans citizens leaving the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama, Japan. (Getty/New York Times)

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000251

UNCLASS//FOUO



CURRENT Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases with Veteran Population Density - 2/16/2020

Number of Confirmed Cases out
12 CURRENT Nation-wide confirmed cases
 *Recovered cases are NOT depicted

1 x REM
 1 x Public Affairs
 1 x EMA
 4 x AEM

1 x AEM

6 x DEMPS
 1 x Multi-Use Vehicle
 1 x Logistics Support Vehicle (LSV)
 2 x AEM

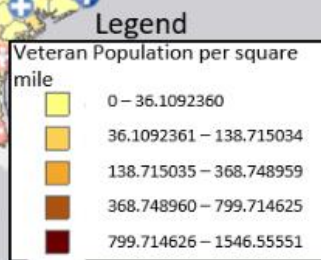
City	St	Confirmed	Recovered
Tempe	AZ	1	
Los Angeles	CA	1	
Orange	CA	1	
San Benito	CA	2	
Santa Clara	CA	2	
San Diego	CA	2	
*Chicago	IL	2	2
Boston	MA	1	
San Antonio	TX	1	
*Seattle	WA	1	1
Madison	WI	1	
Total		15	3

MULT-VA-VHA-20-04771-A000252

Data Sources: VA, WHO, CDC



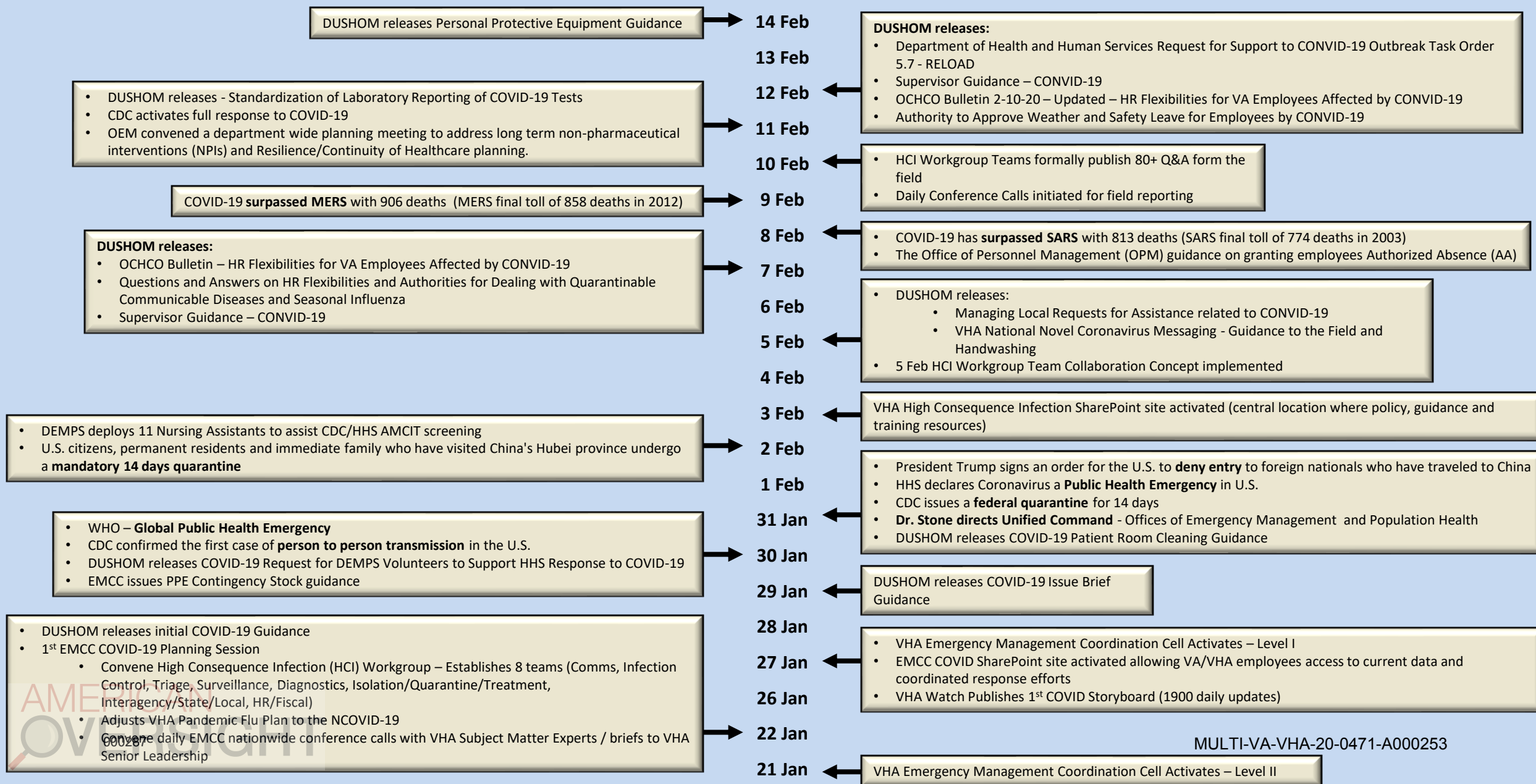
Created on: 2/16/2020: 18:30 EST
 Created by: OEM - Watch



- VHA Facilities**
- VA Medical Center
 - Primary Care CBOC
 - Multi-Specialty CBOC
- Miscellaneous**
- Repatriation Site
 - Alt Repatriation Site
 - EMCC

MEXICO

Timeline— A Rapidly Evolving Situation



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To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357bcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/17 07:34:49
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Great job!

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Date: Monday, Feb 17, 2020, 6:31 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is 69 and the other is 72. Both are Air Force Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
 - Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
 - Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
 - The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
 - Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
 - Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.
- Note:** A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
 - COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov;

Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) 2@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding

implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.

- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA's order of COVID-19 test kits.
- OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft

- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning –

the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- • 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- • Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- • We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also

want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.

- • Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- • DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- • Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- • Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- • Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

<(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

<(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.

- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with (B6) add a "clinical" section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one "voice"
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the "one and done" usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations

- • 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- • Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- • Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- • Global draw down will continue
- • Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- • The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- • The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- • The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- • The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- • The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- • Team is tired but spirits are high.
- • VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- • OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- • HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- • At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans

- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of "Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homelessness at this moment and I don't believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions."

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- • 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- • I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- • At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- • At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- • At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- • At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- • Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- • At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.

- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- • Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- • Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) a.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- • The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- • The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- • HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) and (B6) they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a "go, no go" order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- • AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
128 minors over 2
20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.

- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD
 Director
 VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
 (B6) Cell

Sender:	Oshinski, Renee /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=56925A4F59DF47D19FCCEB5E7C270BC0-OSHINSKI, R (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6)@va.gov>;

Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>;

Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>;

Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>;

Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>;

Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>;

Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>;

Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>;

Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>;

Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>;

Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>;

Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>;

Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>;

Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/17 07:34:47

Delivered Date: 2020/02/17 07:34:49

Message Flags: Unread

From:	Czarnecki, Tammy /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/17 08:11:56
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

That is great, thank you Paul

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6) @va.gov>

Date: Monday, Feb 17, 2020, 7:12 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- • Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- • Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- • Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)2@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <Ed.Litvin@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)r@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <Michael.Hinkle@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- • Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- • The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- • The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the

same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.

- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is 69 and the other is 72. Both are Air Force Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.

- Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg’s supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon (B6) va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.

- A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • US confirmed cases 15
- • AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- • HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- • HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- • HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- • HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- • HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- • HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- • The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- • Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- • Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- • OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- • OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- • Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- • Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),

- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**

- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called “Health Pulse” and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

- Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
- 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
- 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
- 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
- Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
- 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
- Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.
(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of “Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don’t believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions.”

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today’s National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as “US citizens.” There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don’t describe everyone as

“repatriated.” Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT “repatriated.”

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as “repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home”.

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the “issues” in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, “we are in this together”
- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.

- • At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- • Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- • Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) and (B6) they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska

Medical Center – 75 evacuees

Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees

Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees

Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2

128 minors over 2

20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD
Director
VHA Office of Emergency Management
(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Czarnecki, Tammy /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6).gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6)@va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri

	(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/02/17 08:11:55
Delivered Date:	2020/02/17 08:11:56
Message Flags:	Unread

From:	Connell, Lawrence B. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A3E723376344045980AD214122389F4-CONNELL, LA (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357bcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) n@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d8e2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/17 08:41:30
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Awesome!

Sent with BlackBerry Work
Please forgive the typos and erroneous spellcheck.
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6)@va.gov>
Date: Monday, Feb 17, 2020, 7:31 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)n@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is (B6) and the other is (B6). Both are (B6) Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.

- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday

- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCIIs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all

supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA's order of COVID-19 test kits.
- OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.

- • Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
- • Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
- • Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- • HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - • DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - • Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- • Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- • 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

<(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E.

(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- • HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- • Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- • CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- • Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- • Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- • OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation,

appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.

- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may**

safely return to their regular duties. All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.

- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- Total persons quarantined: 809
- Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis

appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- • The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- • It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- • The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers

- • 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- • CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- • Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- • US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- • CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- • Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- • Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- • Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- • Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- • Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- • All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- • Coordinating with Larry Mole to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- • Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- • Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- • (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- • PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions

- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.

- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of "Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don't believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions."

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>;

Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees** (B6) [REDACTED] reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>;

Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- • 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- • I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- • At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- • At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- • At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- • At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- • Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- • At approximately 9:51pm I briefed Tammy Czarnecki of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) i@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- • Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- • Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- • The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- • The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- • HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with Tammy and Ray they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a "go, no go" order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- • AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston
1st death outside of China – in the Philippines
2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
128 minors over 2
20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- • We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- • OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- • Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- • HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- • The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- • The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- • CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- • The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- • While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- • CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- • Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- • We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6) . I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD
 Director
 VHA Office of Emergency Management
 (B6) Office
 (B6) Cell

Sender: Connell, Lawrence B. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

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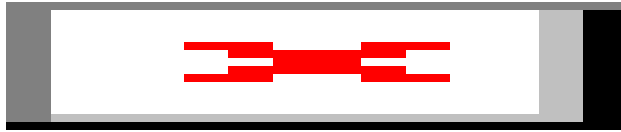
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Subject:	SITREP (Update 23): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global
Date:	2020/02/17 10:25:13
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



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SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 17 Feb 20 / 1025 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. [Novel Coronavirus CDC info](#)
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.

Update 23:

- 17 Feb, 0400 ET, the WHO reports 71,429 confirmed cases globally and 1,775 deaths, throughout 26 countries, U.S. confirmed cases remains at 15.
- 417 U.S. citizens. from the DIAMOND PRINCESS cruise ship in Yokohama Japan will be repatriated. Two flights left Japan on Sunday, 16 Feb. One (1) landed at 0229 ET at Travis AFB, and the other one (1) landed at Lackland AFB, TX on 17 Feb.
- Unconfirmed open source reporting announced that 14 passengers tested and evacuated from the DIAMOND PRINCESS cruise ship in Japan are positive for COVID-19. The WHO website doesn't reflect the evacuees in their confirmed U.S. cases at this time.
 - Officials reported that during the evacuation process of the ship, symptoms were noticed during transport to the airport.

- • The passengers continued to be asymptomatic and were allowed to remain on the aircraft to complete evacuation, but were moved to a specialized containment area on the aircraft to isolate them.
- • All repatriated citizens will undergo a 14 day quarantine at Travis AFB CA, and Lackland AFB, TX. One American citizen and his wife refused evacuation from the ship.

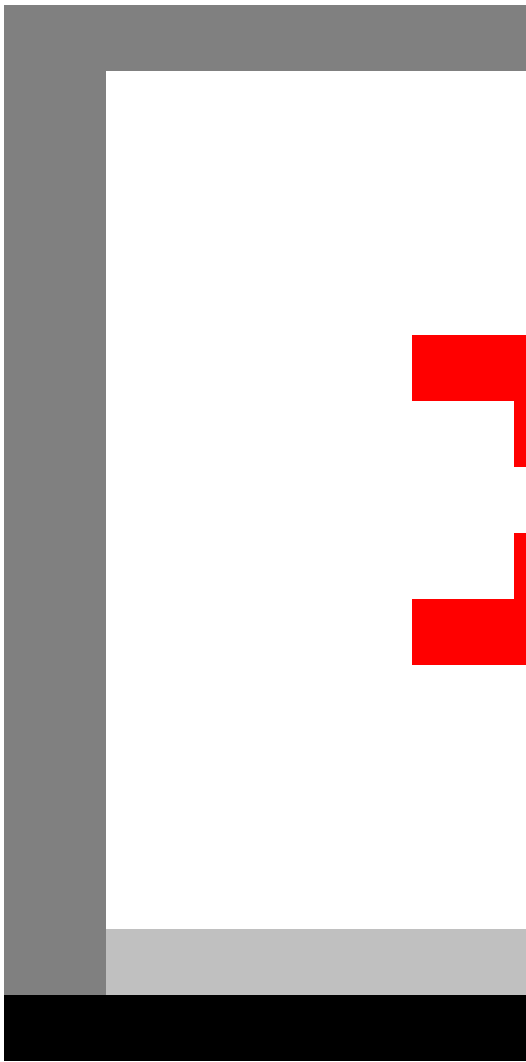
Update 22:

- • 16 Feb, 0400 ET, the WHO reports 51,857 confirmed cases globally and 1,669 deaths, throughout 26 countries, U.S. confirmed cases remains at 15.
- • 328 U.S. citizens requested to be repatriated to the U.S. from the DIAMOND PRINCESS; 10 non-U.S. citizen family members also requested evacuation. Both evacuation planes are en-route to Japan and are expected to land at Haneda Airport today. HHS continues to evaluate the health of prospective evacuees to determine fitness for boarding, clearing 314 for travel. The flights will depart Haneda and arrive at Travis AFB on 17 Feb. One flight will proceed on to Lackland AFB.
- • USCG reports one commercial vessel with a China port of call within the past 14 days, the M/V MANUKAI, is scheduled to arrive to Port of Long Beach today. The vessel has no personnel who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. CBP crew restrictions will be implemented while in port.

VA:

- • DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - • Six (6) Nursing Assistants Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - • Eight (8) of 11 deployed Nursing Assistants (NA) demobilized Saturday, 15 Feb.
 - • Three (3) Deployed Nursing Assistants extended.
- • HHS Task Order 7.75: requested one VA MVU and one VA emergency manager. Second wave of DEMPS volunteers expect to arrive at Travis AFB today; 8 DEMPS returning to home station(s) tomorrow.
- • VHA's PPE supply chain is not at risk; the suppliers are fully capable of meeting restocking requirements, if necessary.
- • VHA deployed 11 Medical Assistants, two AEM, and one Multi-Use Vehicle to the Travis AFB, CA repatriation site to support repatriation efforts.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



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FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) Officer

(B6)

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Sent Date: 2020/02/17 10:25:11

Delivered Date: 2020/02/17 10:25:13

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CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/03/09 07:10:33
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Member Services has found 5 passengers who are (B6) years old:

1 is Service connected and enrolled – this individual resides in (B6) – the closest VAMC is in Asheville, NC – it is reasonable to assume this is the Veteran the media is referring to.

3 are not service connected and not enrolled

1 Service Connection is pending

From: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 6:19 AM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: Re: VHA Mission

Thanks!

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From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 6:17:54 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Member Services reported last night the following: They had to cease operations due to a regularly scheduled system update every Sunday evening – they have resumed the search at 6:00AM this morning

Through 243 names on a manifest of 2016 AMCITS

- 21 Veterans verified – 9 Service Connected and enrolled
- 25 may be Veterans but cannot verify without an SS#
- Media reports an (B6) on board and we are trying to verify if this report.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E.

(Physician) (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: VHA Mission

Update:

- New states are reporting their first COVID-19 cases, some reported with recent travel outside the respective states. The first domestic case of a U.S. service member is reported. A lockdown in Italy quarantines over 16M people. The COVID-19 outbreak is altering cruise ship schedules, and the cruise industry is responding with updates to their policies. Despite COVID-19 transmission concerns at political gatherings, presidential candidates will continue to hold political rallies and events.
- Italian Prime Minister Conte signs a decree for a lockdown of 15 provinces in central and northern Italy, quarantining over 16M people at least until April 3. Those who break quarantine could serve 3 months in jail. All schools and university are temporarily closed in the country.
- The Orange County Correction Facility (California) suspends visits to protect inmates and staff.

EMCC Update:

- The Grand Princess will dock in Oakland tomorrow. Prior to the ship docking an HHS Hasty Treatment Team will board the ship and support the ship's medical staff and begin triaging passengers for movement planning.
- **Monday:** Seriously ill and other sick passengers will be moved first. Second group moved will be passengers testing positive who are asymptomatic who will go into isolation. If there is any daylight remaining the teams will start moving California residents to Travis. Note: Movements will only be accomplished during daylight hours
- **Tuesday:** Continue movement of California residents to Travis. If Travis fills to capacity Miramar MCAS will be used as the site for overflow. Depending on the response from foreign nations, non-US citizens will be shuttled to the Oakland airport for repatriation. Finally on Tuesday movement of non-California US citizens will take place. HHS has three aircraft contracted for the movement of these passengers from Oakland International to Lackland and Dobbins.
- **Wednesday:** Final movement of passengers to Dobbins and Lackland and possibly movement from Travis to Miramar.
- The planned capacity of Lackland is 700.
- AEM attended the Travis Operations and Tactics meeting today
- At this time – through the first 100 on the manifest – Member Services has identified 11 Veterans, 5 Service Connected, 1 pending and 4 enrolled – there are 2016 AMCITS on the manifest.
- WMC has identified 3 employees, 1 from Orlando (Pharmacy), 1 from Martinsburg (LPN), 1 San Francisco (VCS) – Network Directors, Directors and VCS leadership have been notified
- EMCC is leaning forward to identify AEMs that would be able to assist at the 3 other repatriation sites with Veteran and employee issues
- EMCC is addressing PPE needs in the field

- OEM has 2 employees leaving for cruises (1 Friday and 1 on the 21st). Both cruises are in the Caribbean. Cruise lines have not yet offered refunds.

Sender:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
Recipient:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/09 07:10:32
Delivered Date:	2020/03/09 07:10:33

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Veteran Cases

- 20 Veterans tested for COVID-19
 - 3 positives
 - 1 at Palo Alto HCS
 - 1 at Southern Nevada HCS- still need CDC confirmation, still in critical condition
 - 1 at Seattle quarantined to home- awaiting more details
- 10 tests pending
- 10 Veteran patients under quarantine/self-isolation
- 70 Veterans have been ruled out for COVID-19

Staff

- 2 employees tested for COVID-19
 - 1 negative
 - 1 still pending, in home isolation
- 41 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 20 ruled out for COVID-19

Summary of optimizing VHA Capabilities

Screening – No new data

Testing – Palo Alto testing lab

- Capability increased to conduct 2000 tests following delivery of more kits
- 5 tests conducted on 3/4 – all negative
- 10 conducted on 3/5 – awaiting results

VA Coronavirus Public Health Website – 38,121 unique site visits to date

Coronavirus SharePoint site- now contains 110 guidance documents for field

Ongoing Communication- continue to have 2 daily calls, one offered to the entire field and the other VISN leadership

- COVID-19 Guidance for VA Community Living Centers released
- Clinical Contact Center Coronavirus Disease 2019 for how to screen for COVID-19 that includes instructions, actions, and scripting
- COVID-19 Telework Guidance
 - establishes requirements for implementing telework capabilities at VA sites of care pursuant to a pandemic
- Request to field asking for volunteers to be detailed to VHA Office of Emergency Management to support increasing and extended mission needs
- COVID-19 Cost Tracking guidance
 - provides VHA stations guidance for recording and tracking expenditures related to COVID-19

Latest Princess Cruise Ship- will validate if any Veterans are on board after the vessel enters port

From:	Hinkle, Michael C. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E12527424E784789AAC61491744B0280-HINKLE, MIC (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/17 17:17:52
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Clarification: The five (5) that were asymptomatic and tested positive were based on tests conducted by the Japanese government prior to departure for the United States.

From: Hinkle, Michael C.

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy

(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - • Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - • Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- • Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - • **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - • Two (2) are PUIs
- • One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- • Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- • AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- • This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D.

<(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.

- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is (B6) and the other is (B6) Both are (B6) Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan

- Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.

- I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15

- • AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- • HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- • HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- • HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- • HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- • HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- • HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- • The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- • Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- • Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- • OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- • OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- • Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- • Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- • Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the

Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received

- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called “Health Pulse” and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of “Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don’t believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions.”

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today’s National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as “US citizens.” There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don’t describe everyone as

“repatriated.” Use **passengers or evacuees** (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT “repatriated.”

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as “repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home”.

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the “issues” in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, “we are in this together”
- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.

- • At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- • Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- • Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with Tammy and Ray they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska

Medical Center – 75 evacuees

Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees

Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees

Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2

128 minors over 2

20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6) I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD
Director
VHA Office of Emergency Management
(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Hinkle, Michael C. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E12527424E784789AAC61491744B0280-HINKLE, MIC (B6) @va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) a.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fceeb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De

<(B6)@va.gov>;
Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri
(B6)@va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/17 17:17:50

Delivered Date: 2020/02/17 17:17:52

From:	Boyd, Teresa D. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6886A7D555A43E0BEE23C1E40E1C234-BOYD, TERES (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 <(B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/27 05:42:27
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks Paul. Troubling news indeed.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Thursday, Feb 27, 2020, 5:26 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) 2@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>, Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>, MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) 8@va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: VHA Mission

Community transmission - Northern CA case of unknown origin has been confirmed. This may be the game changer we have all feared.

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>, Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>, MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Current global cases are 80,116 and 2,697 global deaths
- Miramar NAS will be closing down after today and being returned to DoD; One additional positive case was transferred from Lackland AFB to UNMC
- NIAID clinical trial began Feb 21 at UNMC to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Remdesivir as a therapeutic agent
- 99 out of 102 people in the psychiatric department of a hospital in South Korea tested positive for coronavirus infection.
- Italy reports a 45% increase in COVID-19 cases since yesterday. Four of the newly reported cases are children.
- Many European countries announce their first novel coronavirus cases, which can be linked to Italy. Health officials representing several European countries decided that closing borders at this time, or cancelling flights, would be a disproportionate reaction.
- Brazil confirms the first COVID-19 case in Latin America, a man who had traveled to Italy in February.
- University of Southern California requires students studying abroad in South Korea and Italy to return.

- • Possible first community transmission in Fairfield, CA – no current nexus to travel or Travis has been confirmed

EMCC Actions:

- • 23,807 unique visits to the Public Health website
- • OIT informed the EMCC they have 500 laptops that will be imaged in a week and ready to deploy
- • EMCC formed an OIT workgroup to address in depth the Telework and Telehealth solutions.
 - VA has four gateways into the VA network. Each gateway has 20GB (80GB Total).
 - The incoming data lines have reached the physical limit of bandwidth. It will take up to 6 months to add another line to increase bandwidth.
 - These gateways handle all internet bandwidth including Remote Access (RA). RA does not have dedicated circuits. The bandwidth is shared all internet traffic. These gateways are well monitored and managed dynamically. (i.e. if one gateway is saturated or down, the traffic is shifted to another gateway)
 - In the event of an emergency, OIT Office of Emergency Management will coordinate with the gateway managers to dynamically insure RA traffic has priority.
 - The gateway managers, in addition to necessary load balancing, will initiate efforts to block low priority traffic such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and other non-essential applications to make that bandwidth available.
 - It is important to remember that no two users are alike so the bandwidth requirements can't be effectively determined. Different applications have different bandwidth usage and all the connections are not transmitting and/or receiving at the same time.
 - A factor that we must considered is the overall impact on the internet infrastructure if social distancing is employed by a community. The VA will not be the only organization using RA, the Internet load will be massive.
 - OIT RA systems can support 214,000 users. ~160,000 with GFE through Rescue/Cisco AnyConnect and ~54,000 non-GFE through CAG. The non-GFE RA could be increased to 160,000 with the purchase of additional licenses.
- • 2020 Pandemic Plan is in the final draft. (B6) will be in Martinsburg to help finalize.
- • Received the conference information – approximately 1,100 events, impacting approximately 33,000 employees and approximately \$44million
- • PAPER Order – EMCC is developing the Statement of Work and coordinating with FSC to ensure the funding can be made available through EMPI 162/160 funds
- • OEM will design and provide facilitators for a VBA senior leadership Tabletop exercise Wednesday, March 4, 2020 in VACO. Awaiting confirmation from NCA
- • VISN 5 has requested OEM support for their upcoming Tabletop

- • RCS has asked for support for their 300 access points and counselors and the EMCC is coordinating providing PPE and hand sanitizers
- • OEM has formally cancelled the DEMPS full scale exercise in April.
- • OEM has cancelled participation in the VISN 23 EM consortium on March 16-20, 2020
- • 2pm Senior COVID19 Conference call had 133 participants and received a detailed presentation from Palo Alto leadership on the creation of a COVID19 treatment area.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 2:46 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The CDC has published a Travelers' Health Travel Notice, Warning – Level 3 (Avoid Nonessential Travel) due to the Coronavirus in South Korea.
- • The U.S. State Department Travel Advisory for South Korea remains at Level 2, which means to exercise increased caution when traveling to these countries, as they are experiencing sustained community transmission of respiratory illness (COVID-19) caused by the novel coronavirus.
- • There are ongoing discussions and planning to repatriate AMCITS from Italy, Japan and South Korea.
- • CDC released new Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report for COVID-19 [Public Health Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak — United States, February 24, 2020](#)
- • CDC – Four Focus Areas for Mitigation and Prevention:
 1. Focusing on individuals and families require
 2. Non-medical Community Setting – schools, churches, mass gatherings – new community mitigation guidance will be posted this week
 3. Medical care-inpatient, outpatient, nursing homes, etc.
 4. International/border issues
- • White House Task Force on Global Supply Chain will publish a White Paper on PPE to include forecasting and anticipated domestic and international needs and usage.
- • National Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) Red Team is exploring sustainability should we see a major hurricane and/or other Stafford Act Declaration
- • USDA is developing a plan for pets and service animals should owners require quarantine and/or hospitalization.

- • ESF-13 is working with federal agencies with law enforcement resources to assist with security. Also looking at private security guard services. There are still questions related to enforcement of quarantine orders.
- • There are ongoing concerns with consistent guidance for employees returning from working with possible exposures and requirements for isolation before returning to normal work duties. Discussions are ongoing.

EMCC Actions:

- • Continues overall contingency and worst case scenario planning, preliminary recommendation on PPE, alternate sites of care have been provided to VHA senior leadership.
- • HHS PDAS was concerned about a report that over 40% of the current repatriated cohort at Travis are Veterans. I reassured the PDAS this is a fake new story the current breakdown at Travis:

	Veterans at Travis AFB	Negative for COVID-19	Pending COVID-19 Results
Veterans at Travis AFB	14	7	7
Cohort indicating a desire to be seen in the community, using private insurance	8	5	3
Cohort of Veterans eligible for VA benefits	6	2	4

- • 6 Enrolled in VA for health care
 - • Home of Record
 - • 1- West Texas (Waco), Texas
 - • 1- Palo Alto, California
 - • 1- Crown Point, Indiana
 - • 1- Portland, Oregon
 - • 1- Chicago "Da Bears," Illinois
 - • 1- Seattle, Washington
- • HHS PDAS has asked of VHA's willingness and preparedness in taking any Veterans should the remaining enrollees test positive. I did detail the preparations at Palo Alto and stressed VHA would accept an enrolled Veterans but we cannot care for or house a non-Veteran spouse
- • HHS PDAS revealed that the State of Ca has reached their maximum and will no longer accept any additional repatriated AMCITs. He inquired about VHA's capabilities in the

locations above. I revealed we are in the midst of ongoing preparedness activities and should one of the Veterans above test positive we will work with HHS through the EMCC. The PDAS agreed to contact the EMCC should there be a need.

- • 21,166 unique visits to the Public Health website.
- • 2:00pm COVID-19 call – 111 participants – Topic – Bed Management Solution – Emergency Management: Negative Pressure Rooms
- • 3:00pm Workgroup Conference call was cancelled for today only to give workgroups an opportunity to go back and do their “normal” day jobs”.
- • COVID-19 Alert Poster/Bulletin Approved and distributed.
- • Participated in an interview for Veterans Affairs and Military Medicine Outlook arranged by VHA Communications - **Providing Care After Natural Disasters:** How does the Veterans Health Administration ensure continuity of care for veterans in the aftermath of a natural disaster, when facilities, communications, staff, and medical supplies may be affected?

Sender:	Boyd, Teresa D. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6886A7D555A43E0BEE23C1E40E1C234-BOYD, TERES (B6) @va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) 2@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) r@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>;

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Sent Date:	2020/02/27 05:42:26
Delivered Date:	2020/02/27 05:42:27
Message Flags:	Unread

From:	Mole, Larry A. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A7F4EED603A543398E4E0B0BBE52CF41-MOLE, LARRY (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	Automatic reply: PPE
Date:	2020/02/27 08:07:13
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note.Rules.OofTemplate.Microsoft

27-Feb - I am in Martinsburg working on COVID-19 today and will be periodically checking email. Thank you for your patience.

Larry

Sender:	Mole, Larry A. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A7F4EED603A543398E4E0B0BBE52CF41-MOLE, LARRY (B6) @va.gov>
Recipient:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/02/27 08:07:11
Delivered Date:	2020/02/27 08:07:13
Message Flags:	Unread

From:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357bcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) i@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Oldland, Harry G. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=11c910aafa2d4951b01cb98159f0d748-Oldland, Ha (B6) @va.gov>; Centineo, Andrew D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0220112a9c5546a994e1300b9223f3bc-Centineo, A (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: PPE
Date:	2020/02/27 08:20:10
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

BLUF:

The gowns in question have nothing to do with COVID19 response or use

ED was short of on Level 4 gowns (unrelated to COVID-19), due to normal usage – messaging was misinterpreted as this shortage was due to COVID-19.

Issue has been resolved.

EMCC will continue to work with each VISN/MC to avoid misinformation.

Break

I will coordinate with HHS and ensure VHA is listed as a priority for PPE resupply. Will report if there needs to be higher intervention.

From: Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:09 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) [REDACTED]2@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: PPE

We will take care of this.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, Feb 27, 2020, 8:07 AM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: PPE

Please deconflict orders for routine vs contingency use

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From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, Feb 27, 2020, 6:36 AM
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Subject: PPE

Need some guidance:

EMCC is working hard with PL&O and we are in the midst of two very large purchases of PPE. The issues we are running into are:

1. • Despite the attached memo the EMCC is operating blind – very few VISNs and facilities are cooperating

2. • In conversations with vendors supplying the PPE for our 2 big orders they have revealed they are getting the same orders from our facilities
3. • These same vendors have asked us what orders take precedent because they cant meet all of them.

My fear is, we will quickly begin shutting down the supply chain with these orders coming from all directions and we will not receive anything.

I do not want to get out in front of leadership on this and issue further guidance on how we should address these "shortages". Due to the fact that the field is not communicating with the EMCC we have no way of knowing if the "shortages" being reported to other entities (HOC) are real or this is hoarding. I am in the process of checking with Tampa to see if their reported shortage of surgical gowns (IB24159:V1.01) is real.

VISN 8 Tampa - IB24159:V1.01: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Shortage – Surgical Gowns

- • On February 25, it was brought to Leadership's attention that vendors are cancelling orders for surgical gowns to allow companies to produce custom surgical packs in preparation for a potential coronavirus outbreak.
- • On February 25, West Palm Beach VA offered to send a pallet of XXL surgical gowns, which should last JAHVH about 13 days.
- • An additional five cases of gowns have been ordered from Gulf Coast Pharmaceuticals Plus.
- • JAHVH continues to actively search for gown availability and will pass on procurement information as it becomes available.

Paul

Paul D. Kim, MD
Director
VHA Office of Emergency Management

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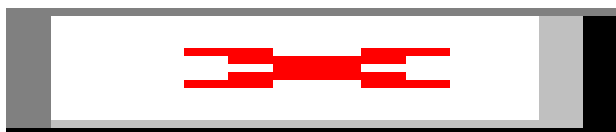
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Subject: SITREP (Update 24): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/02/18 10:50:48

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



cid:image001.jpg@01D3864D.D0211870

SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 18 Feb 20 / 1050 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. [Novel Coronavirus CDC info](#)
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.

Update 24:

- 18 Feb, 1000 ET, the WHO reports 73,332 confirmed cases globally and 1,873 deaths, throughout 26 countries, U.S. confirmed cases at 29.
 - 18 Feb, 0900 ET, at the HHS Interagency Situational Awareness call, the CDC confirmed 14 additional confirmed cases repatriated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship. Currently receiving care at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).
- Starting 17 Feb, WHO is reporting all confirmed cases, including both laboratory-confirmed as previously reported, and those reported as clinically diagnosed (currently only applicable to Hubei province, China).
 - The change in reporting is now shown in the figures. This accounts for the apparent large increase in cases compared to prior situation reports.
- Approximately 29 Veterans were part of the U.S. citizens contingent recently repatriated from the DIAMOND PRINCESS cruise ship in Yokohama Japan.

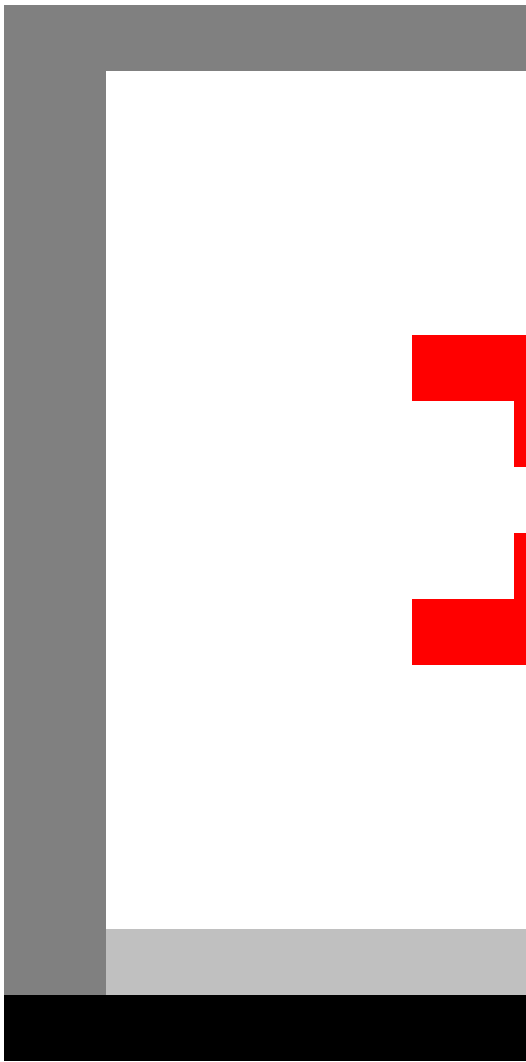
Update 23:

- • 17 Feb, 0400 ET, the WHO reports 71,429 confirmed cases globally and 1,775 deaths, throughout 26 countries, U.S. confirmed cases remains at 15.
- • 335 U.S. citizens. from the DIAMOND PRINCESS cruise ship in Yokohama Japan were repatriated. Two flights left Japan on Sunday, 16 Feb. One (1) landed at 0229 ET at Travis AFB, and the other one (1) landed at Lackland AFB, TX on 17 Feb.
- • Unconfirmed open source reporting announced that 14 passengers tested and evacuated from the DIAMOND PRINCESS cruise ship in Japan are positive for COVID-19. The WHO website doesn't reflect the evacuees in their confirmed U.S. cases at this time.
 - • Officials reported that during the evacuation process of the ship, symptoms were noticed during transport to the airport.
 - • The passengers continued to be asymptomatic and were allowed to remain on the aircraft to complete evacuation, but were moved to a specialized containment area on the aircraft to isolate them.
- • All repatriated citizens will undergo a 14 day quarantine at Travis AFB CA, and Lackland AFB, TX. One American citizen and his wife refused evacuation from the ship.

VA:

- • DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - • Six (6) Nursing Assistants Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - • Eight (8) of 11 deployed Nursing Assistants (NA) demobilized Saturday, 15 Feb.
 - • Three (3) Deployed Nursing Assistants extended.
- • HHS Task Order 7.75: requested one VA MVU and one VA emergency manager. Second wave of DEMPS volunteers expect to arrive at Travis AFB today; 8 DEMPS returning to home station(s) tomorrow.
- • VHA's PPE supply chain is not at risk; the suppliers are fully capable of meeting restocking requirements, if necessary.
- • VHA deployed 11 Medical Assistants, two AEM, and one Multi-Use Vehicle to the Travis AFB, CA repatriation site to support repatriation efforts.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



cid:image002.png@01D5E648.E514FF50

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) Duty Officer

Released by: (B6), Watch Officer

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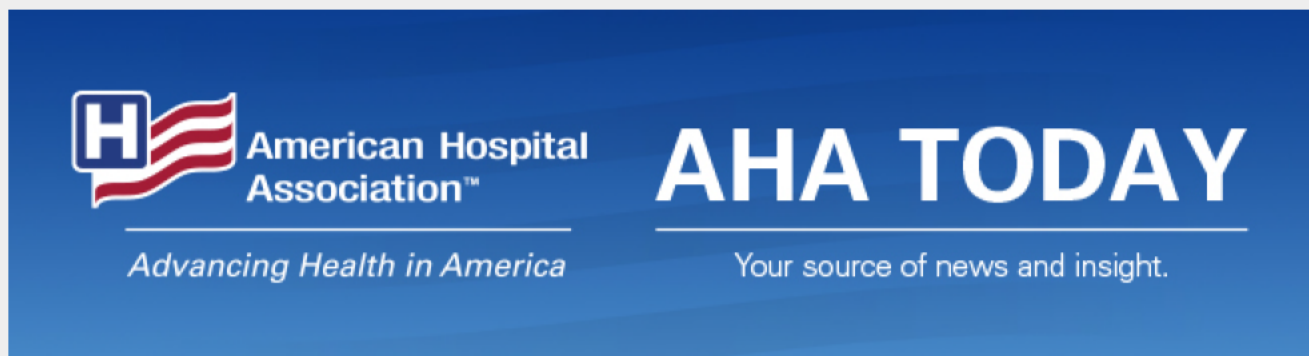
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February 24, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Chair File: Sharing Examples of How We Are Making Health Care More Affordable



Nancy Agee

One of our field's greatest strengths is not only our ability to innovate, but also our willingness to share our efforts so we can learn from each other to advance patient health.

Hospitals and health systems across the country are focused on creating new approaches and implementing creative solutions that drive value and improve care. They're approaching it from a variety of perspectives, including a redesign of the delivery system, managing risk and new payment models, improving quality and outcomes, and implementing operational solutions.

Some of the best work underway is captured in a recent [summary](#) from [AHA's The Value Initiative](#). Our Members in Action series spotlights value-based strategies from 19 hospitals and health systems that

are focusing on efforts to improve health care affordability.

The approaches highlighted in this resource run the gamut: from increased use of predictive analytics and telehealth, to reducing emergency department visits by having paramedics provide preventive care to eliminating unnecessary blood transfusions and ensuring the appropriateness of all tests, procedures, treatments and medications. We also have [on-demand webinars](#) with more detailed information about these initiatives that AHA members can use if they want to explore similar strategies. The best part, of course, is that the example includes real results — including how these approaches improved outcomes, enhanced patient experiences or lowered costs.

At a time when Americans report increased anxiety over their ability to afford quality health care, these examples highlight just a few of the ways hospitals and health systems are leading efforts to advance affordability by transforming the way health care is delivered in our communities.

Melinda L. Estes, M.D.
AHA Chair

Today's Headlines

1. • WHO: Novel coronavirus not yet a pandemic, but preparing for it
2. • AHA: Article does not tell full story about hospitals' community investments
3. • FDA releases first phase of online Purple Book database

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Today's Headlines Continued

1. WHO: Novel coronavirus not yet a pandemic, but preparing for it

The World Health Organization [said](#) today that for the time being it will not categorize the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic, mainly because of the virus' contained spread and lack of large-scale severe disease and deaths. WHO emphasized that countries should prioritize protecting health workers and communities most at risk of severe disease, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

[Global cases](#) stand at over 79,000, with nearly 2,600 deaths, mostly in China. Along with rapidly growing cases in Italy, South Korea and Iran, Lebanon and Israel have confirmed COVID-19 patients, WHO said. The State Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention raised travel alert warnings to Level 2 (exercise increased caution) for [Japan](#) and [South Korea](#).

CDC's Emerging Infectious Diseases journal today released a [study](#) showing potential presymptomatic transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. According to the [South China Morning Post](#), Chinese authorities are requiring a 14-day quarantine after patients recover because some recovered and released patients in Wuhan, China, tested positive for the virus.

To learn more about the novel coronavirus, join these upcoming webinars:

- CDC webinar, with the American Health Lawyers Association and Association of Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professionals, Feb. 25 at 1:30 p.m. ET on COVID-19 and health care provider legal preparedness. [Register here](#).
- National Ebola Training and Education Center and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response webinar on highly pathogenic infectious disease training March 11 at 1:30 p.m. ET. [Register here](#).

For the latest information and resources, visit [AHA's coronavirus webpage](#).

2. AHA: Article does not tell full story about hospitals' community investments

"The recent Modern Healthcare article 'Top not-for-profit hospitals offer less charity care, study finds,' does not tell the full story of how hospitals and health systems improve community health," writes AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack in a [letter to the editor](#) published Saturday. "It also fails to mention the resources dedicated to caring for patients who do not have the ability to pay. The American Hospital Association's latest publicly available report shows hospitals and health systems spent \$41.3 billion on uncompensated care in 2018. Moreover, hospital and health systems' commitment goes far beyond the four walls. According to a 2019 analysis, tax-exempt hospitals provided \$95 billion in total benefits to their communities in 2016 alone — outweighing the \$9 billion value of their tax exemption by a factor of 10."

nearly 11 to 1."

3. FDA releases first phase of online Purple Book database

The Food and Drug Administration today released the first phase of its searchable [Purple Book database](#), which includes all FDA-approved biosimilar and interchangeable products. Subsequent releases will expand the database to include all FDA-approved biological products, currently available only in a [table format](#).



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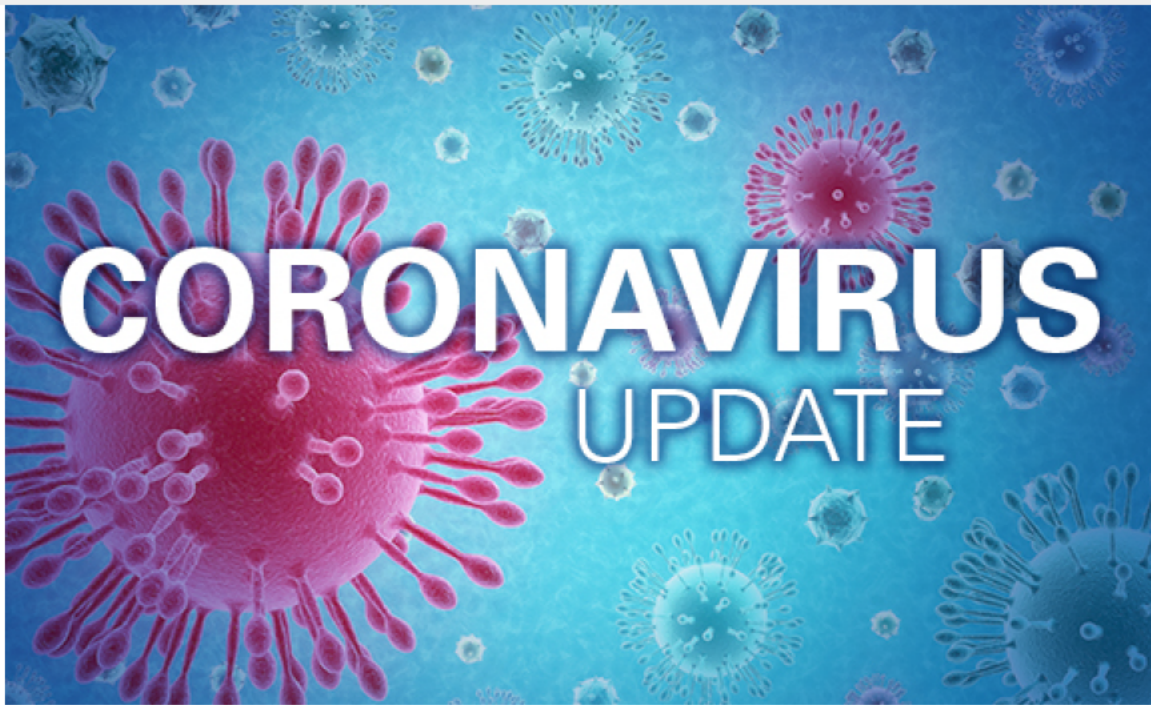
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February 12, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

State Labs Report Issues with Coronavirus Test Kit, CDC to Send New Reagents

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today said [new reagents](#) will be manufactured and sent to state laboratories that reported inconclusive results using the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) test kit sent by CDC. Labs discovered the issue while performing routine trial tests, not specimen testing on patients, and found that one of the three reagents needed replacing. CDC said that all COVID-19 tests will continue to go through its labs as a backstop even when the test kits are corrected.

CDC also said some partners are reporting higher than normal demand for N95 respirators, referring health care providers to their [recent guidance](#) on the supply of personal protective equipment, and reiterated that healthy members of the general public do not need to wear masks. A Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs [roundtable](#) today discussed drug and PPE shortages because of supply chain disruptions in China. Former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb M.D., said the U.S. stockpiled PPE for emergencies, but "we're going to see shortages of critical components" from China in PPE manufacturing.



[today-coronavirus-575x350-V2_981590.jpg](#)

The World Health Organization today again reported a slower increase in new global confirmed cases which total 45,171 with over 1,100 related deaths.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said yesterday a vaccine could be ready in 12 months, and Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan said today the candidate vaccine could enter trials in the next two to three months.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response yesterday also announced a [partnership](#) expansion with Janssen Research and Development to expedite a COVID-19 vaccine.

Responding to statements that warmer months could slow or stop the virus, Nancy Messonnier, M.D., director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said, "I'd caution over interpreting that hypothesis," adding that the disease is still too new to determine how it will react to temperatures.

All 195 individuals of the first group of U.S. citizens evacuated out of Wuhan, China, by the U.S. government left March Air Reserve Base in California yesterday after completing their 14-day quarantine period. CDC said all individuals tested negative to COVID-19 and pose no threat to their communities.

Although WHO and CDC retain their recommended 14-day quarantine period, a [paper](#) by Chinese scientists shows the incubation period could be up to 24 days. Messonnier said CDC continues to look at incoming data carefully to make recommendations.

For the latest information and resources, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [information on protecting workers](#) from COVID-19 exposure, visit [AHA's coronavirus webpage](#).

Today's Headlines

1. • AHA-supported bill to address surprise medical bills clears committee
2. • CMS seeks comments on maternal, infant health care in rural communities
3. • Rural hospitals invited to participate in free maternal health program

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Insights & Analysis



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Rural health system prioritizes workforce diversity to meet community needs

Northern Light Health, an integrated health system serving Maine, embraces the shifting demographics of its patients and increasing the diverse, foreign-born workforce, which allows the system to strengthen access to high-quality, equitable health care. [Read more.](#)



Idaho health system names president and CEO

Also in this roundup of hospital and health system leadership changes: Temple University Health System in Philadelphia names a new CEO; and Beebe Healthcare in Lewes, Del., names president and CEO. [Read more.](#)

[190x127ph.jpg](#)



[AHA](#)

Today's Headlines Continued

1. AHA-supported bill to address surprise medical bills clears committee

The House Ways and Means Committee today favorably reported out, as amended, the Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act ([H.R. 5826](#)), AHA-supported legislation to address surprise medical bills.

The bill prohibits providers from balance billing patients for emergency services or medical care the patient reasonably could have expected to be in-network, and from charging patients more than the in-network cost-sharing amount. Rather than rely on a benchmark payment rate to determine out-of-network reimbursement, the legislation provides a period for health plans and providers to negotiate out-of-network reimbursement, followed by a mediated dispute resolution process if necessary. The bill includes other consumer protection and transparency provisions.

"I think the legislation we have before us today is the right approach — it protects the patient, but also recognizes the private market dynamics between insurance plans and providers," said Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass.

Ranking Member Kevin Brady, R-Texas, said the legislation "is fair to all parties, favoring no one except the patient."

In [comments](#) submitted Monday, AHA called the legislation "the most effective approach to surprise medical billing introduced to date." It voiced strong support for the provisions to prohibit balance billing and limit patient cost-sharing responsibilities, and said that "once the patient is protected, hospitals and health systems should be permitted to work with health plans to determine appropriate reimbursement."

The Congressional Budget Office [estimates](#) the legislation would decrease the federal deficit by \$17.5 billion.

The committee also approved legislation that would establish hospice program survey and enforcement procedures under the Medicare program ([H.R. 5821](#)); and require private equity firms that own and control medical care providers to report certain information to the Internal Revenue Service ([H.R. 5821](#)).

2. CMS seeks comments on maternal, infant health care in rural communities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Office of Minority Health seeks [public input](#) through AHA's 12 on opportunities to improve health care access, quality and outcomes before, during and after pregnancy for women and infants in rural communities. This includes reducing health disparities and racial and ethnic disparities. CMS also seeks input on the readiness of rural providers to respond to obstetric emergencies. The agency will use the responses to inform its programs and policies to ensure rural families have access to high-quality health care that results in optimal health outcomes.

3. Rural hospitals invited to participate in free maternal health program

The AHA invites rural hospitals and health systems to participate in the Better Maternal Outcomes Research Improvement Network — a free, six-month program focused on maternal outcomes and respectful care. Sponsored by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, the network will assist participants in implementing promising practices and improve care delivery for all women and newborns. Participating organizations will learn how to spread best practices and protocols through a variety of shared learning formats. The next session begins in April; interested hospitals can learn more at ihi.org/maternalhealth. The AHA is partnering with IHI as part of the association's [Better Health for Mothers and Babies initiative](#). "The AHA is pursuing the goal of eliminating maternal mortality and reducing severe morbidities," said Robyn Begley, R.N., CEO of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership and senior vice president and chief nursing officer of the AHA.



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Message Flags:	Unread

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Novotny, Shannon C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a30e0c3305f24304bbaab674d0566424-Novotny, Sh (B6) @va.gov>;
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	MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>
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Subject:	Storyboard: CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK for Wednesday, 12 February 2020
Date:	2020/02/12 18:59:41
Priority:	Normal

Type: Note

Please see the attached Storyboard for the CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK for Wednesday, 12 February 2020.

Thank you.

VHA Watch Officer
VHA Office of Emergency Management
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC 20420

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov
(B6) [REDACTED]

Sender:	Watch Officer – VHA /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4DEE8E4EB2234AEAADA3A92B1739CA8D-WATCH OFFIC (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
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(B6)r@va.gov>;
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(B6)@va.gov>;
VHA OEM Staff /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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<(B6)@med.va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/12 18:59:37

Delivered Date: 2020/02/12 18:59:41

Message Flags: Unread



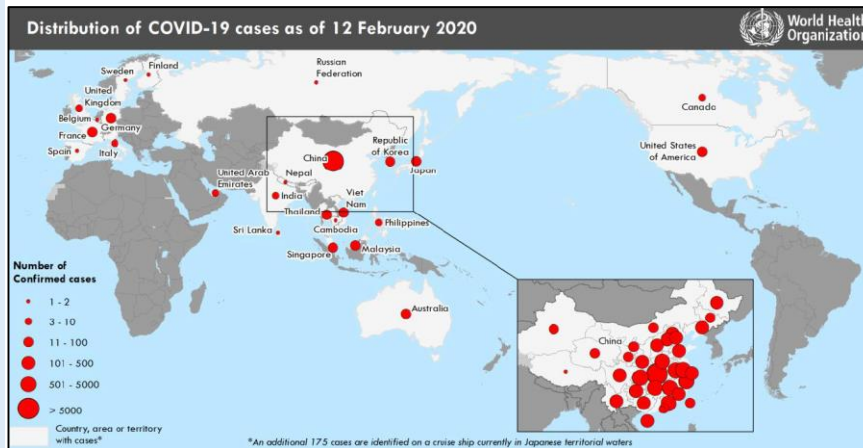
Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 12 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 45,171 (+2,068) with 1,114 (+97) confirmed deaths. The number of confirmed cases outside China is now 441 (+46) in 24 countries with two deaths reported. The number of new infections outside China fell for the eighth day in a row encouraging health experts. The CDC reported that approximately 30,000 travelers from China have been screened at the 11 designated international airports of entry since Jan. 17 with no confirmed cases of the coronavirus reported. The CDC reported that 400 testing kits for coronavirus intended for state and international testing sites to speed up the testing timeline are faulty and may not properly work. The CDC is coordinating with companies to manufacture and validate additional kits for domestic and international distribution. In the interim, the CDC will be required to test all potential coronavirus samples increasing the delay results are available.

Update: (WHO, Feb. 11, 2020) Increasing evidences demonstrate the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats, and more specifically those of the Rhinolophus bat sub-species. These sub-species are abundant and widely present in Southern China, and across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Recent studies indicate that more than 500 CoVs have been identified in bats in China. To be noted that serological studies conducted in rural population living close to bats natural habitat in caves revealed a 2.9% bat-CoV seroprevalence, demonstrating that humans exposure to bat-CoVs might be common. However, the route of transmission to humans at the start of this event remains unclear. Bats are rare in markets in China but hunted and sold directly to restaurants for food. The current most likely hypothesis is that an intermediary host animal has played a role in the transmission. Both Chinese and external expert groups are working in trying to identify the animal source of this new virus. Identifying the animal source of the 2019-nCoV would help to ensure that there will be no further future similar outbreaks with the same virus and will also help understanding the initial spread of the disease in the Wuhan area. The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.): As of Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 1800, 14 (+1) U.S. citizens have tested positive for the virus after a second person repatriated from China and quarantined at the Miramar MCAS tested positive. Per the CDC, a total of 420 citizens have been tested with 347 testing negative and 60 people with tests pending. A total of 614 (-195) American Citizens remain quarantined after being repatriated from Wuhan, China.

UNCLASS//FOUO

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Tuesday, Feb. 11 the website has been visited 18,397 times with 17,145 unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - 87 Total Questions submitted; 62 Answered; 25 Being reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SME).

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**. Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (2) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - Wednesday, Feb. 12: HHS requested second rotation of AEMs supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - DEMPS: HHS request to support repatriation efforts.
 - 11 Nursing Assistants (MA) deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - Wednesday, Feb. 12: Received HHS request for (6) Medical Technicians/Nursing Assistants to support second rotation of repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) deployed to support HHS Incident Management Team coordinating repatriation efforts at Travis AFB, CA.
 - Wednesday, Feb. 12: HHS requested continued deployment of MUV to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.



A man wearing a face mask rides his bicycle along an empty street in Beijing on Wednesday, Feb. 12. (Getty/Washington Post). Despite the government's encouragement for citizens to return to work as the economy suffers, citizens in Beijing are reluctant to go outside effectively shutting down the city.



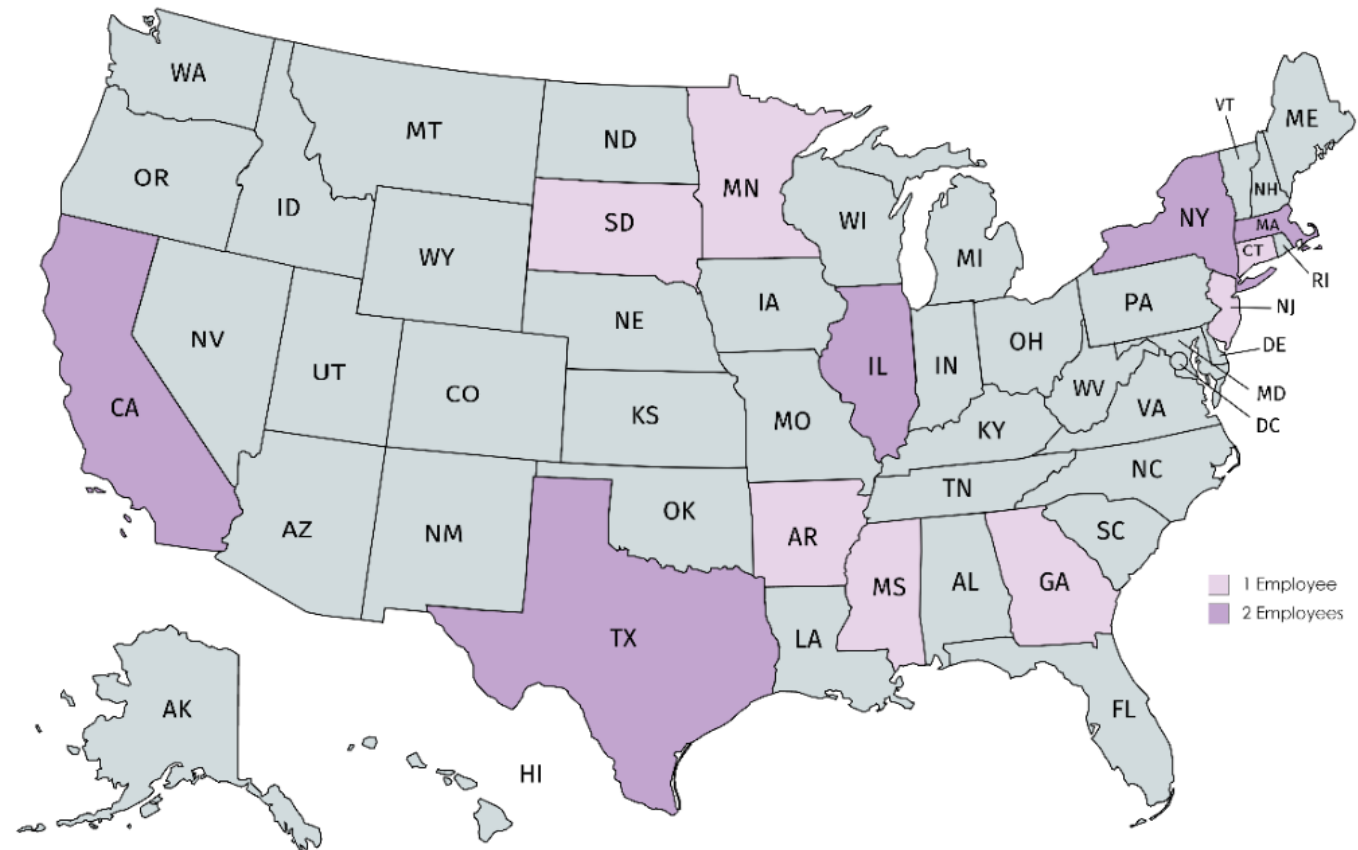
Passengers aboard the Diamond Princess quarantined in Yokohama, Japan. (New York Times) A Japanese medical worker assisting with the ship's quarantine tested positive for the coronavirus on Tuesday, Feb. 11. There are now 175 passengers, 33 Americans, with confirmed coronavirus cases, an increase of 39 from the previous day. The ship is expected to end its quarantine on Feb. 19.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000389

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to 2019 Novel Coronavirus as of 2/12/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 18)*:

- 10 in home quarantine
- 2 working under supervision/screening for symptoms
- 2 completed home quarantine



Created with mapchart.net ©

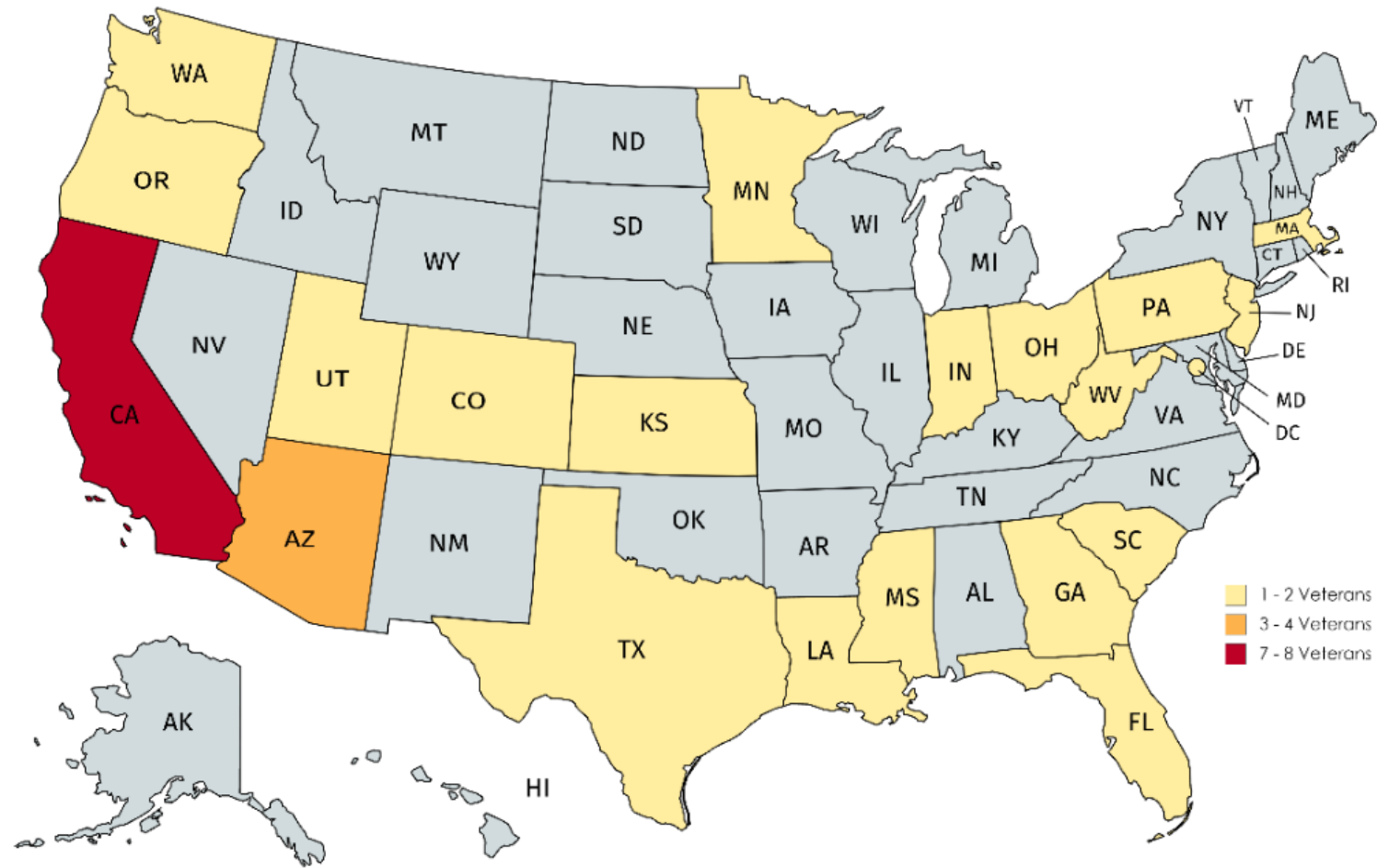
VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to 2019 Novel Coronavirus as of 2/12/2020

Status of Veterans screened (N =33)*:

- 2 Veterans tested for nCoV - NEGATIVE
- 31 ruled out for PUI**

*2 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for Novel Coronavirus <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



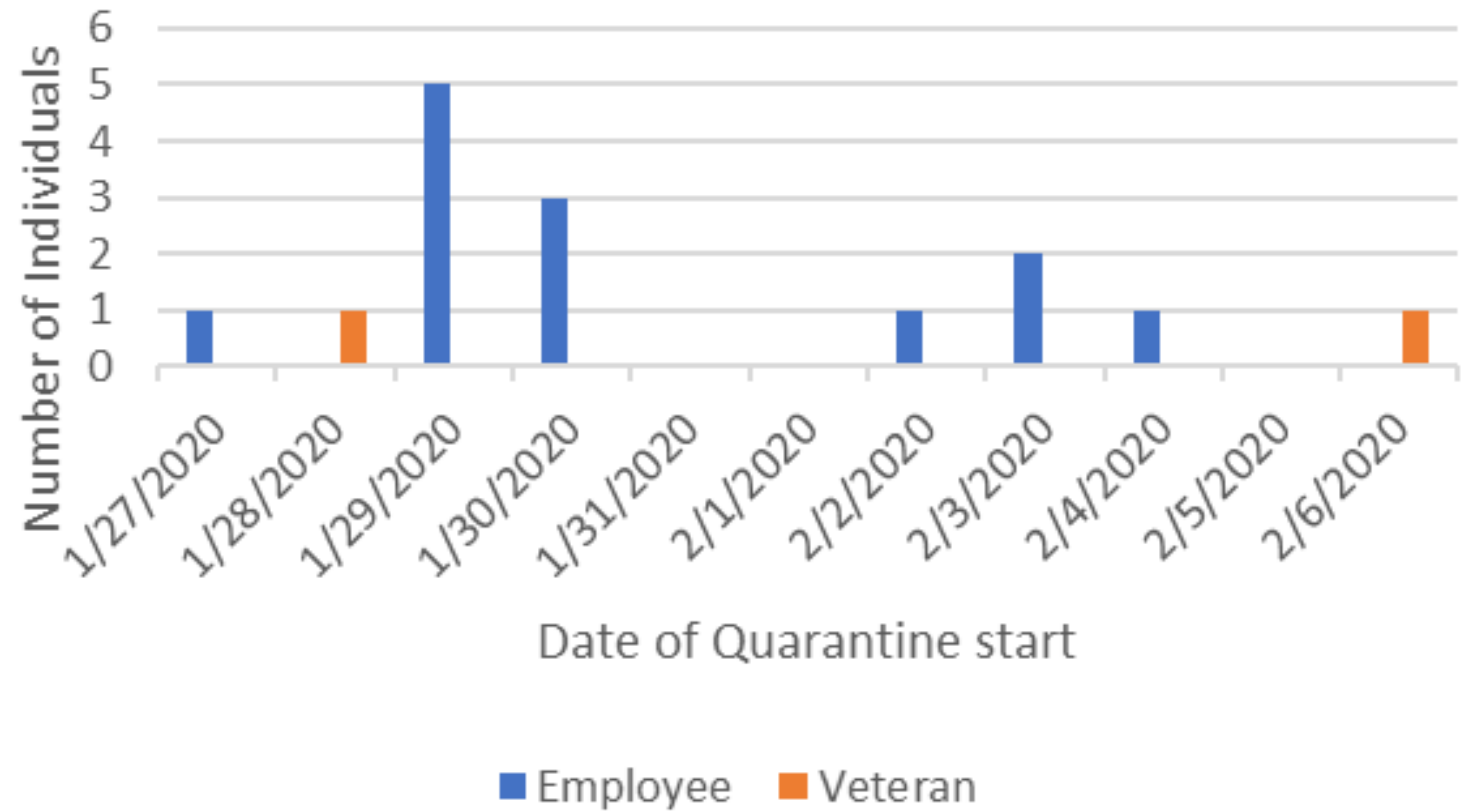
Created with mapchart.net ©

Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHA=290471&IB=00391> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 2/12/2020

N = 14*

(12 Employees,
2 Veteran patients)



*0 new; 1 employee completed 14 day quarantine
in last 24 hours)

From:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/20 20:20:56
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Will follow up in the morning

From: Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Thursday, Feb 20, 2020, 8:13 PM

To: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>, Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>, Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>, Carroll, William D. (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Thanks. glad no merit to Tampa allegation.

Do we have any more details about China's plans for "genetic testing" for Coronavirus confirmation?

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming "At the emergency room of the hospital, employees attending sick patients whom recently came from China with flu like symptoms are not being provided with respiratory protection, potentially exposing employees to the 2019 novel coronavirus." The facility in question was the Tampa VAMC. On follow-up this morning the unofficial reports are the claims are unfounded. A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.
- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.
- A draft document is under development concerning "stay home" messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.

- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA's ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.
- I advise Palo Alto of VHA's current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is "not enforceable".
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)

- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs

- • Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- • Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
- • DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- • HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- • Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- • **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- • One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- • DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- • Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- • 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- • EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- • It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- • The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- • The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- • The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- • San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet Marc Fisher with HHS Public Health Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.
- • VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans

that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.

- (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.
- (B5) (my opinion).
- Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries outside of mainland China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several

countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained.
[02/18/20]

- • HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- • HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- • HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- • HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.
- • I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- • Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- • NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- • HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- • Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- • The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- • On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his February 6th appointment at the Fremont, CA CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- • As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.
- • The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- • Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET

- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - Two (2) are PUIs
- One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov> Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov> Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov> Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.

- This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) i@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.

- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is (B6) and the other is (B6) Both are (B6) Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.

- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
 - Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
 - The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
 - Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
 - Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.
- Note:** A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
 - COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.

- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • US confirmed cases 15
- • AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- • HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- • HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- • HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- • HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- • HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- • HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- • The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) [REDACTED] to gather more details.
- • Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- • Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- • OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- • OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,

- Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- • HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- • Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- • CDC launched an effort called “Health Pulse” and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- • Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- • Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- • OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- • The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- • The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- • It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- • The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- • 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- • CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- • Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- • US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- • CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- • Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- • Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- • Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- • Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- • Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- • All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- • Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- • Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.

- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) 2@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov;

Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell,

Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.

- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of “Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don’t believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions.”

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- • 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- • I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- • At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- • At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- • At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.

- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, “we are in this together”
- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) and (B6) they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
 Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
 Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
 Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
 128 minors over 2
 20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- • We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- • OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- • Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- • HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- • The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- • The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- • CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- • The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- • While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- • CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission

- • Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- • We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6)e@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)2@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6)@va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>;
Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford,
(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>;
Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>;
Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

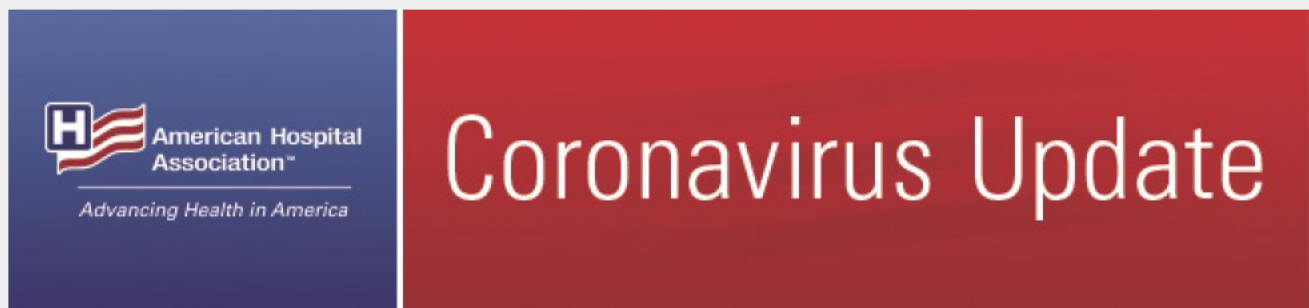
Sent Date: 2020/02/20 20:20:55

Delivered Date: 2020/02/20 20:20:56

Message Flags: Unread

From:	American Hospital Association <circulation@aha.org>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] Hospital Funding Included in COVID-19 Spending Package
Date:	2020/03/05 16:00:12
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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AHA Special Bulletin

March 5, 2020

Hospital Funding Included in Congressional Spending Package to Combat Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

CDC Updates Interim Guidance for Risk Assessment, Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to COVID-19 Patients

COVID-19 SPENDING PACKAGE INCLUDES FUNDING FOR HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

The Senate today passed [\\$8.3 billion spending package](#), to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The House overwhelmingly passed the package yesterday.

Among [other items](#), the package includes \$300 million for hospital and health systems' efforts to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. The funding will be allocated through the Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. According to a House committee summary of the bill, the spending package continues support for health care preparedness, including the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC), regional, state and local special pathogens treatment centers, and hospital preparedness cooperative agreements. More details about the funding will be shared soon.

CDC ISSUES UPDATED GUIDANCE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) yesterday updated its [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

Community transmission of COVID-19 in the U.S. has been reported in multiple areas. CDC says this development means previously recommended actions like contact tracing and risk assessment of all potentially exposed health care personnel are impractical for implementation by health care facilities. In the setting of community transmission, CDC says facilities should shift emphasis to more routine practices, which include asking health care personnel to "report recognized exposures, regularly monitor themselves for fever and symptoms of respiratory infection and not report to work when ill." In addition, facilities should develop plans for how they will screen for symptoms and evaluate ill health care personnel. CDC says this could include having health care personnel report absence of fever and symptoms prior to starting work each day.

In addition, CDC says facilities could consider allowing asymptomatic health care personnel who have had exposure to a COVID-19 patient to continue to work after consultation with their occupational health program. CDC says facilities could have exposed health care personnel wear facemasks while at work for 14 days after the exposure event, if there is a sufficient supply of facemasks. If the health care worker develops even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19, CDC says the person must "cease patient care activities, don a facemask (if not already wearing), and notify their supervisor or occupational health services prior to leaving work."

In the updated guidance, CDC also simplifies risk exposure categories based on the most common scenarios with focus on presence/absence of source control measures, use of personal protective equipment by health care personnel and degree of contact with the patient.

While this guidance applies to health care personnel with potential exposure to patients with confirmed COVID-19, health care personnel exposures also could involve a person under investigation (PUI). CDC says implementation of monitoring and work restrictions described in this guidance could be applied to health care personnel exposed to a PUI if test results for the PUI are not expected to return within 48 to 72 hours. CDC says a record of health care personnel exposed to a PUI should be maintained and health care personnel should be encouraged to perform self-monitoring while awaiting test results. If the results will be delayed more than 72 hours or the patient is positive for COVID-19, CDC says the monitoring and work restrictions described in this guidance should be followed.

For the latest COVID-19 information and resources, visit [AHA's coronavirus webpage](#) and [CDC's webpage](#).

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800 10th Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20001

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Delivered Date:	2020/03/05 16:00:12
Message Flags:	Unread

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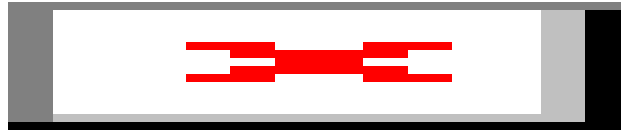
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Subject: SITREP (Update 35): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/02/29 10:11:11

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 29 Feb 20 / 1010 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 35:

- 29 Feb, 0600 ET, the WHO is reporting 85,402 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,924 deaths, throughout 54 countries.
- The U.S. has 62 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including: 15 presenting in U.S., three among evacuees from Hubei Province, and 44 among evacuees from the Cruise Ship Diamond Princess.
- The WHO has increased the assessment of the risk of spread and risk of impact of COVID-19 to very high at the global level.
- The U.S. State Department and CDC has updated travel advisories for Italy due to COVID-19
 - CDC – Italy – Level III, Avoid Nonessential Travel, due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19.

- DOS – Italy – Level III, Reconsider Travel, due to recent outbreak of COVID-19.
- The CDC is advising that the novel Coronavirus has met two of the three qualifying factors of a pandemic, including causing illness and death, as well as sustained person-to-person transmission.
- On Friday, 28 Feb, the U.S. Navy ordered all ships that have made stops in the Pacific (30 to 40 vessels) to self-quarantine at sea for 14 days and closely monitor all sailors that have traveled to high-risk areas.

Update 34:

- 28 Feb, 0600 ET, the WHO is reporting 83,647 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,858 deaths, throughout 53 countries.
- The CDC reports the total confirmed cases in the U.S. is 61: 15 presenting in U.S.; three among evacuees from Hubei Province; 43 among evacuees from Diamond Princess.
- HHS issued an activation order for the following Emergency Support Functions (ESF): ESF - 1 Transportation, ESF - 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services, ESF - 13 Public Safety, ESF - 14 Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure, ESF - 15 External Affairs.
- CDC and FDA developed protocol, to maximize the number of available testing kits, which details using two of the three components of original CDC test kit to detect the virus that causes COVID-19. Anticipated at least 40 public health laboratories able to begin testing using existing kits in their laboratories by 1 Mar 20.
- FDA monitoring PPE supply reports from manufacturers; no PPE shortages currently identified despite media reports.
- CDC submitted updated guidance on optimizing the use of N95 respirators in healthcare settings to include use of stockpiled N95 respirators beyond the manufacturer-intended shelf life and a check sheet to help healthcare facilities prioritize the order of implementation.
- POTUS announced VPOTUS will oversee National Level COVID-19 Task Force. Ambassador Debbie Brix, a physician, will serve as the White House novel coronavirus response coordinator.
- 70 container ships at ports in China have stood idle over the last month, adding to concerns of a global supply chain disruption based on a reliance on Chinese products.
- The Hawaii State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has activated to “Partial”, and New York City activated its EOC.

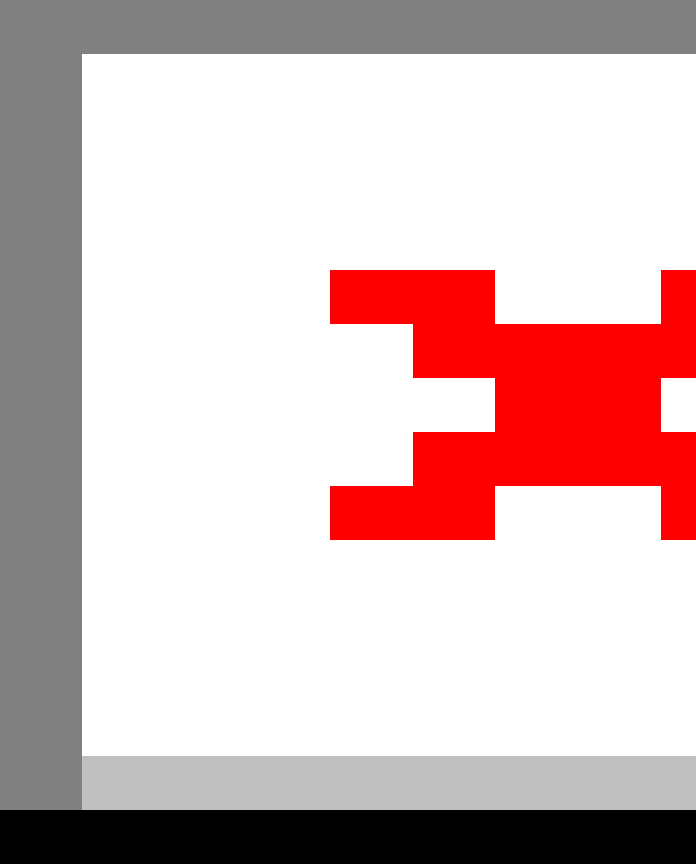
VA:

- VA provided guidance for all VA TAP Field Staff: Effective 26 Feb, and for a period of 30 days, travel is suspended for in-person support to VA TAP events at itinerant sites in the following countries; South Korea, Japan, and Italy.
- VBA Office of Field Operations, Outreach and Engagement (O&E) is exploring alternative methods of information and service delivery If necessary for the eight

(8) employees located in the United Kingdom (1), Germany (3), Italy (1), and Japan (3), including Okinawa Island.

- VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) will stand-up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the future planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- VHA screened 47 Veterans, 44 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 3 tested negative for COVID-19.
- VHA screened 25 Employees, 14 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 5 under home quarantine.
 - Palo Alto VAMC created a ward in order to provide patient care for any repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB, CA.
 - The five Nursing Assistants supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA. were demobilized on 27 Feb and have returned to their home stations.
 - VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
 - VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6), Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) Watch Officer

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Sent Date: 2020/02/29 10:10:43

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Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 14 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

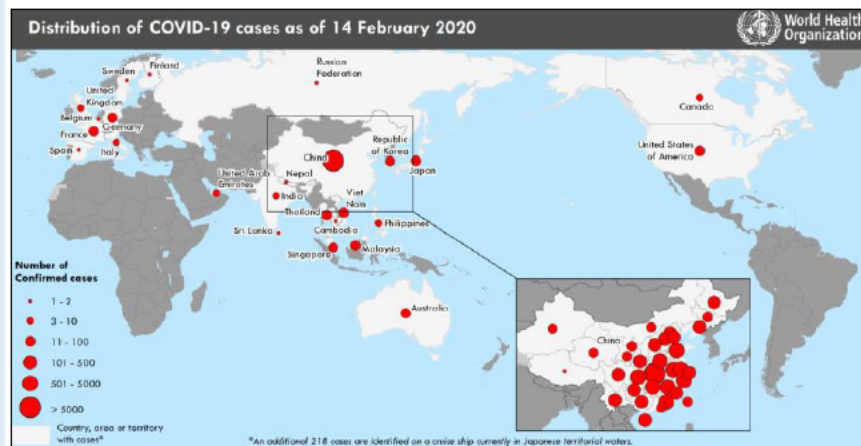
• Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Thursday, Feb. 13: Website has been visited 19,490 (+572) times with 18,141 (+523) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Friday, Feb. 14: 93 Questions submitted; 62 Answered; 31 Being reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SME).

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per open source reporting, the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 64,461 (+4,075). The total number of confirmed death is now 1,384 (+14). Chinese authorities confirmed that over 1,700 (1,100+ in Wuhan) medical workers are now infected with the virus and (6) have died. Fear of continued spread in China compelled authorities in Beijing to require anyone who enters the city's territory to isolate themselves for 14 days or be held "accountable according to law." Per the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 505 (+58) laboratory confirmed cases outside China with 3 deaths reported. The first coronavirus case on the African continent was reported in Egypt by the Egyptian health ministry. Several African countries have stepped up screening at airports and other ports of entry over fears that nations with weak health care systems, especially those already battling diseases like malaria and ebola, are vulnerable. The U.S. announced they would provide aid to North Korea to help fight the coronavirus despite the country reporting no confirmed cases.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 (WHO).



VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**; Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (2) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (8) of 11 deployed Nursing Assistants (NA) demobilizing Saturday, Feb. 15.
 - (3) Deployed Nursing Assistants extending.
 - (3) Nursing Assistants enroute to Travis AFB.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) will continue to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.



A checkpoint outside an office building in Beijing. Even before the capital issued its new rules, local committees had been playing an increasingly assertive role across China. (New York Times)

Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Friday, Feb. 14 at 1800, 15 (NC) U.S. citizens have tested positive for the coronavirus.
- As of Friday, Feb. 14, a total of 443 citizens have been tested with 347 testing negative and 81 people with tests pending (CDC).
- A total of 617 American Citizens remain quarantined at (5) locations in the United States after being repatriated from Wuhan, China.
- HHS planning for possible repatriation of 378 people to Travis AFB, CA and Lackland AFB, TX repatriation sites.



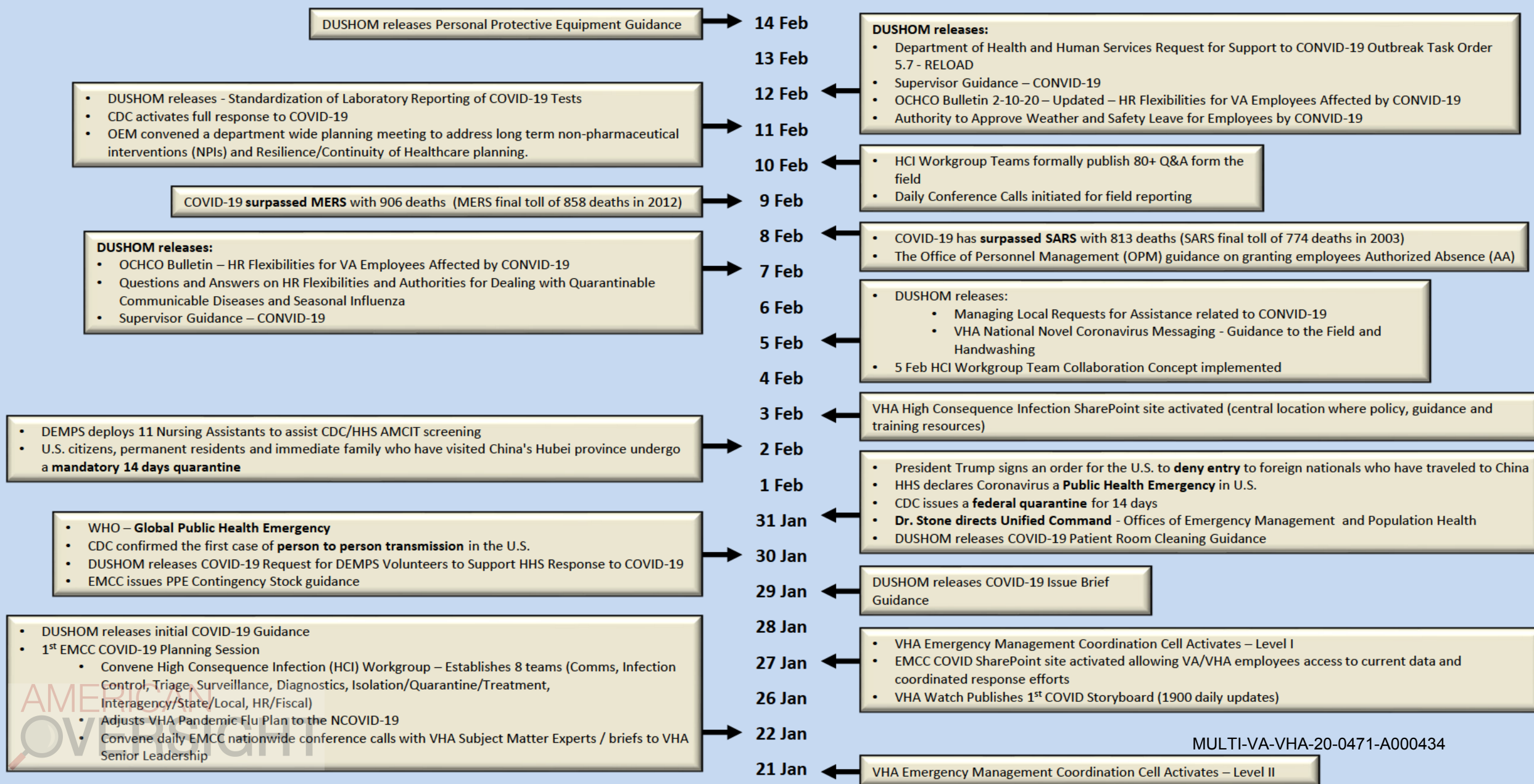
People wearing protective suits walk from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, with around 3,700 people quarantined onboard in Yokohama port on Feb. 10, 2020.

On Friday, Feb. 14, 11 virus free passengers were allowed to leave the ship. (NBC). A total of 771 of an estimated 3,700 passengers and crew have been tested to date with 216 passengers and crew members testing positive. A reported 41 Americans that tested positive transferred to local hospitals. (HHS)

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000433

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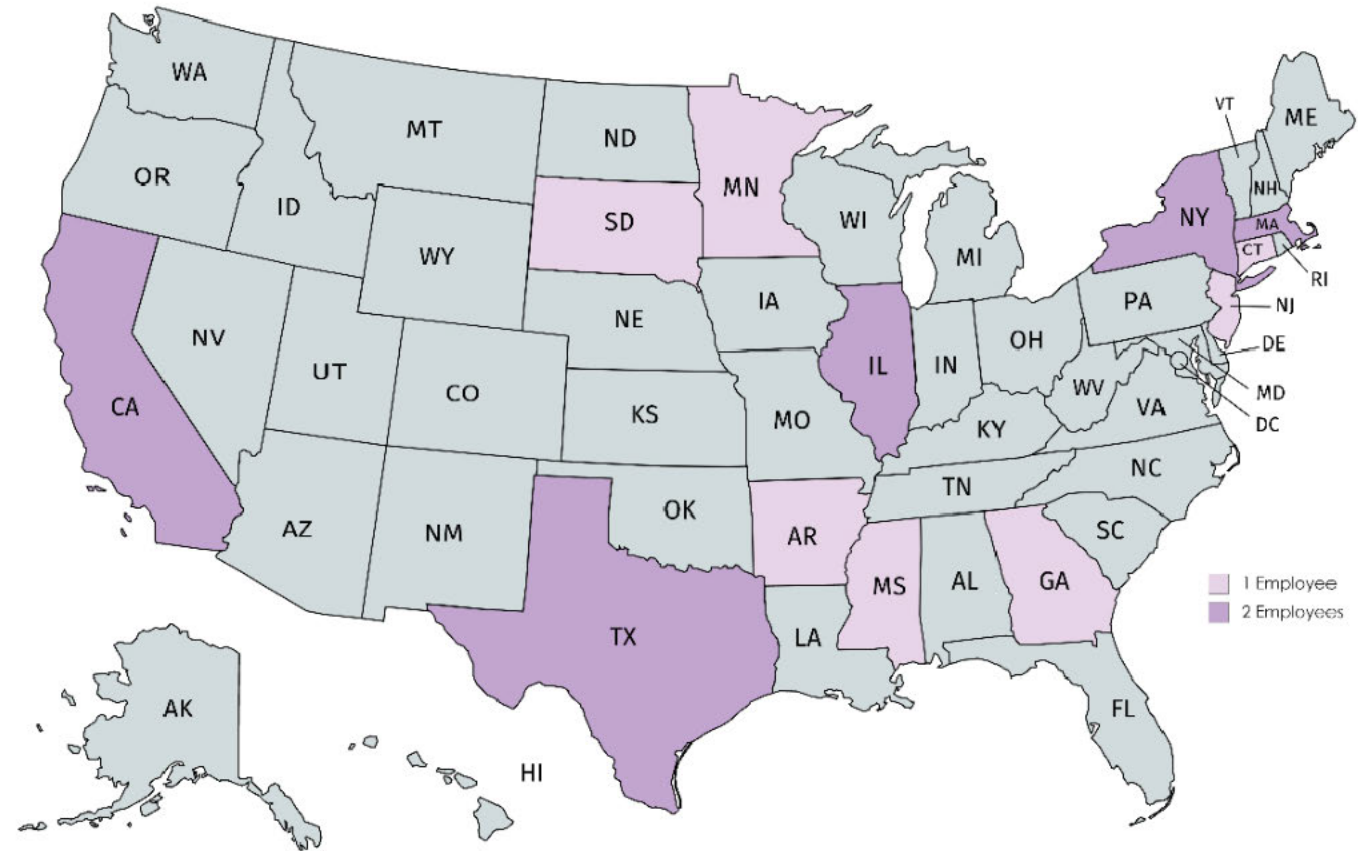
Timeline— A Rapidly Evolving Situation



VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID- 2019 as of 2/14/2020

Status of employees screened
(N = 19)*:

- 11 in home quarantine
- 2 working under supervision/screening for symptoms
- 10 completed home quarantine



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net

VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-2019 as of 2/14/2020

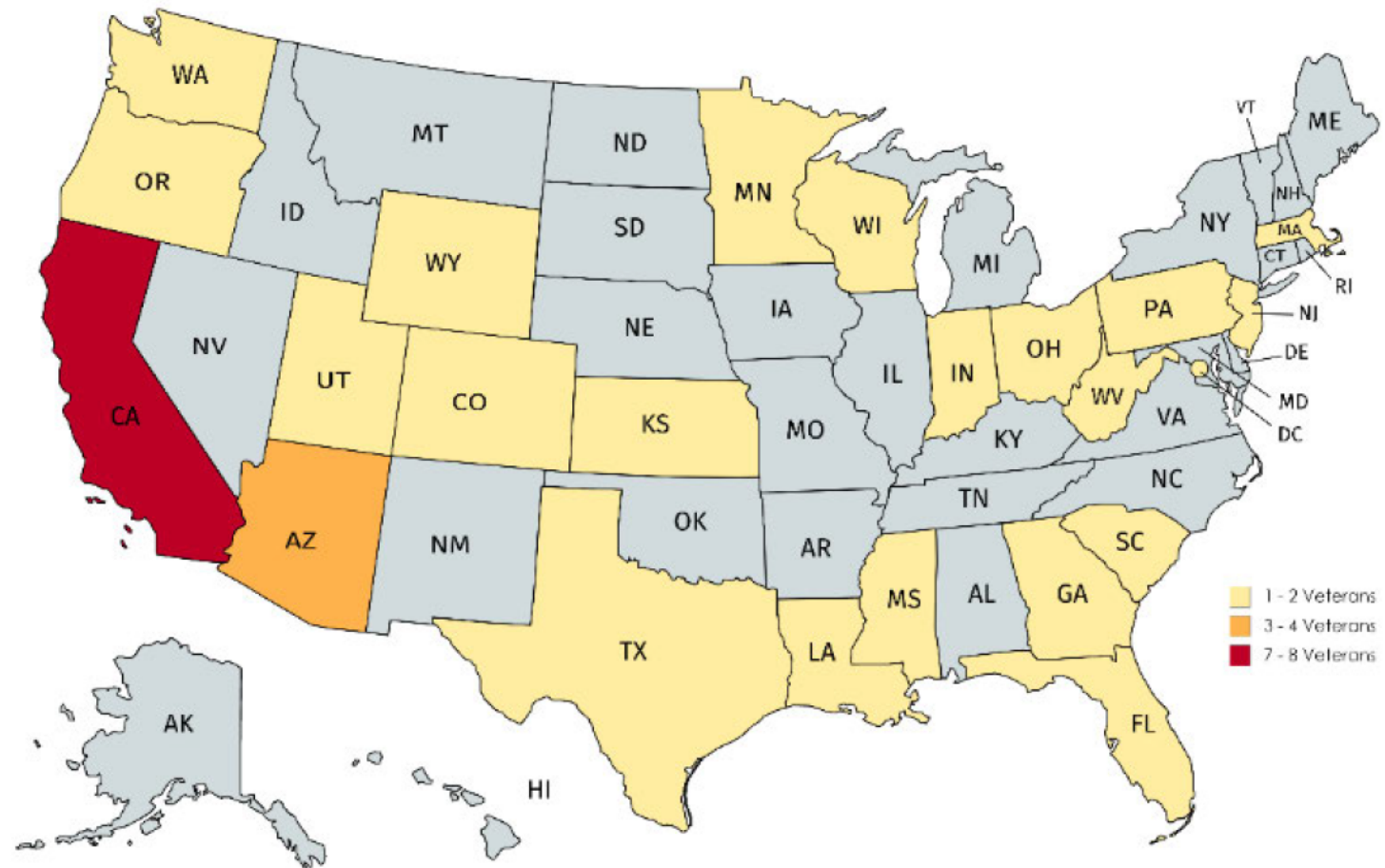
Status of Veterans screened (N =35)*:

- 2 Veterans tested for COVID-2019 – NEGATIVE (one of whom was in home isolation and is now removed)
- 33 ruled out for PUI**

*1 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for Novel

Coronavirus <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



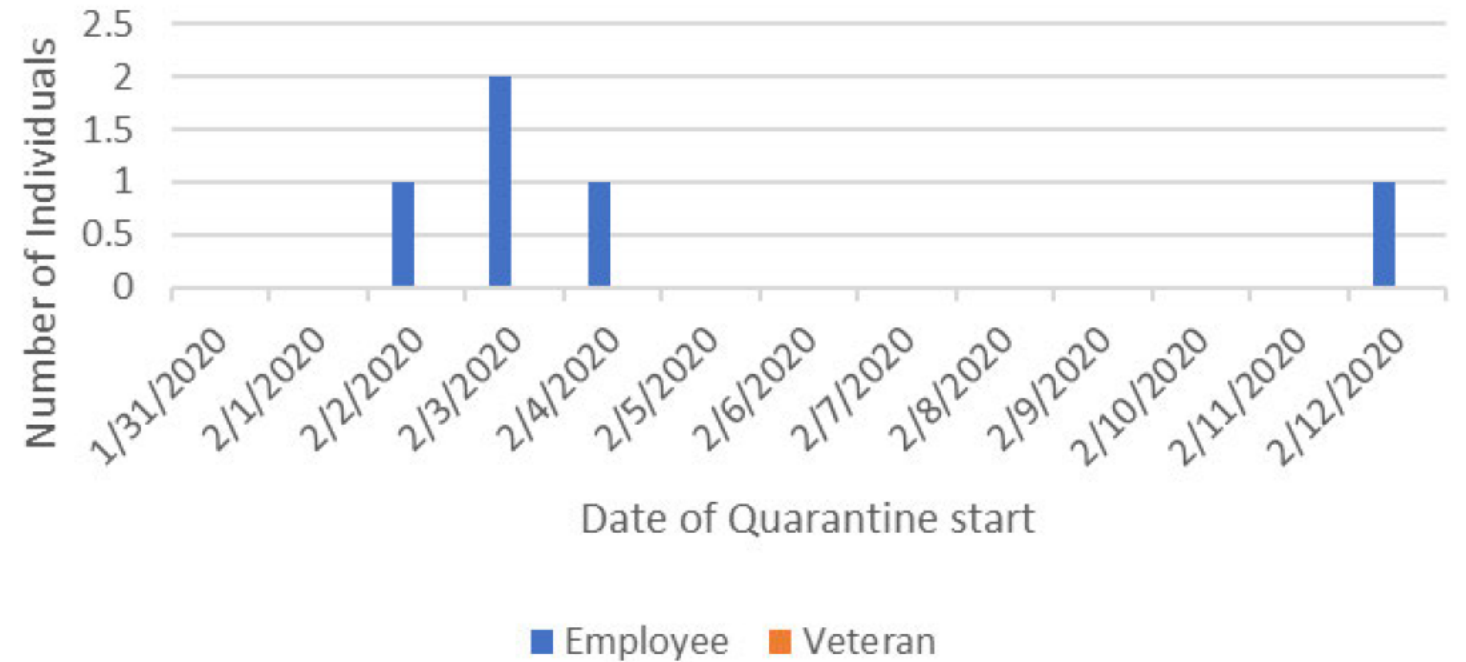
Created with mapchart.net ©

Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHAID=0471A000486> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 2/14/2020

N = 5*

(5 Employees,
0 Veteran patients)

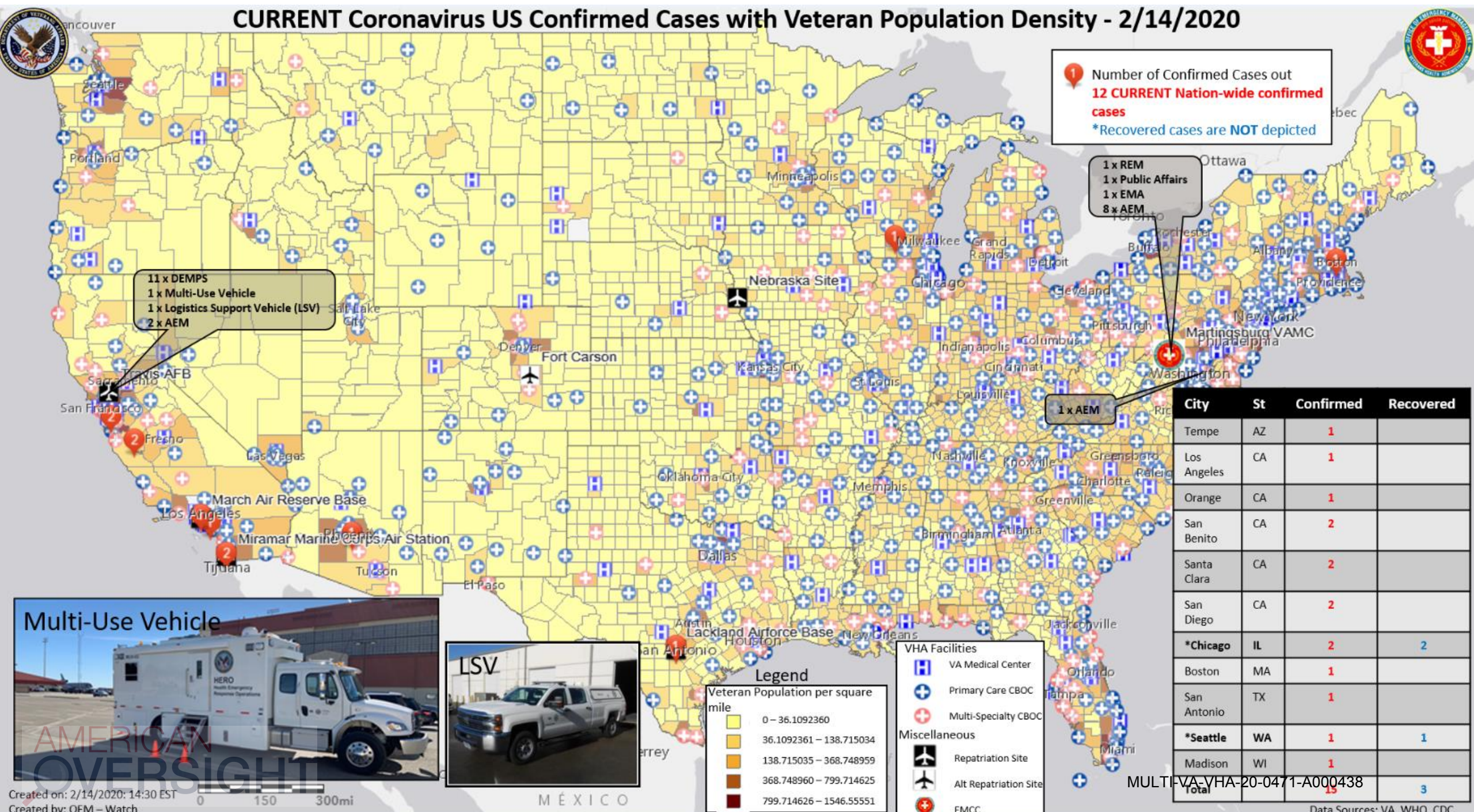


*0 new employees;

1 Veteran patient and 8 employees completed 14 day quarantine in last 24 hours. 1 Veteran patient tested negative and was removed from home isolation.)

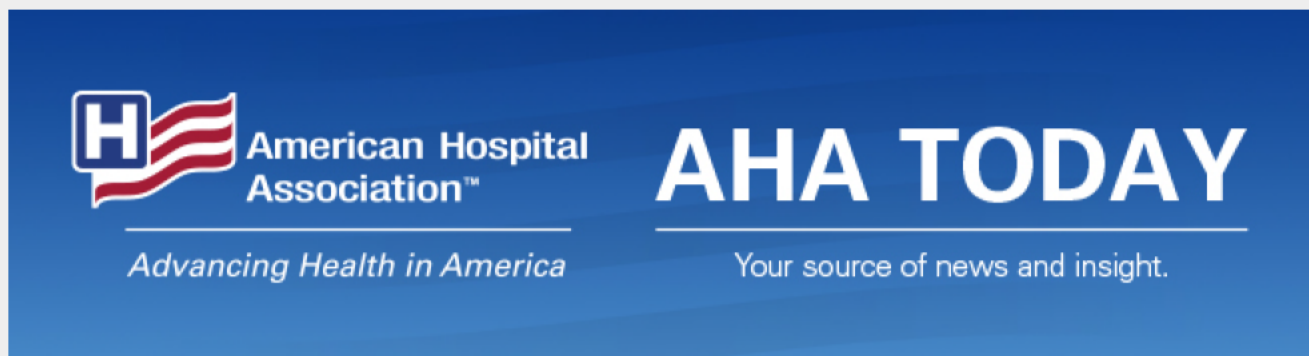


CURRENT Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases with Veteran Population Density - 2/14/2020



From:	AHA Today <circulation@aha.org>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] Latest on Coronavirus and CDC Guidance
Date:	2020/03/10 18:30:53
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

[Click here to access a web or mobile friendly version of the newsletter.](#)



[AHA Today](#)

March 10, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Breaking: CDC Issues New COVID-19 PPE Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today updated its infection prevention and control recommendations for [patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in health care settings](#), saying that facemasks are an acceptable alternative when the supply chain of respirators cannot meet the demand. When the supply chain is restored, CDC advises facilities to return to use of respirators for known or suspected COVID-19 patients. The agency further recommends that patients with known or suspected COVID-19 be cared for in a single-person room with the door closed, noting that airborne infection isolation rooms should be reserved for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures. See more news on COVID-19 below.

Today's Headlines

1. • CDC head says COVID-19 public test-tracking system imminent
2. • AHA, AONL voice support for Momnibus Act
3. • Congress urged to improve FTC antitrust enforcement in hospital sector
4. • CMS announces key dates for Direct Contracting Model
5. • ASHE announces cancellation of 2020 PDC Summit
6. • HCA Healthcare donates to assist those affected by Tenn. tornadoes

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Insights & Analysis



[190x127ph.jpg](#)

AHA Market Scan: Survey examines digital health experience for consumers

The latest edition of Market Scan — a newsletter from AHA's Center for Health Innovation — looks at a survey showing health care disruptors outperforming health systems when it comes to integrated digital experience for consumers; Amazon continues grow partnerships with health care technology companies; and new report on disruption in health care. [Read more.](#)

Health system advances value via national policies and social change

Trinity Health's Transforming Communities Initiative collaborate with local stakeholders to drive health improvements and policy changes at local and statewide levels. The Livonia, Mich.-based health system has influenced public policy in eight states related to physical activity and healthy food options in schools, breastfeeding



CASE STUDY

[190x127ph.jpg](#)

and age limits for purchasing tobacco and vaping. [Read more in this case study](#) from AHA's [The Value Initiative](#).

Today's Headlines Continued

1. CDC head says COVID-19 public test-tracking system imminent

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield today said the agency is in the process of setting up a public tracker for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) tests, and it could be available this week.

Redfield told the House Committee on Appropriations that he hopes the system will be "comprehensive with the capacity to track 'how much testing is being done and what percentage of those [tests] are positive, when and where.'"

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Monday issued a [memo](#) to State Survey Agency directors with information in response to inquiries from hospitals and critical access hospitals concerning implications of COVID-19 for their compliance with Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act requirements. The document reinforces hospitals' existing obligation for screening, stabilization and transfer, as well as their available latitude for setting up screening sites away from the emergency department. It also provides a question and answer document specific to EMTALA obligations and COVID-19, which emphasizes the importance of reliance on CDC guidance regarding isolation and infection control measures. The document also includes a fact sheet for addressing increased surges in the numbers of patients presenting to the ED.

In other news, the Department of Health and Human Services yesterday [announced funding](#) to develop a COVID-19 diagnostic test that could deliver results to clinicians in less than three hours.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and growing shortages of N95 respirators, the Food and Drug Administration has issued an [emergency use authorization](#) permitting health care facilities to use disposable filtering facepiece respirators approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, including [respirators](#) that have passed the manufacturers' recommended shelf-life.

AABB is [urging](#) hospital leaders at its accredited facilities to take the following, proactive steps to manage their blood inventory:

- • Use your communication channels to highlight the importance of continued blood donation and ask your blood supplier how you can support their ongoing education and outreach efforts.
- • Prioritize working with your blood bank and transfusion service to continuously assess your blood inventory in light of your hospital's utilization needs.
- • Develop a hospital plan with strategies that address potential blood shortages.
- • Engage in transparent communications with your blood supplier by sharing changes in your blood supply needs.

The CDC will host a [conference call Thursday, March 12](#) on caring for children and pregnant women during the outbreak, including infection prevention in inpatient obstetric settings. The presentation will be available on-demand a few hours after the live event.

2. AHA, AONL voice support for Momnibus Act

Members of the Black Maternal Health Caucus this week introduced a package of bills supported by AHA and its American Organization for Nursing Leadership to prevent maternal mortality and racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes.

"America's hospitals and health systems applaud Representative Lauren Underwood for her thought leadership on improving maternal health through these important bills, collectively known as the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act," said AHA Executive Vice President Tom Nickels. "These innovative proposals to address workforce challenges, the social determinants of health, behavioral health, cultural competency, and the unique needs of underserved communities, would promote optimal maternal health for all women. The proposals would be particularly beneficial to women of color, who experience disproportionate rates of mortality and morbidity. The American Hospital Association stands ready to work with Representative Underwood and her colleagues to advance these important and timely measures."

In a [letter of support](#), AONL CEO Robyn Begley said, "The Momnibus Act invests in community-based organizations, supports care coordination, and collects data on maternal mortality and morbidity in minority and underserved populations. It also provides funding to diversify the maternal and perinatal nursing workforce to reflect the patient population served, creates a perinatal care alternative payment model demonstration project and ends the shackling of pregnant incarcerated individuals."

3. Congress urged to improve FTC antitrust enforcement in hospital sector

The Federal Trade Commission's decision to challenge, with the attorney general of Pennsylvania, the proposed union of Thomas Jefferson University hospital network and Albert Einstein Healthcare Network frustrates the ability of these two non-profit hospital systems to "bring about higher quality, greater access and more stability of health care services to some of the most vulnerable patient populations in the Philadelphia region," AHA told congressional leaders yesterday. "Now the FTC is trying to stop efforts to ensure the sustainability of providing essential health care services to the most vulnerable communities," AHA [wrote](#) leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary subcommittees of jurisdiction. "It is time for members of Congress and other policymakers to make clear that antitrust enforcement in the

hospital sector needs to account for all relevant factors," in particular "the long-term viability of health care facilities and their ability to provide quality and reliable healthcare and access to all members of communities."

4. CMS announces key dates for Direct Contracting Model

In response to questions from stakeholders, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services yesterday released a calendar of [key dates](#) for the Medicare Direct Contracting Model, which offers two performance-based primary care [payment options](#) for hospitals that employ clinicians, critical access hospitals and rural health clinics. The calendar, which is subject to change, also includes important dates for the Medicare Shared Savings Program to help inform participation decisions for applicants interested in both initiatives.

5. ASHE announces cancellation of 2020 PDC Summit

In light of the latest novel coronavirus (COVID-19) developments and the unprecedented and still growing demand for health care, construction and architecture organizations at this time, the American Society for Health Care Engineering [said](#) it has made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel its 2020 PDC Summit, which was scheduled to take place this month.

"We made the decision to cancel the 2020 PDC Summit after much discussion and deliberation," said ASHE Interim Executive Director Dale Woodin. "Many health care, construction, and architecture organizations have implemented travel restrictions for employees, and a large number of PDC Summit registrants must remain on site as they work to ensure health care facilities continue to operate safely during this uncertain time."

ASHE is an AHA professional membership group.

6. HCA Healthcare donates to assist those affected by Tenn. tornadoes

Nashville-based HCA Healthcare will donate \$1 million to assist those affected by the March 3 tornadoes in middle Tennessee, which damaged about 2,000 homes and buildings. HCA Healthcare colleagues across the state are participating in the relief efforts by volunteering time and resources to help those affected, the company [said](#). The employee-run [HCA Healthcare Hope Fund](#), which provides financial aid and resources to employees after disasters and other special situations, also is providing grants to colleagues impacted by the tornadoes.



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Message Flags:	Unread

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Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/22 09:41:45
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Keep me up to date.
This is a veteran correct?

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 22, 2020, 9:34 AM
To: Powers, Pamela (B6)@va.gov>, RLW (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: VHA Mission

Please see below. If we accept a Veteran patient over the weekend I will inform you. Negative (isolation) airflow has been confirmed by engineering to ensure the unit is isolated. The emergency management team has now been at this for one month. They are tired but moral is very high. Well led by Paul Kim.
Rich

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 22, 2020, 9:12 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>, Carroll, William D. <(B6)@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>, MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6)@va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: I usually send an update in the evening however lots of moving parts overnight and this morning.

- • Palo Alto did create a ward (7H +room numbers) and “activated it” in CPRS in order to provide patient care and EHR use.
- • I did communicate with the VISN last night to refrain from the use of SCI as a description.
- • Today five rooms at a minimum will be equipped with beds and all accompanying equipment, supplies and PPE will be moved in.
- • The plan is to equip 13 rooms in total
- • Nursing education and infection control will be providing just in time PPE/PAPR/donning/doffing training on Sunday for nursing, physician and other staff (EMS, police, etc.) as necessary.
- • Actual staffing scenarios are still being worked out, and they will severely limit who goes in or out.
- • The goal is to be ready by Monday to accept a patient(s), should that be a need – At this time there is NO indication that will happen with the current population at Travis, however as this entire event has progressed – this could change drastically.
- • The next round of test results will be available sometime Sunday.
- • The VISN CMO will be contacted first by Travis to “accept” the patient for VHA and the CMO will call the inpatient MD supervisor at Palo Alto to give report and accept the transfer.
- • A special contracted/trained ambulance company would transport the patient to the facility.

EMCC actions this morning:

- • We will be scheduling a call later today with the VISN and MC planners to ensure all are on the same sheet of paper – the EMCC needs clarity on the transfer and the use of US Marshalls as escorts.
- • We will be providing a checklist to assist the facilities in their planning
- • We will be providing a spreadsheet and instructions on tracking ALL costs associated with the preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- • EMCC has communicated the importance of tracking PPE usage and communicating daily with the EMCC on usage/burn rate, stocks and potential shortfalls/gaps

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:33 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad,

Derrick (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Today is 1 full month of EMCC operations – spirits are high and team is committed. The EMCC will be staggering coverage to include some virtual support to allow time to recharge.

- As a result of a sub quality at the Quality Inn and Suites, DEMPS and DMORT staff have been moved to new lodging. Our DEMPS are at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord CA: 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord, CA 94520
- Area Emergency Manager has arrived as part of the IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio TX
- 1000 – 2oz bottles of hand sanitizer will arrive Thursday for 810, 811, M Street and other VACO buildings, Logs has set aside enough for Senior Leadership
- 21895 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran and spouse transferred from Travis to Kaiser Vallejo have been allowed by CA Health Department to return home and home isolate.
- (B6) briefed the Network Directors on the COVID-19 TTX
- Network Directors were provided with guidance on Telework, Non-GFE and GFE connectivity and how to access OIT equipment in an emergency
- Occ Health briefed the 2:00pm call (110 participants) on employee protection
- I briefed and reminded all participants on the 2:00pm and 3:00pm calls of the SecVA's position to continue focusing on current contingency plans and preparations for a surge of sick Veterans.
- EMCC Logistics coordinated with PL&O and Contracting for the order of 50,000 – N95 masks and 50,000 isolation gowns
- EMCC Logistics, PL&O and Contracting have worked out a plan to spread future orders out in a way not to impact the supply chain. The plan will allow VHA to treat 4500 patients with the appropriate PPE.
- The 50,000 masks and 50,000 gowns will be shipped and stored at the NAC, should a facility need these supplies they will contact the EMCC and the EMCC will coordinate with the NAC for shipment. Only a select few individuals within the EMCC will have the authority to release these emergency supplies.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) i@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming “At the emergency room of the hospital, employees attending sick patients whom recently came from China with flu like symptoms are not being provided with respiratory protection, potentially exposing employees to the 2019 novel coronavirus.” The facility in question was the Tampa VAMC. On follow-up this morning the unofficial reports are the claims are unfounded. A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.
- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.
- A draft document is under development concerning “stay home” messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.
- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA’s ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the

lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.

- I advise Palo Alto of VHA's current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is "not enforceable".
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)

- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
- Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
- DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus

- Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet (B6) with HHS Public Health Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.
- VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.
- (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.
- (B5) [REDACTED] (my opinion).
- Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants

- The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D.

<(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries outside of mainland China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained. [02/18/20]
- HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.
- I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with

healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- • Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- • The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- • On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his February 6th appointment at the Fremont, CA CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- • As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.
- • The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- • Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- • ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - • Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - • Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- • Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - • **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - • Two (2) are PUIs

- One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

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Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.

- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is (B6) and the other is (B6). Both are (B6) Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)

- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) 2@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation

- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website

- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.

- HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA's order of COVID-19 test kits.
- OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- • Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - • Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - • Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - • Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- • HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - • DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - • Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- • Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- • 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- • HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- • Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- • CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- • Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- • Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC

- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) a.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A.

(B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for

each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.

- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- Total persons quarantined: 809
- Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on

February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.

- Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities

- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with Larry Mole to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of "Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don't believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions."

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>;

Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) [REDACTED] reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- At approximately 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M.

<(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A.

(B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- • Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- • Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov;

Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy

(B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M.

(B6)@va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A.

(B6)@va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- • The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- • The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- • HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) and (B6) they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- • AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the

City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
128 minors over 2
20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- • We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- • OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- • Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- • HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- • The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- • The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- • CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- • The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- • While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- • CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- • Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- • We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6) . I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD
Director
VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	RLW /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F8816F131E9B42E4A34115A15E20F437-RLW (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Powers, Pamela /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6021d9c02594b52bc57194848ca7ef6-Powers, Pam (B6)@va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/02/22 09:41:44
Delivered Date:	2020/02/22 09:41:45

From:	Boyd, Teresa D. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6886A7D555A43E0BEE23C1E40E1C234-BOYD, TERES (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/03/01 17:36:49
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Great news, Paul. Thank you!

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Sunday, Mar 01, 2020, 5:36 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>, Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

No Veterans or contracts with the nursing home in V20. Just confirmed

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Date: Sunday, Mar 01, 2020, 3:52 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <I (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>, Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Limited distro due to some sensitive information

- Officials in Washington State and the CDC are tracking a possible outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care nursing facility in Washington State. There are currently two presumptive positive cases associated with the facility (one healthcare worker and one resident). Officials are also reporting that approximately 27 of the 108 residents and 25 of the 180 staff have some symptoms and are being tested.
- Japan has reported and confirmed the first patient to be re-infected with COVID-19 after showing signs of full recovery. The woman tested positive for the second time after testing positive in late January, she was released from the hospital on February 1 after recovering without any signs of the virus.
- HHS we are no longer in the containment phase, we are now in the community mitigation phase.
- The CDC is sending a team to help local officials investigate and test.
- The facility has been identified as Life Care Nursing Facility, 10101 NE 120st Kirkland, Washington - King County.

EMCC Actions:

- Palo Alto completed the dry run for receiving the Veteran patient on Sunday
- 24 additional employees will complete PPE training and fit testing today
- CDC test kits remain an issue and we have been on the phone throughout the day to shake them loose. We are being told the state Public Health labs have priority. I have communicated my displeasure with CDC particularly since we are receiving our first patient tomorrow and we continue to ask for kits and testing guidance.
- Preliminary search has indicated that VHA does not contract with the Washington State Nursing Home where cases have been reported. We are awaiting verification from V20
- Due to the admission of an active TB patient V8 may have a need for additional N95s, we are in the process of verifying that information and requirement.

- • EMCC continues to push for a decision on the shelf life extension for N95s.

COVID-19 Patient Transfer:

- • Conference call between Mercy Hospital System, Palo Alto VAMC and EMCC was conducted at 1:30 EST
- • Patient arrived at Folsom Hospital on February 27th, his latest COVID-19 laboratory information will be shared with the VAMC once contact is made with CDC – numbers were exchanged. Folsom is not permitted to reveal lab results per CDC.
- • Patient was described as a delight to care for and he is full ambulatory. When the patient arrived he run up the stairs and hospital personnel had to remind him to slow down.
- • Patient has remained asymptomatic, normal labs, normal vitals. The patient does express a daily concern for his wife currently hospitalized in Japan.
- • Contracted ambulance services will depart Travis AFB at 0700 on Monday, March 2, 2020. Expected arrival at Folsom Hospital is 0800.
- • Constant communications will be maintained throughout the trip from Travis to ensure an exact arrival time at Folsom.
- • Patient will be ready upon arrival of the contract ambulance.
- • Physician to Physician contact information has been exchanged and contact will be maintained throughout the transfer.
- • Arrival time at Palo Alto is unknown due to a number of variables.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 6:57 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The number of U.S. Citizens in the United States with confirmed cases of coronavirus is 61.
- • HHS ASPR is having issues with the media targeting individuals using social media to contact officials in an attempt to obtain inside information concerning PPE contracts and supplies.
- • HHS is requesting the virtual activation of the following LNOs:
 - • ESF 1— Transportation
 - • ESF 6 — Mass Care
 - • ESF 13 — Public Safety
 - • ESF 14 — Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure
 - • ESF 15 — External Affairs

EMCC Actions:

- All DEMPS personnel deployed to Travis AFB have returned home safely and the VHA mission there is complete.
- Requested NCA and VBA to participate in joint planning efforts for the Pandemic Base Plan and COVID-19 Annex.
- Distributed updated guidance from CDC on PUIs.
- The IT/Telework COVID-19 workgroup conducted their initial meeting. The workgroup's purpose is to develop plans, policy, procedures and identify any necessary equipment to support the ability of VHA to conduct a small to large telework operation in response to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Workgroups completed draft information document concerning isolation gowns required for COVID-19, based on CDC and FDA documents.
- Workgroups produced Clinical Contact Center Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Screen Instructions, Actions, and Scripting v 2.0 27FEB2020.
- 23,278 unique visits to the forward-facing Public Health Website.
- Developing TTX for VHA leadership.
- Completed shift rotation of OEM field staff into the EMCC.
- (B6) took a day off.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS – future transfer of asymptomatic positive patients to home isolation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- One new positive at Travis transferred to hospital, 3 positives transferred to home isolation.
- HHS is working on a memo to DoD to extend operations at the three military bases.
- HHS is working on contact tracing for the patient admitted to UC Davis.
- HHS working on DEMOB plan for low-risk patients currently quarantined in Japan.
- ASPR asked if CDC is going to change the testing guidance “because the California cases was tested late.”

EMCC Actions:

- Due to notifications from suppliers the EMCC is developed and provided guidance on the proper use and type of gowns for treating/caring for COVID-19 patients.
- EMCC will conduct a nationwide conference call with VA Police to bring them up to speed on the COVID-19 response.
- Discussed PPE prioritization with HHS ASPR leadership. At this time HHS and the COVID-19 Task Force have not made any policy decisions that will drive prioritization, however one is expected as they review the needs. I provided the details of VHA's request in writing – the ability to treat 5000 patients for 30 days.
- HHS ASPR leadership did reveal that the COVID-19 Task Force has crunched the numbers and if the worst case scenario develops the US will require 300 million N95s per month to sustain the healthcare system. The manufacturing capabilities to meet that demand does NOT exist.
- EMCC was made aware of the “possibility” of the San Antonio VAMC receiving repatriated Veterans. There are currently 15 identified Veterans – 9 have tested negative, 4 have refused testing, 1 is being re-tested due to an inconclusive result, 1 Veteran just revealed he is a Veteran and will undergo testing. HHS has not requested VAMC assistance at this time. The contact with the VAMC was through the OEM AEM asking the question, “can you accept a positive Veteran if needed”. I reminded the AEM to call the EMCC prior to any discussions with facilities so we can ensure 1) the Veteran is enrolled and eligible for care, 2) work out any details with HHS prior to involving the VAMC.
- ALL 6 Veteran enrollees at Travis have tested negative!
- HHS IMT has asked for Chaplain Services for the Veterans at Lackland – the request is for a 15-30 minute service by phone this weekend. The EMCC has placed the request and awaiting a response
- EMCC will participate on the VHA VA Police call and provide and bring all Chiefs up to date on the current VHA response tomorrow.
- EMCC is working on securing PPE for RCS and developing a shipment strategy.
- EMCC has made a request through WMC to meet with and brief the Unions of current VHA response plans and future scenarios should there be a worst case scenario.
- 25059 unique visits to the Public Health Website

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) ell

Sender:	Boyd, Teresa D. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6886A7D555A43E0BEE23C1E40E1C234-BOYD, TERES (B6) @va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman,

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Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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(B6)@va.gov>;
Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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(B6)@va.gov>;
Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi
(B6)@va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/03/01 17:36:48

Delivered Date: 2020/03/01 17:36:49

Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

March 02, 2020

National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

1. Executive Summary

- American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference in Washington, DC.
- Monitoring outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); two deaths reported in the state of Washington.

2. Significant Weather *Source: NWS*

- Southern storms with flooding and severe weather possible.
- Rain and snow in the Northwest, light snow possible in the Midwest and Great Lakes.

3. 2020 AIPAC Policy Conference, Washington, DC, 1-3 Mar

- Approximately 12,000 attendees to hear speeches by American and Israeli leaders at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.
- This has been designated a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) 3 event.
- Several street closures will be in effect during the event.

4. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) *Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, VHA, VBA*

- As of 0600 ET, 01 Mar, the WHO reports 88,930 confirmed cases globally; 3,043 deaths throughout 65 countries.
- CDC reports the total confirmed cases in the US is 62, and 2 deaths: 15 presenting in US; 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province; 44 among evacuees from Diamond Princess; 7 presumptive cases (i.e., positive test in state lab, pending confirmation at CDC).
- The Governor of Washington State has declared a State of Emergency.
 - Washington State Department of Health reported the second death in the U.S.
 - Washington State and the CDC are tracking a possible outbreak of the coronavirus at a long term care nursing facility. Officials report that approximately 27 of the 108 residents and 25 of the 180 staff have some symptoms and are being tested.
- Department of State has issued travel advisories for the following areas:
 - Daegu, South Korea – Level IV, Do Not Travel, due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19.
 - Lombardy and Veneto, Italy – Level IV, Do Not Travel, due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19.
 - Travel restrictions on any foreign citizen coming to the U.S. who has visited Iran in the last 14 days.
- **VA Response Efforts**
 - Effective 26 Feb, for a period of 30 days, travel is suspended for in-person support to VA Transition Assistance Program (TAP) events at itinerant sites in the following countries; South Korea, Japan, and Italy.
 - VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) will stand-up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the future planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
 - Further details can be found in the COVID-19 VA SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

March 02, 2020

5. Long Term Facility Disruptions

- **Blythe CBOC, CA** *Source: VHA*
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimated date of completion is the end of March.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.
 - An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.
- **Arecibo CBOC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
- **Vieques Rural OPC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.

6. Ten Day Outlook

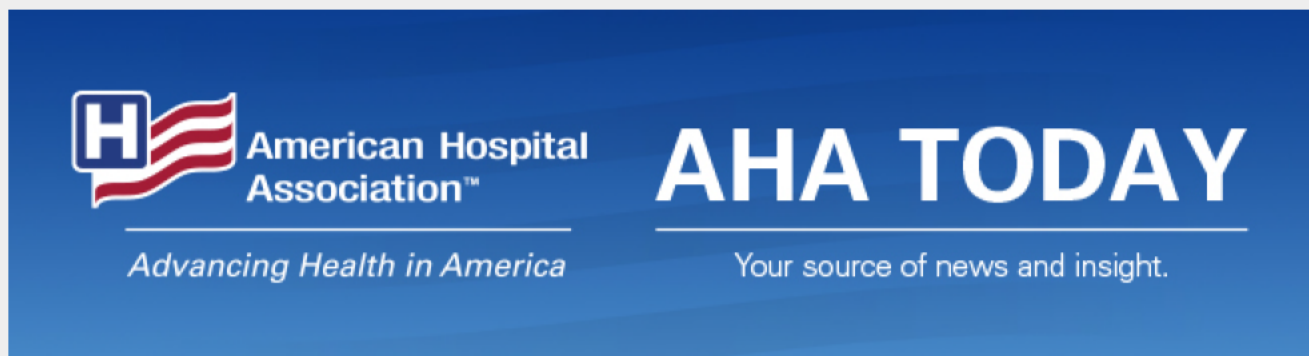
- Nothing significant to report.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED], Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) [REDACTED] Watch Officer

From:	AHA Today <circulation@aha.org>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] New CDC Coronavirus Resources - Supreme Court to Review ACA Case
Date:	2020/03/02 17:25:22
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

[Click here to access a web or mobile friendly version of the newsletter.](#)



[AHA Today](#)

March 2, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Chair File: Showcasing Innovation to Advance Behavioral Health



Nancy Agee

America's health care providers are no strangers to challenges. Time and again, have overcome complex, difficult and daunting situations by using innovative approaches that have vastly improved patients' lives.

Finding those solutions often begins with creative thinking and the willingness to experiment. To support the field, the AHA three years ago launched its Innovation Challenge, a juried award program to source and spread new ideas. This year's [Innovation Challenge](#) focuses on showcasing ways to help people with behavioral health disorders live a more balanced, productive life.

We must think boldly in this area. One in every five American adults lives with a behavioral health disorder but only half of them receive treatment. An alarming number of millennials and Gen Zers — young people representing our nation's future — report leaving their jobs for mental health reasons.

This year's Innovation Challenge aims to inspire new strategies and test bold ideas that will make it easier for people living with psychiatric or substance use disorders to obtain and afford better treatment and improve their lives.

All AHA members and their partners can participate in the Innovation Challenge. The top three proposals will receive \$100,000, \$25,000 and \$15,000 to help bring their ideas to life. [Applications must be submitted by May 15](#), and winners will be honored at the AHA Leadership Summit in San Diego in June.

At my organization, Saint Luke's Health System in Kansas City, we speak of "the Intersection of Innovation and Hope." It describes a mindset where our physicians, nurses and staff use the latest technology, treatments and research to turn innovation into hope for our patients. [You can read some of our stories here.](#)

That spirit of innovation lives among us all. Let's share ideas and strive for revolutionary results as we work together to advance health in America. [Find out how you can participate in the 2020 Innovation Challenge to advance behavioral health here.](#)

Melinda L. Estes, M.D.
AHA Chair

Today's Headlines

1. • Six coronavirus-related deaths reported in U.S.; CDC plans for mitigation
2. • Supreme Court will review ACA case
3. • AHA, others file briefs in case to prevent disclosure of negotiated contracts
4. • FTC, Pennsylvania move to stop health systems from integrating
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2020

Annual Membership Meeting

April 19-21, 2020 | Washington, D.C.



[AHA](#)

Today's Headlines Continued

1. Six coronavirus-related deaths reported in U.S.; CDC plans for mitigation

Six people near the Kirkland area of Washington state have died from COVID-19 complications, local health officials [announced](#) today. At least five had underlying health conditions, and at least four were from the same long-term care facility.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released new and updated guidance and resources for hospitals and health systems, which suggest a pivot in strategy from containment of COVID-19 to focus on mitigation. The resources include:

- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#)
- [Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States](#)
- [Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take](#)
- [Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Testing of Patients Under Investigation for COVID-19](#)

The Food and Drug Administration Saturday issued a new [policy](#) to achieve more rapid COVID-19 diagnostic testing capacity in the U.S by allowing laboratories to immediately use tests they develop and validated, prior to the approval of an emergency use authorization by FDA.

In addition, President Trump Saturday enacted [travel restrictions](#) for Iran and added travel advisories for Italy and South Korea.

The World Health Organization today said it continues to monitor the situation and analyze data, but

not declaring COVID-19 a pandemic at this time. "We are in uncharted territory," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [said](#). "We have never before seen a respiratory pathogen that is capable of community transmission, but which can also be contained with the right measures."

CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity will [host a call](#) Thursday at 2 p.m. ET on what clinicians need to know to prepare for COVID-19.

For the latest information and resources, visit [AHA's coronavirus webpage](#).

2. Supreme Court will review ACA case

The Supreme Court today said it will review, during its term beginning in October, a federal appeals court decision that held the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate unconstitutional.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia petitioned the Supreme Court to quickly review the decision, which sent the case back to the district court in Texas for the judge to take a "careful, granular approach" to determining which of the law's provisions could survive without the mandate.

In January, the AHA — joined by the Federation of American Hospitals, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Association of American Medical Colleges, and America's Essential Hospitals — filed a [friend-of-the-court brief](#) urging the Supreme Court to review the case this term. Thirty-three state hospital associations also filed a [friend-of-the-court brief](#) urging the Supreme Court to review the case this term.

"The 20 million Americans who have gained health insurance under the Affordable Care Act deserve to be secure in their coverage," said AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack. "While today's Supreme Court decision to review the challenge to the ACA brings us one step closer to the resolution patients need, these critical coverage gains will remain in unnecessary limbo without expedited review. We strongly urge a prompt decision in favor of the ACA and its protections for patients with pre-existing conditions, expansion of the Medicaid program, creation of new and innovative models of care and many other critical benefits. America's hospitals and health systems and the patients we serve are ready to put the legal fight behind us — for good."

For more on the appeals court decision, see the AHA's December [statement](#).

3. AHA, others file briefs in case to prevent disclosure of negotiated contracts

The AHA, joined by three other national organizations representing hospitals and health systems, last Friday filed a reply brief in their [lawsuit](#) challenging a 2019 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services final rule mandating that hospitals disclose their privately negotiated rates with commercial health insurers.

The final rule "exceeds the unambiguous limits set by Congress" because it "requires disclosure of not only a hospital's 'standard charges' but also commercially sensitive negotiated prices," the [brief](#) states.

noting that "transparency about hospitals' negotiated rates is not the same as transparency about out-of-pocket charges." Even the study cited by the government undercuts its position on negotiated rates, the brief adds, as it reported that "71% of survey respondents wanted 'more transparency about *the true costs*' of services not the negotiated rates between hospitals and insurers." (emphasis added)

Also on Friday, 37 state hospital associations filed a similar [friend-of-the-court brief](#), supporting more useful transparency for patients while describing the "severe burdens on hospital and health systems across the United States without a corresponding benefit to consumers."

4. FTC, Pennsylvania move to stop health systems from integrating

The Federal Trade Commission late last week issued an [administrative complaint](#) alleging that the proposed merger of Philadelphia-based Jefferson Health and Einstein Healthcare Network would reduce competition in two counties. The FTC and Pennsylvania attorney general will seek a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction in federal district court to prevent the merger during the administrative proceeding, the agency said.

It's the first time since 2016 that the FTC has opposed a major hospital merger. The proposed merger announced in September 2018, would create an 18-hospital system with more than 50 outpatient and urgent care centers.

"We have received word about the Federal Trade Commission and Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General's decision to challenge our proposed merger," the health systems said in a joint statement. "We will take some time to review the challenge to better understand both their position and how to best respond moving forward. We believe we have presented a strong and comprehensive case as to how the merger would benefit the patients we serve and advance our academic mission without reducing competition for healthcare services. At a time when regional and national politicians and leaders are seeking ways to better support essential safety net hospitals, we see this merger as a creative solution to preserve access and enhance services to the residents of North Philadelphia."

"We remain confident our merger will result in continued high-quality care for our consumers. Our goal is to broaden our delivery of accessible and value-based care to patients and provide an exceptional education and training experience for our students. We are two like-minded, culturally aligned organizations with a mutual goal of improving lives for all of our patients, particularly the most vulnerable in the Philadelphia area."

AHA called on the FTC to rethink its opposition to the merger because it puts thousands of underserved patients in the Philadelphia area at risk. "No agency of the federal government should ever be so cavalier about the health and well-being of patients who depend on safety net hospitals to care for everyone in the community," said AHA General Counsel Melinda Hatton.

In a [blog post](#), Ken Kaufman, head of Kaufman Hall consulting and a keen observer of the field, described the FTC challenge as "attacking social justice in the city of Philadelphia" and a blow to "financial sustainability of a critical community resource."

Rep. Dwight Evans, D-Pa., also [criticized](#) the decision, calling it an "outrageous action" and urging the FTC to drop its opposition.

5. Nebraska cyber workshop focuses on care delivery, patient safety

The AHA last week co-hosted a regional cyber workshop with Nebraska Hospital Association for technical and non-technical hospital and health system leaders to learn about cybersecurity as a strategic enterprise risk issue with implications to care delivery and patient safety. Cyber leaders from Nebraska and the FBI joined John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity & risk, to discuss the global cyber threat landscape affecting health care in the region. AHA members can contact Riggi at jriggi@aha.org for more information or questions on cybersecurity issues.



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Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

March 09, 2020

National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

1. Executive Summary

- Monitoring Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

2. Significant Weather Source: NWS

- Severe thunderstorms possible for eastern Oklahoma, parts of southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas.
- Heavy rain for southern California, the Southwest and Northeast.

3. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, VHA, VBA

- As of 0200 ET, 9 Mar, the WHO reports 110,315 confirmed cases globally; 3,841 deaths throughout 107 countries.
- As of 0915 ET, 9 Mar, the DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 564 across 27 states and territories; 22 total deaths.
- The Grand Princess cruise ship will to dock in Oakland, CA today, 9 Mar. 21 passengers are positive for COVID-19 and about 3,500 passengers will be quarantined.
- **VA Response Efforts**
 - Effective today, the Crisis Response Team (CRT) (Lite) will convene daily at 1500 ET.
 - On 7 Mar, HHS requested a VHA LNO deploy to Travis AFB, CA 8-21 Mar.
 - Further details can be found in the COVID-19 VA SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.

4. Long Term Facility Disruptions

- **Blythe CBOC, CA Source: VHA**
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimated date of completion is the end of March.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.
 - An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.
- **Arecibo CBOC, PR Source: VHA**
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
- **Vieques Rural OPC, PR Source: VHA**
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.

5. Ten Day Outlook

- **2020 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Houston, TX (SEAR 2)**
 - The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HSLR) will take place on 14-22 Mar in Houston, TX. This event has received a Special Event Assessment Rating and a Federal Coordinator has been designated. The event will be held at the NRG Arena and is one of the richest regular-season professional rodeo events.
- **50th St. Patrick's Parade, Washington, DC (SEAR 3)**
 - The parade is scheduled for 15 Mar from 1200 – 1500 ET. The route extends from 7th St to 17th St on Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC; 50,000 participants expected.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED] Duty Officer
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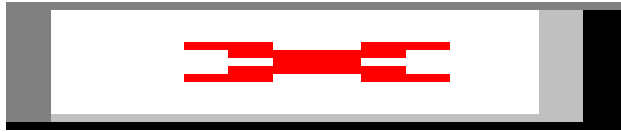
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Subject:	SITREP (Update 44): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global
Date:	2020/03/09 10:53:23
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 9 Mar 20 / 1050 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 44:

- The WHO is reporting 110,315 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,841 deaths, throughout 107 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 564 confirmed cases across 27 states and territories; 22 total deaths: WA (19), FL (2) and CA (1).
- As of 9 Mar, there are six confirmed and two presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in the NCR: four in Montgomery County, MD; one in the City of Fairfax, VA; one in Prince William County, VA, and two presumptive positive cases in the District of Columbia.
- On 7 Mar, the Governor of NY declared a State of Emergency due to COVID-19. KS, MO, and VT announced first presumptive positive cases.
- The U.S. Army has restricted travel to and from Italy and South Korea, the ban will be in effect through 6 May.
- The GRAND PRINCESS cruise ship will dock at Oakland Inner Harbor today at 1200 ET.
 - COVID-19 symptomatic passengers will disembark from a separate gangway from asymptomatic passengers.
 - U.S. passengers will be transported to DOD installations for quarantine (CA residents will be housed at Travis AFB and MCAS Miramar; non-CA residents will be housed at Lackland AFB, TX and Dobbins ARB, GA).
 - Crew members will remain onboard; DOS will facilitate travel for foreign passengers.

Update 43:

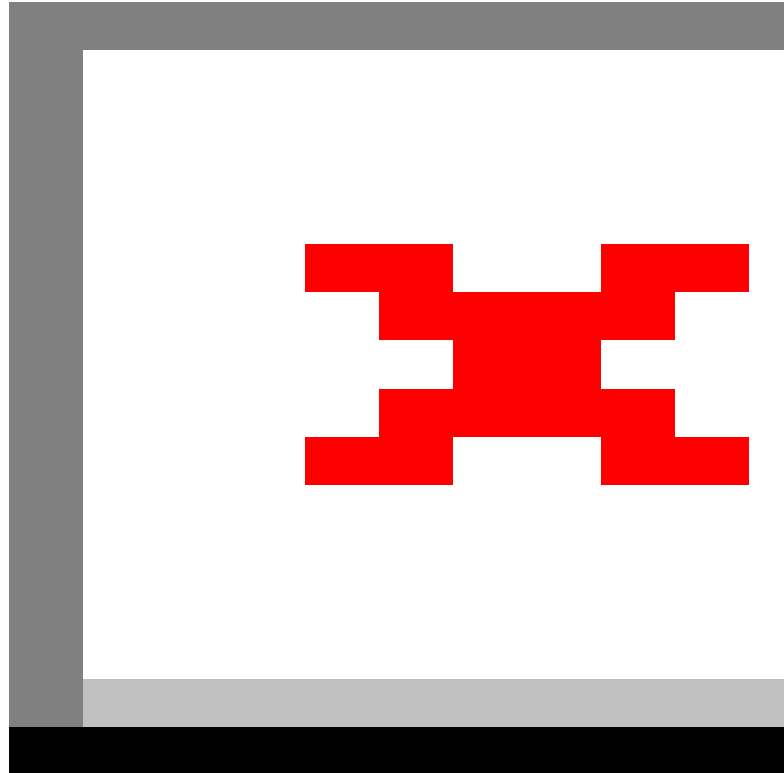
- On 8 Mar, the WHO is reporting 105,523 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,584 deaths, throughout 101 countries.

- • DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 436 confirmed cases across 27 states and territories; 19 total deaths.
- • The NCR Watch Desk reports there are four confirmed, and one presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in the NCR: three in Montgomery County, MD; one on Ft. Belvoir, Fairfax County, VA; and one presumptive positive case in the District of Columbia.
 - • Ft. Belvoir, Fairfax County, VA – 7 March, a US Marine tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently being treated at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The Marine recently returned from overseas where he was on official business.
 - • District of Columbia – 7 March, a positive presumptive case was announced. A male DC resident in his 50's was admitted to a DC hospital on March 5. He does not appear to have travelled overseas or been in contact with overseas travelers.
 - • Montgomery County, MD – 5 March, three cases were confirmed positive. The three patients contracted the virus while traveling overseas. They are in good condition and now in home quarantine. On 28 Feb, one of the patients participated in a gathering at The Village at Rockville. Individuals who attended the gathering may be at some risk for acquiring COVID-19.
- • GRAND PRINCESS cruise ship remains underway offshore San Francisco, CA. USCG, HHS, and CA Office of Emergency Services are close to finalizing a location to berth.
- •

VA Response:

- • [Effective 9 Mar, the Crisis Response Team \(CRT\) will convene daily at 1500 ET; an invite will be sent to attendees from the VAIOC.](#)
- • On 7 Mar, HHS requested a VHA LNO deploy to Travis AFB, CA 8-21 March.
- • On 6 Mar, the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) updated Guidance to Agencies (attached); only mission-critical travel and training will be authorized. Conferences must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether to cancel or proceed.
- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6), Duty Officer

Released by: (B6), Watch Officer

VA Integrated Operations Center

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Sender:	VAIOC /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=028F129D5C2D4A4C81F95B2BA8CA56E2-VAIOC (B6)@va.gov>
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(B6) @va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/03/09 10:53:22

Delivered Date: 2020/03/09 10:53:23

Message Flags: Unread

From:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/24 18:28:27
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Update:

Italy

- • 79 confirmed cases, 62 cases in the past 24hrs, with 2 reported deaths
 - • Containment & Mitigation: (Open Source Media reporting)
 - • Two military structures in Lombardy are being prepared to serve as isolation facilities, separate from a Rome military base that currently houses Wuhan and Diamond Princess evacuees.
 - • The country has implemented strict quarantine restrictions in the two “hotspot” regions, Veneto & Lombardy; over 50,000 residents cannot enter or leave towns in these areas for the next 2 weeks unless given permission. Checkpoints also have been setup in many towns.

Japan

- • 132 confirmed cases, 27 cases in the past 24hrs, with 1 reported death
 - • Containment & Mitigation: (Open Source Media reporting)
 - • Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered a government task force to prepare for a potential surge in the number of people infected with the new coronavirus, asking for a policy that will curb disease spread.
 - • The health minister apologizes for actions taken so far, after the government faces public scrutiny about whether or not enough is being done to stop disease spread.

Republic of Korea

- • 556 confirmed cases, 210 cases in the past 24hrs, with 2 reported deaths
 - • Containment & Mitigation: (Open Source Media reporting)
 - • Country leadership asserts ‘unprecedented, powerful’ countermeasures will be taken, as the emergency response is strengthened.
 - • Cities with the two main disease clusters are declared ‘special care zones’, and the mayor of Daegu has advised residents to stay indoors; officials have sent military medical staff, other healthcare workers, and extra resources to these areas.

EMCC Actions:

- • Answered a HOT item from OPIA that claimed VA was ignoring or not responding to over “60” Veterans currently at Travis. Lee Stevens Senior Advisor to the Director of HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs.
- • 2pm EMCC Leadership Call 118 participants.
- • 3pm EMCC HCI workgroup conference Call 37 participants
- • 22741 unique visits to the forward facing Public Health Website
- • Provided OGC opinions of quarantine/isolation and state law during a public health emergency
- • Participated on 2 Palo Alto planning calls
- • Tremendous amount of contingency planning

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2020 5:04 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy

(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- (SBU) California approved a Veteran and his spouse that confirmed positive on 19 Feb for home isolation.
- Fourteen (14) current Veterans at Travis AFB, only six (6) are enrolled as beneficiaries (one (1) of which is Palo Alto enrolled); no requests to be transferred to VA at this time.

EMCC Actions:

- EMCC continues to engage with Palo Alto and VISN 21 regarding preparedness efforts
 - Currently have staff to cover ten (10) COVID-19 patients. Numbers above that would require additional support (VISN or DEMPS).
 - Bi-Weekly pay cap waiver requested by Palo Alto. EMCC is coordinating.
- EMCC Logistics researching PAPRs, Tyvek suits, and over-sleeve gloves.
- DEMPS employee returning to home station has arrived safely.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2020 7:28 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- A federal judge blocks the transfer of novel coronavirus patients from Travis AFB to a Costa Mesa, California facility after the city filed a restraining order asking to have more time to assess how best to protect its residents.

- The State of Alabama has filed for an injunction to stop the use of the DPC facility at Anniston, AL from housing COVID-19 patients. The state claims FEMA and HHS did not include the state in the planning and residents are angry.
- Worldwide, cities enact lockdowns, place travel restrictions, cancel public events, close schools, and ask residents to stay indoors and self-quarantine in an effort to contain novel coronavirus.

EMCC Actions

- (B6) participated in the 2 Palo Alto planning meetings yesterday and will continue to stay engaged with the west coast team.
- We have provided additional planning, cost tracking, PPE/isolation flow and planning checklist documents.
- Today they should know the results of the tests on the remaining Veterans currently under quarantine at Travis.
- EMCC will work with Palo Alto and track lessons learned and address any shortfalls to improve our overall preparedness and planning.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2020 4:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), a 48-bed facility, anticipate to be fully operational to receive future asymptomatic patients on 24FEB20.
- The U.S Embassy in Seoul issued a health alert to U.S. citizens in the Republic of Korea due to the increase of COVID-19.
- Embassy Tokyo has been notified that at least four hospitalized COVID-19 positive AMCITs are critically ill. Embassy Tokyo is fully engaged with families and hospitals.
- Growing concern and evidence that COVID-19 leaked out of the only Chinese Level 4 microbiology lab in Wuhan, China which is part of the Wuhan Institute of Virology
- Untraceable coronavirus cells have emerged in three countries — and health officials say the elusive strands could be the first sign that the virus is spreading at an uncontrollable rate.
- Doctors are unable to identify the source of coronavirus clusters in South Korea, Singapore and Iran, the World Health Organization said Saturday, urging a stricter approach to containing the virus.

- The CDC and U.S. State Department have published Level 2 Travel Health Notices and Travel Advisories for Japan and South Korea.
- The U.S. State Department Level 2 Travel Advisory means to exercise increased caution when traveling to these countries, as they are experiencing sustained community transmission of respiratory illness (COVID-19) caused by the novel coronavirus. The CDC has also created an Iran Travel View.

Additional details please see the Travel Health Notices and Travel Advisories below:

CDC Level 2 Travel Health Notices:

South Korea - <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-south-korea>

Japan - <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-japan>

Iran - <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/iran>

U.S. State Department Level 2 Travel Advisories:

South Korea -

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/south-korea-travel-advisory.html>

Japan -

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/japan-travel-advisory.html>

EMCC Actions:

- (B6) Senior Science Advisor with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the Center for Device & Radiological Health (CDRH) provided the following update on N95s approaching or exceeded their expiration date – information has been forwarded to the field.
 - Work is already underway between FDA and NIOSH to review effectiveness of N95 beyond the expiration date.
 - They are hopeful that they will have guidance on this in the next few days, hopefully by the mid to end of next week
 - While they expect positive results they can NOT guarantee anything until the final documentation is complete and guidance language drafted.
 - She did reiterate to not throw out any expired N95 but to retain them; expired N95 should not be the first choice if others are available
- PPE order – 50,000 masks/gowns will be purchased with an option to purchase 50,000 more of each
- PL&O will complete the contracting paperwork and provide to the Contracting team to complete the requirements
- PL&O will coordinate with the NAC for receiving, storage and distribution of the items.
- Distribution will be coordinated with and through the EMCC, once verified by the EMCC Logistics Team, coordination with the NAC on quantity and distribution will be finalized. Only the EMCC will have the authority to task the NAC
- EMCC will monitor burn rates and coordinate processing the second order when we reach the predetermined threshold (under development)
- Spoke with CA Department of Health and further clarified VA/VHA position on space availability
- V21 conference call at 3pm revealed tremendous planning and attention to detail, the EMCC was invited to all future calls. I have no concerns. The planning being done in Palo Alto will assist the EMCC in fine tuning all of our planning moving forward.

- All the planning documents, Excel cost tracking worksheet, planning check list and EMCC Org Chart, HCI Sharepoint link were provided to the Palo Alto Emergency Response Team.
- EMCC will monitor Palo Alto's daily PPE stocks and any potential burn rates and be ready to respond immediately if needed.

Negative note: Unfortunately the EMCC will be returning one of the deployed DEMPS employees to her home station. The EMCC received a written complaint from DMORT deployed team members and HHS IMT leadership of alleged "inappropriate sexual advances". A complete investigation is underway.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2020 9:12 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: I usually send an update in the evening however lots of moving parts overnight and this morning.

- Palo Alto did create a ward (7H +room numbers) and "activated it" in CPRS in order to provide patient care and EHR use.
- I did communicate with the VISN last night to refrain from the use of SCI as a description.
- Today five rooms at a minimum will be equipped with beds and all accompanying equipment, supplies and PPE will be moved in.
- The plan is to equip 13 rooms in total
- Nursing education and infection control will be providing just in time PPE/PAPR/donning/doffing training on Sunday for nursing, physician and other staff (EMS, police, etc.) as necessary.
- Actual staffing scenarios are still being worked out, and they will severely limit who goes in or out.
- The goal is to be ready by Monday to accept a patient(s), should that be a need – At this time there is NO indication that will happen with the current population at Travis, however as this entire event has progressed – this could change drastically.
- The next round of test results will be available sometime Sunday.
- The VISN CMO will be contacted first by Travis to "accept" the patient for VHA and the CMO will call the inpatient MD supervisor at Palo Alto to give report and accept the transfer.
- A special contracted/trained ambulance company would transport the patient to the facility.

EMCC actions this morning:

- We will be scheduling a call later today with the VISN and MC planners to ensure all are on the same sheet of paper – the EMCC needs clarity on the transfer and the use of US Marshalls as escorts.
- We will be providing a checklist to assist the facilities in their planning
- We will be providing a spreadsheet and instructions on tracking ALL costs associated with the preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- EMCC has communicated the importance of tracking PPE usage and communicating daily with the EMCC on usage/burn rate, stocks and potential shortfalls/gaps

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:33 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) 2@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Today is 1 full month of EMCC operations – spirits are high and team is committed. The EMCC will be staggering coverage to include some virtual support to allow time to recharge.

- As a result of a sub quality at the Quality Inn and Suites, DEMPS and DMORT staff have been moved to new lodging. Our DEMPS are at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord CA: 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord, CA 94520
- Area Emergency Manager has arrived as part of the IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio TX
- 1000 – 2oz bottles of hand sanitizer will arrive Thursday for 810, 811, M Street and other VACO buildings, Logs has set aside enough for Senior Leadership
- 21895 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran and spouse transferred from Travis to Kaiser Vallejo have been allowed by CA Health Department to return home and home isolate.
- (B6) briefed the Network Directors on the COVID-19 TTX
- Network Directors were provided with guidance on Telework, Non-GFE and GFE connectivity and how to access OIT equipment in an emergency
- Occ Health briefed the 2:00pm call (110 participants) on employee protection
- I briefed and reminded all participants on the 2:00pm and 3:00pm calls of the SecVA's position to continue focusing on current contingency plans and preparations for a surge of sick Veterans.
- EMCC Logistics coordinated with PL&O and Contracting for the order of 50,000 – N95 masks and 50,000 isolation gowns

- EMCC Logistics, PL&O and Contracting have worked out a plan to spread future orders out in a way not to impact the supply chain. The plan will allow VHA to treat 4500 patients with the appropriate PPE.
- The 50,000 masks and 50,000 gowns will be shipped and stored at the NAC, should a facility need these supplies they will contact the EMCC and the EMCC will coordinate with the NAC for shipment. Only a select few individuals within the EMCC will have the authority to release these emergency supplies.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming "At the emergency room of the hospital, employees attending sick patients whom recently came from China with flu like symptoms are not being provided with respiratory protection, potentially exposing employees to the 2019 novel coronavirus." The facility in question was the Tampa VAMC. On follow-up this morning the unofficial reports are the claims are unfounded. A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.
- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.
- A draft document is under development concerning "stay home" messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.
- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA's ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.
- I advise Palo Alto of VHA's current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is "not enforceable".
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)
- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
- Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19

- • DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- • HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- • Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- • **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- • One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- • DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- • Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- • 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- • EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- • It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- • The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- • The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- • The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- • San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet (B6) with HHS Public Health Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.
- • VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.

- • (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- • (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- • I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.
- • (B5) [REDACTED] (my opinion).
- • Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- • The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- • The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- • Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries outside of mainland China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained.
[02/18/20]
- • HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"

- HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.
- I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his February 6th appointment at the Fremont, CA CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.
- The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - • Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - • Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- • Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - • **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - • Two (2) are PUIs
- • One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- • Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- • AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- • This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.

- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is 69 and the other is 72. Both are Air Force Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
- Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs

- The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg’s supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.

- • DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- • A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- • I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- • OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- • Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- • 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- • The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- • Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- • Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- • First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • US confirmed cases 15
- • AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- • HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- • HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- • HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- • HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- • HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- • HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- • The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- • Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- • Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- • OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- • OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- • Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),

- Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – "follow the plan and you will be safe"
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell,

Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- Global draw down will continue
- Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of “Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homelessness at this moment and I don’t believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions.”

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today’s National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-

CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as “US citizens.” There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don’t describe everyone as “repatriated.” Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT “repatriated.”

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as “repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home”.

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

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Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the “issues” in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, “we are in this together”

- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) and (B6) they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) a.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2

128 minors over 2

20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office

(B6) Cell

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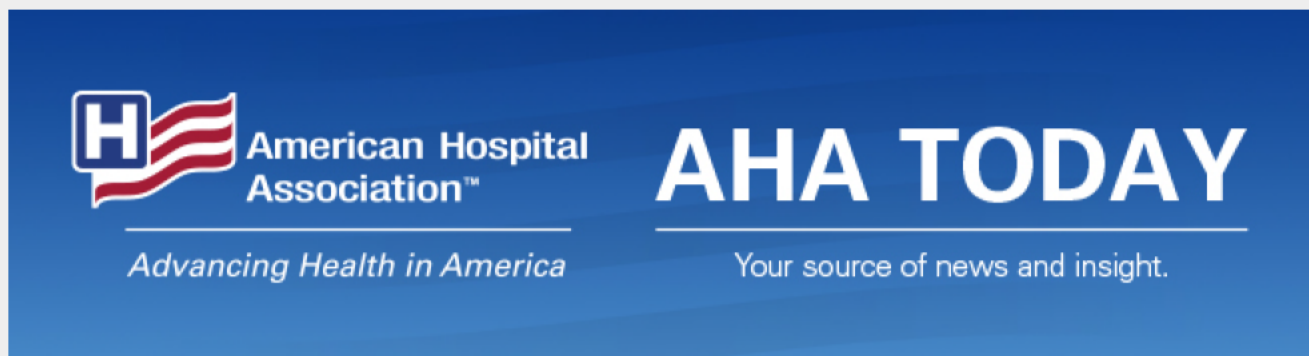
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(B6) @va.gov>;
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<(B6) @va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/24 18:28:25

Delivered Date: 2020/02/24 18:28:27

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Date:	2020/03/09 17:35:48
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[AHA Today](#)

March 9, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Chair File: Z Codes Role in Advancing Health



Nancy Agee Hospitals and health systems are working to address their patients' social needs and the broader social determinants of health in the communities they serve. This includes societal and environmental conditions such as food, housing, transportation, education, violence, social support, health behaviors and employment.

A [standardized approach to screening](#) for and coding social needs is critical to our success. The data allows us to personalize care to address patients' medical and social needs; determine how to focus a social determinants strategy; and identify population health trends.

One tool available for hospitals and health systems to capture data on the social needs of their patient population is the ICD-10-CM codes included in categories Z55-Z65 – better known as social determinants of health "Z codes."

Despite their usefulness, Z code adoption by hospitals has been limited. In fact, a recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [study](#) found that Z codes are only being used for 1.4% of Medicare fee-for-service patients.

AHA's The Value Initiative offers a [number of resources](#), including [podcasts](#) and [webinars](#) to assist caregivers with implementing and expanding the use of Z codes.

Hospital leaders can prioritize the importance of documenting and coding patients' social needs and educate key stakeholders, including physicians, non-physician health care providers and coding professionals, to increase their adoption and help improve the health and well-being of patients and communities.

Melinda L. Estes, M.D.
AHA Chair

Today's Headlines

1. • CDC updates guidance for COVID-19 testing, health care personnel
2. • HHS issues final rules on interoperability, information blocking
3. • AONL cancels March conference in response to COVID-19
4. • Obituary: Health care leader and past AHA chair Wade Mountz

[See Full Stories Below](#)

Today's Headlines Continued

1. CDC updates guidance for COVID-19 testing, health care personnel

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over the weekend updated its guidance for evaluating and testing patients for novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and for assessing and managing health care personnel with potential exposure to patients with the virus.

The documents [prioritize testing](#) for symptomatic older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or immunocompromised, and [update recommendations](#) for health care professional

contact tracing, monitoring and work restrictions, among other changes.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services also has released answers to [frequently asked questions](#) regarding Medicare payment for laboratory tests and other COVID-19-related services.

According to CDC, novel coronavirus cases have now been reported in 34 U.S. states, with worldwide cases topping 110,000 over the weekend. The agency is focusing its [community recommendations](#) on individuals at high risk, such as older adults and those with underlying health conditions.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority Friday solicited [proposals](#) for advanced development and licensure of COVID-19 diagnostic vaccines, and medicines such as therapeutics or antivirals.

As the outbreak continues, the AABP Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism, of which AHA is a member, is concerned about the possibility of blood shortages and is [encouraging](#) Americans to make and keep blood donation appointments and organized blood drives to minimize supply disruptions and ensure availability for patients.

To improve the nation's supply chain for critical supplies needed to fight the virus, the Trump administration is allowing tariff exception requests for suppliers of a broad range of medical products from China, including face masks and gloves. Without an exception, such products are subject to a 7.5% duty under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. One supplier, Medegen Medical Products, LLC, [requested](#) an exception for single-use polypropylene medical masks to provide personal protection for health care workers. The move follows an announcement by the Chinese government encouraging the exportation of personal protective equipment, including protective suits.

Following last week's CMS update on coronavirus payment and coverage through federal entitlement programs, private payers are beginning to adjust their policies. Blue Cross Blue Shield's 36 individual plans said they are eliminating prior authorization for COVID-19 services; covering the full cost of diagnostic tests for COVID-19; increasing access to prescription medications; and expanding access to telehealth and nurse/provider hotlines.

2. HHS issues final rules on interoperability, information blocking

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today finalized rules to promote electronic health information exchange.

The [ONC final rule](#) implements the information blocking provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act by outlining exceptions to the definition of information blocking under the law. The rule also updates the 2015 Edition certification criteria for health information systems to ensure that certified health IT systems can send and receive electronic health information in a structured format; make that electronic health information available through application programming interfaces; and export a patient's electronic health information to a location designated by the patient.

"America's hospitals and health systems support giving patients greater access and control over their health data," said AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack in a [statement](#). "In fact, nearly all hospitals and health systems have made health information available to patients electronically. However, today's fi

rule fails to protect consumers' most sensitive information about their personal health. The rule lacks necessary guardrails to protect consumers from actors such as third party apps that are not required to meet the same stringent privacy and security requirements as hospitals. This could lead to third party apps using personal health information in ways in which patients are unaware. These guidelines are important not to get right. We need to stand on the side of the patient by protecting patient privacy and strengthening security in this rule."

The [CMS final rule](#) requires Medicare Advantage organizations, state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program fee-for-service programs, Medicaid managed care plans, CHIP managed care entities, and qualified health plan issuers in the federally facilitated exchanges to implement the same API standards as the ONC rule by 2021.

Among other provisions, the CMS rule requires Medicare-participating acute-care hospitals, long-term care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, psychiatric hospitals, children's hospitals, cancer hospitals, and critical access hospitals to send electronic notifications to receiving providers when an inpatient is admitted, discharged or transferred. This requirement will go into effect six months after publication of the final rule.

3. AONL cancels March conference in response to COVID-19

In light of the latest novel coronavirus (COVID-19) developments and the need for nursing leaders to remain onsite in their essential roles, the AHA and its American Organization for Nursing Leadership subsidiary made the difficult but necessary [decision to cancel](#) AONL's March conference, the groups have announced.

The AHA continues to closely monitor COVID-19 information and is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local authorities regarding AHA's April Annual Membership Meeting. As this is an evolving situation, the AHA is continually reviewing policies and will update its meeting status as needed. Assistance for [registered attendees](#) impacted by COVID-19 who need to change their plans is available online along with the latest updates and [resources on COVID-19](#).

4. Obituary: Health care leader and past AHA chair Wade Mountz

[Wade Mountz](#), who led Louisville, Ky.-based Norton Healthcare and its predecessor organizations for 35 years and was a past AHA chair and president of the Kentucky Hospital Association, died March 5. He was 95. Mountz served as AHA chairman in 1975, KHA president in 1959-60 and president of the American Protestant Hospital Association in 1969-70. He was a pioneer in helping launch the Voluntary Hospitals of America, serving on its board until 1989 and as president and CEO in 1989-90, and served on the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Board of Commissioners from 1976-91. Among other professional achievements, Mountz received the Gold Medal Award of Excellence in Hospital Administration from the American College of Healthcare Executives and was named to the University of Kentucky Public Health Hall of Fame and Modern Healthcare Health Care Hall of Fame.



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Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates - New AHA Podcast
Date:	2020/03/04 17:49:45
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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Today's Headlines

1. • House passes coronavirus funding package; CDC removes testing restrictions
2. • AHA calls for prior authorization quality measures for Medicare Advantage plans
3. • Judge blocks Michigan's Medicaid work requirement
4. • CMS to streamline QualityNet access for hospital quality reporting
5. • AHA to host South by Southwest public session on housing and health
6. • AONL to honor members, others for exemplary nursing leadership

[See Full Stories Below](#)

Insights & Analysis



[190x127ph.jpg](#)

Podcast: Using community health workers to expand access in rural areas

On this Advancing Health podcast, John Supplitt, AHA senior director, speaks to two rural hospital leaders about the importance of implementing an effective community health worker program to expand health care access. [Listen here.](#)



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Reevaluating the need for board emeritus title

In the latest edition of AHA's Trustee Insights, learn why granting emeritus titles can become a barrier to great governance and is no longer considered a best practice. [Read more.](#)



June 15 - 19, 2020 | Hilton Cleveland Downtown | Cleveland, Ohio

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Today's Headlines Continued

1. House passes coronavirus funding package; CDC removes testing restrictions

The House today passed an [\\$8.3 billion funding package](#) for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) preparedness and response. The bill ([H.R. 6074](#)) includes:

- \$950 million to help states, localities, territories and tribes conduct activities such as virus surveillance, lab testing and infection control;
- More than \$3 billion for research and development of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics; and
- Provisions that would allow the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to waive certain Medicare telehealth restrictions.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today [updated guidance](#) for persons under investigation that allows clinicians to "use their judgement to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested."

At a House Appropriations Committee hearing today, Anthony Fauci, M.D., National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director, [said](#) the U.S. should be actively testing citizens for the virus. The Food and Drug Administration and CDC are working to make tests available and to allow other companies to manufacture tests. He also said the CDC has implemented broad testing in Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Seattle.

The CDC said U.S. health systems have found at least [80 confirmed COVID-19 cases in 12 states](#), with Washington state and California containing the most. With the 49 repatriated citizens who tested positive for COVID-19, the total U.S. cases sit at around 130. At least 11 people who tested positive have died.

"While information so far suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, a report out of China suggests serious illness occurs in 16% of cases." CDC said yesterday in a [media release](#).

CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity will [host a call](#) Thursday at 2 p.m. ET on what clinicians need to know to prepare for COVID-19. For the latest information and resources, visit [AHA coronavirus webpage](#).

2. AHA calls for prior authorization quality measures for Medicare Advantage plans

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services should develop prior authorization measures for the Medicare Advantage Star Ratings Program to minimize care delays and protect patients from inappropriate care denials, AHA said in [comments](#) submitted today. "When instituted appropriately, prior authorization can help align patient care with health plan benefits and facilitates compliance with clinical best practices," AHA wrote. "However, prior authorization requirements and processes vary widely, even among different health plan products offered by the same issuer, and can create dangerous delays in care delivery when not applied appropriately. They also can create confusion and burden for both patients and providers, leading to additional administrative costs for the health care system."

3. Judge blocks Michigan's Medicaid work requirement

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg today blocked Medicaid work requirements in Michigan, citing a [appeals court decision](#) last month that affirmed his decision blocking Medicaid work requirements in Arkansas. Boasberg also previously [blocked](#) Medicaid work requirements in Kentucky and New Hampshire. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services had [authorized](#) Michigan to require able-bodied adults aged 19 to 62 to work or participate in training or community service an average 80 hours per month to continue qualifying for Medicaid under the Healthy Michigan Plan beginning in 2020.

4. CMS to streamline QualityNet access for hospital quality reporting

Between April 7 and June 15, the Hospital Quality Reporting program will transition to a new QualityNet ID management security system called Health Care Quality Information Systems Access Roles and Profile (HARP), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced yesterday. "With HARP, you will no longer need to maintain multiple user accounts or login ID's," CMS said. "Instead, your HARP account will give you access to all reporting features available in HQR." CMS will host a series of educational webinars the week of April 6 titled "Setting up Your HARP Account for the Hospital Quality Reporting System." Watch for CMS details on the transition and webinars, or contact the QualityNet Desk at qnetsupport@hcqis.org for more information.

5. AHA to host South by Southwest public session on housing and health

Join AHA's The Value Initiative and the Advancement League March 14 at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, for a public session exploring how hospitals, clinicians and community-based organizations are improving community health by addressing housing needs. Health care leaders will highlight innovative strategies, followed by a volunteer outing with a local organization addressing homelessness. [Learn more and register here.](#)

6. AONL to honor members, others for exemplary nursing leadership

The AHA's American Organization for Nursing Leadership subsidiary will present several members, a hospital and a state affiliate with [2020 awards](#) during its annual meeting March 19-21 in Nashville, Tenn. The honorees are: Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, Md. — AONL Prism Diversity Award; Jennifer Grenier, associate chief nursing officer at MacNeal Hospital/Loyola Medicine in Berwyn, Ill. — Pamela Austin Thompson Early Careerist Award; Barbee Whisnant-Burgess, vice president of system nursing at Atrium Health in Charlotte, N.C. — AONL Exemplary Leadership and Mentorship Award; and Minnesota Organization of Leaders in Nursing — AONL Affiliate Achievement Award.



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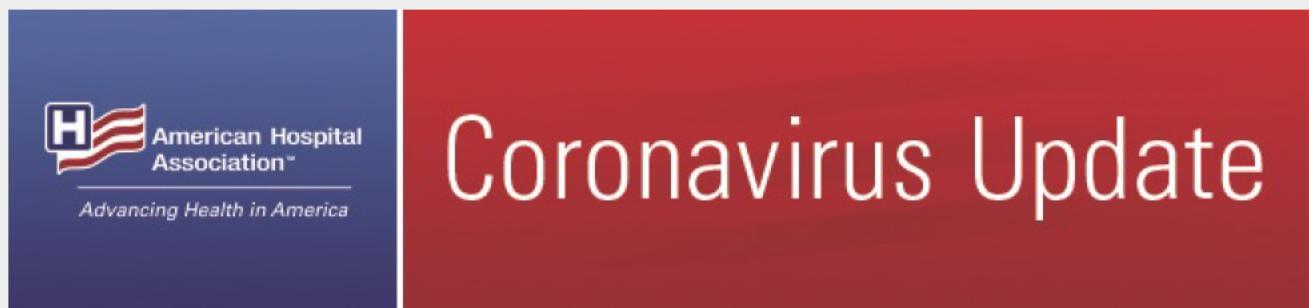
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Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Update: CMS Info on Payment and Coverage
Date:	2020/03/06 15:05:36
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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AHA Special Bulletin

March 6, 2020

CMS Issues Information on Payment and Coverage Related to COVID-19

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) March 5 released information on the coverage and payment of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) under Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Individual and Small Group Markets. CMS also announced that it developed a second Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code that can be used by laboratories to bill for certain COVID-19 diagnostic tests.

Please share this Advisory with your executive management team and billing and coding department, as well as your clinical leadership team.

See below for a brief description and links to the CMS documents.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CMS RESOURCES

Medicare Coverage and Payment: CMS says that local Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) are responsible for developing the payment amount for the new COVID-19 HCPCS codes until Medicare establishes national payment rates. As with other laboratory tests, there is generally no

beneficiary cost sharing under original Medicare. In addition to diagnostic tests, Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalizations, as well as brief "virtual check-ins," which allow patients and their doctors to connect by phone or video chat.

Medicaid and CHIP Coverage and Payment: Testing and diagnostic services are commonly covered services, and laboratory and X-ray services are a mandatory benefit covered and reimbursed in all states. States are required to provide both inpatient and outpatient hospital services to beneficiaries. All states provide coverage of hospital care for children and pregnant women enrolled in CHIP. CMS specifies that detailed questions on covered benefits should be directed to the respective state Medicaid and CHIP agency.

Individual and Small Group Market Coverage and Payment: Laboratory services are a category of Essential Health Benefits (EHB) that individual and small group market issuers are generally required by law to include in their benefit packages. However, whether any particular diagnostic or laboratory service is covered by a plan varies, and is based on the specific benchmark plan selected by each state and the terms of the plan. Large group market plans and self-insured plans are not subject to EHB coverage requirements. CMS states that patients should check with their health insurance company to determine coverage for lab tests and related services for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. Standard cost sharing may apply for these services.

Additional HCPCS Code for Coronavirus Lab Tests: CMS developed a second HCPCS code for laboratories to bill for certain COVID-19 diagnostic tests. Specifically, the first code, U0001, is used for CDC testing laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2. However, the second code (U0002) is used for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19). That is, on Feb. 29, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a new, streamlined policy for certain laboratories to develop their own validated COVID-19 diagnostics — this second code may be used for tests developed by these additional laboratories when submitting claims to Medicare or health insurers. CMS expects that having specific codes for these tests will encourage testing and improve tracking. The Medicare claims processing systems will be able to accept these codes starting on April 1, 2020, for dates of service on or after Feb. 4, 2020.

The CDC previously issued [official guidance](#) on how to code the diagnosis of health care encounters and deaths related to COVID-19.

NEXT STEPS

For the latest COVID-19 information and resources, visit [AHA's coronavirus webpage](#).

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please contact Roslyne Schulman at rschulman@aha.org or Nancy Foster at nfoster@aha.org.

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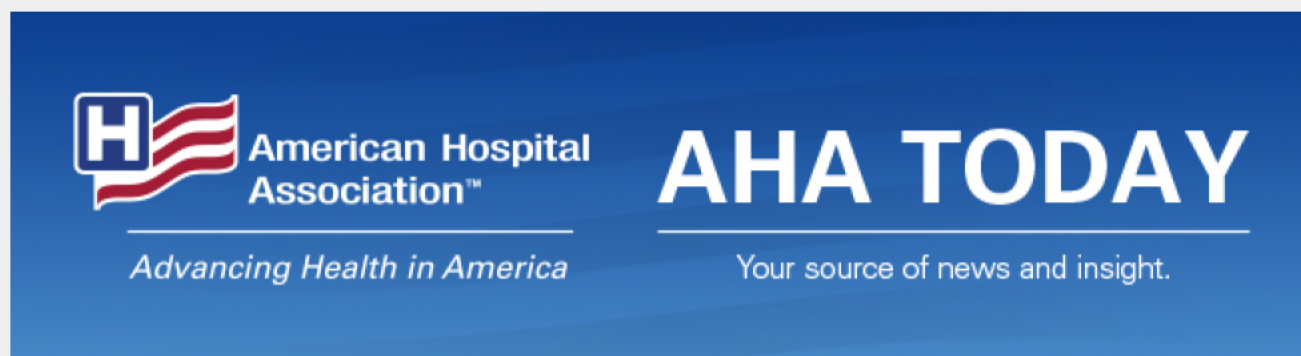
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Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] COVID-19: News on Coverage, Tests and N95 Respirators
Date:	2020/03/06 17:51:42
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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[AHA Today](#)

March 6, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Perspective: Teaming Up to Respond to Coronavirus



Rick Pollack Health care is a team sport. Patients benefit when health care team work together to enhance care coordination. This has taken on an even greater urgency as our country prepares for and responds to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Hospitals and health systems across the country are working around-the-clock on this issue. Some are already caring for patients with COVID-19, and every hospital and health system is preparing to do so. They also are working with a number of health care system partners and coalitions in their community on these efforts.

On the national level, we're continuing to provide the field with the [latest guidance and resources](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies. We're working with the administration and Congress to advocate for federal policies to make sure hospitals and health systems have the resources they need to respond, treat patients and protect their teams from exposure. And,

we're working to clear the way of burdensome regulations that will interfere with your efforts to care for patients who may have the coronavirus.

And at the local level, our key partners — the state, regional and metropolitan hospital associations — are doing a great job working with their governors, state legislators, local health officials and others to do the same.

As we continue to confront the COVID-19 challenge, we need all members of the team — individuals, hospital and health system leaders, doctors, nurses, federal, state and local governments, community partners and many more — to work together.

Thank you for being a leader in your community every day ... and now in particular. We will continue to update you and advocate for resources to help you keep your patients, team members and community safe.

Rick Pollack
President and CEO

Today's Headlines

1. • COVID-19 Update: News on coverage, tests and N95 respirators
2. • FDA alerts providers to infusion pump danger
3. • AHA-supported bill would renew CAH demonstration for five years
4. • AHA brief explores how hospitals can use telehealth to drive value
5. • Hospitals add 7,800 jobs in February

[See Full Stories Below](#)

Today's Headlines Continued

1. COVID-19 Update: News on coverage, tests and N95 respirators

America's Health Insurance Plans yesterday [said](#) it is taking action to make sure plans cover COVID-19 diagnostic testing and reduce service barriers, such as prior-authorization and cost-sharing. AHIP also

encouraging the use of telehealth and at-home care to widen access.

Meanwhile, Washington state's Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler also yesterday ordered state health insurers to waive deductibles and copays for COVID-19 testing; suspend prior authorization requirements for treatment or testing; and allow other providers to treat enrollees at no additional cost if an insurer does not have enough medical providers in its network to provide testing and treatment.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has created fact sheets for Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and some individual and small group market private insurance plans that explain coverage for COVID-19-related health care services.

CMS also released a second Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code for laboratories to use to bill for certain COVID-19 diagnostic tests in an effort to increase testing and track new cases. Medicare will accept these codes starting April 1.

LabCorp last night made a COVID-19 test it developed available for clinicians. The qualitative assay using PCR technology is validated for use with respiratory samples, nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs, and bronchoalveolar lavage. Samples should be sent to LabCorp, and patients should not be sent to LabCorp locations for testing. Quest Diagnostics also will launch a molecular-based assay for COVID-19 test service March 9.

President Trump today signed the \$8.3 billion emergency funding bill (H.R. 6074) for COVID-19 response and preparedness. The Department of Health and Human Services yesterday said it will transfer initial funds through the CDC for state and local jurisdictions with the largest COVID-19 response needs.

To encourage manufacturers to immediately increase production of N95 respirators for use by health care professionals while providing reassurance to manufacturers that they will not be left with excess supplies once the COVID-19 response subsides, HHS announced it will purchase 500 million N95s for the Strategic National Stockpile over the next 18 months. In its announcement, HHS says that private sector orders would be filled before the SNS order.

The World Health Organization today said 20 COVID-19 vaccines are in development, and several clinical trials of therapeutics are underway. WHO is monitoring active pharmaceutical components in use in affected countries in case an effective treatment is found using those ingredients.

For the latest information and resources, visit [aha.org/COVID19](https://www.aha.org/COVID19).

2. FDA alerts providers to infusion pump danger

The Food and Drug Administration today reported 55 injuries and one death involving an infusion pump and vital signs monitoring system. Becton Dickinson CareFusion 303 Inc. recalled the Alaris Infusion Pump System and Modules in February due to software and other errors that can delay, speed or interrupt the infusion of medications and other fluids to patients. According to FDA, consumers should follow the manufacturer's recommended actions to help mitigate the potential risk of errors until the software issues have been remediated. Health care providers may report associated adverse reactions or quality problems to FDA's MedWatch reporting program.

3. AHA-supported bill would renew CAH demonstration for five years

Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and John Hoeven, R-N.D., yesterday introduced AHA-supported legislation (S. 3399) that would renew for five years a demonstration project that tests new models of health care delivery for critical access hospitals in the most sparsely populated states. Launched in 2016, the [Frontier Community Health Integration Project](#) aims to better integrate and coordinate care, and reduce avoidable hospitalizations, admissions and transfers to distant providers.

"Critical Access Hospitals serve as essential health care access points for frontier areas, yet geographic isolation and persistently low patient volumes may make some services unsustainable in the context of traditional Medicare payment rules," AHA said in a [letter of support](#). "In response to these unique circumstances, the FCHIP demonstration tests the impact of enhanced payment and opportunities for providing certain services, with the goals of improving access and quality of care and reducing Medicare expenditures."

4. AHA brief explores how hospitals can use telehealth to drive value

Hospitals and health systems are using telehealth services to connect patients to care and health professionals to each other in ways that improve value for patients, communities and regions, according to a new [issue brief](#) by AHA's The Value Initiative. "As they continue to innovate how they provide care, hospitals are seeing the measurable impact they can make by leveraging technology to connect with patients in new ways," the brief notes. "While hospitals and communities have varied telehealth needs, strategically designing a high-value telehealth approach will help hospitals improve outcomes and the patient experience while reducing cost."

5. Hospitals add 7,800 jobs in February

Employment at the nation's hospitals rose by 0.15% in February to a seasonally adjusted 5,257,900 people, the Bureau of Labor Statistics [reported](#) today. That's 7,800 more people than in January and 92,200 more than a year ago. Without the seasonal adjustment, which removes the effect of fluctuations due to seasonal events, hospitals employed 5,250,500 people in February — 5,500 more than in January and 89,600 more than a year ago. The nation's overall unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in February to 3.5%.



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Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/28 21:24:28
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks for the update.

Great new on (B6) !

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 6:57 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6).gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6)@va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The number of U.S. Citizens in the United States with confirmed cases of coronavirus is 61.
- HHS ASPR is having issues with the media targeting individuals using social media to contact officials in an attempt to obtain inside information concerning PPE contracts and supplies.
- HHS is requesting the virtual activation of the following LNOs:
 - ESF 1— Transportation
 - ESF 6 — Mass Care
 - ESF 13 — Public Safety
 - ESF 14 — Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure
 - ESF 15 — External Affairs

EMCC Actions:

- All DEMPS personnel deployed to Travis AFB have returned home safely and the VHA mission there is complete.
- Requested NCA and VBA to participate in joint planning efforts for the Pandemic Base Plan and COVID-19 Annex.
- Distributed updated guidance from CDC on PUIs.
- The IT/Telework COVID-19 workgroup conducted their initial meeting. The workgroup's purpose is to develop plans, policy, procedures and identify any necessary equipment to support the ability of VHA to conduct a small to large telework operation in response to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Workgroups completed draft information document concerning isolation gowns required for COVID-19, based on CDC and FDA documents.
- Workgroups produced Clinical Contact Center Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Screen Instructions, Actions, and Scripting v 2.0 27FEB2020.
- 23,278 unique visits to the forward-facing Public Health Website.
- Developing TTX for VHA leadership.
- Completed shift rotation of OEM field staff into the EMCC.

- (B6) took a day off.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) ll@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Update:

- • HHS – future transfer of asymptomatic positive patients to home isolation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- • One new positive at Travis transferred to hospital, 3 positives transferred to home isolation.
- • HHS is working on a memo to DoD to extend operations at the three military bases.
- • HHS is working on contact tracing for the patient admitted to UC Davis.
- • HHS working on DEMOB plan for low-risk patients currently quarantined in Japan.
- • ASPR asked if CDC is going to change the testing guidance “because the California cases was tested late.”

EMCC Actions:

- • Due to notifications from suppliers the EMCC is developed and provided guidance on the proper use and type of gowns for treating/caring for COVID-19 patients.
- • EMCC will conduct a nationwide conference call with VA Police to bring them up to speed on the COVID-19 response.
- • Discussed PPE prioritization with HHS ASPR leadership. At this time HHS and the COVID-19 Task Force have not made any policy decisions that will drive prioritization, however one is expected as they review the needs. I provided the details of VHA’s request in writing – the ability to treat 5000 patients for 30 days.
- • HHS ASPR leadership did reveal that the COVID-19 Task Force has crunched the numbers and if the worst case scenario develops the US will require 300 million N95s per month to sustain the healthcare system. The manufacturing capabilities to meet that demand does NOT exist.
- • EMCC was made aware of the “possibility” of the San Antonio VAMC receiving repatriated Veterans. There are currently 15 identified Veterans – 9 have tested negative, 4 have refused testing, 1 is being re-tested due to an inconclusive result, 1 Veteran just revealed he is a Veteran and will undergo testing. HHS has not requested VAMC assistance at this time. The contact with the VAMC was through the OEM AEM asking the question, “can you accept a positive Veteran if needed”. I reminded the AEM to call the EMCC prior to any discussions with facilities so we can ensure 1) the Veteran is enrolled and eligible for care, 2) work out any details with HHS prior to involving the VAMC.

- • ALL 6 Veteran enrollees at Travis have tested **negative**!
- • HHS IMT has asked for Chaplain Services for the Veterans at Lackland – the request is for a 15-30 minute service by phone this weekend. The EMCC has placed the request and awaiting a response
- • EMCC will participate on the VHA VA Police call and provide and bring all Chiefs up to date on the current VHA response tomorrow.
- • EMCC is working on securing PPE for RCS and developing a shipment strategy.
- • EMCC has made a request through WMC to meet with and brief the Unions of current VHA response plans and future scenarios should there be a worst case scenario.
- • 25059 unique visits to the Public Health Website

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Lieberman, Steven /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=25138F5D2E734AFA81397F0B357CBCC1-LIEBERMAN, (B6)@va.gov>
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	Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) 3@va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/02/28 21:24:26
Delivered Date:	2020/02/28 21:24:28

From:	Czarnecki, Tammy /o=EXCHANGELABS/ou=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=RECIPIENTS/cn=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e7233376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/29 08:49:35
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks for sharing

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From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 29, 2020, 6:34 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) 2@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6) 1@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>, Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>, MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>, Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Just thought I would share the attached. The opening picture is a recreation – (B6) is our current VHA OEM LNO who has been embedded in the IMT at Travis from day one and has done an outstanding job. He was also an (B6) at Travis. Very special and cool picture.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 6:57 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The number of U.S. Citizens in the United States with confirmed cases of coronavirus is 61.
- • HHS ASPR is having issues with the media targeting individuals using social media to contact officials in an attempt to obtain inside information concerning PPE contracts and supplies.
- • HHS is requesting the virtual activation of the following LNOs:
 - • ESF 1— Transportation
 - • ESF 6 — Mass Care
 - • ESF 13 — Public Safety
 - • ESF 14 — Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure
 - • ESF 15 — External Affairs

EMCC Actions:

- All DEMPS personnel deployed to Travis AFB have returned home safely and the VHA mission there is complete.
- Requested NCA and VBA to participate in joint planning efforts for the Pandemic Base Plan and COVID-19 Annex.
- Distributed updated guidance from CDC on PUIs.
- The IT/Telework COVID-19 workgroup conducted their initial meeting. The workgroup's purpose is to develop plans, policy, procedures and identify any necessary equipment to support the ability of VHA to conduct a small to large telework operation in response to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Workgroups completed draft information document concerning isolation gowns required for COVID-19, based on CDC and FDA documents.
- Workgroups produced Clinical Contact Center Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Screen Instructions, Actions, and Scripting v 2.0 27FEB2020.
- 23,278 unique visits to the forward-facing Public Health Website.
- Developing TTX for VHA leadership.
- Completed shift rotation of OEM field staff into the EMCC.
- (B6) took a day off.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD <(B6)@va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:08 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov; Carroll, William D. (B6)@va.gov; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov

Subject: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS – future transfer of asymptomatic positive patients to home isolation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- One new positive at Travis transferred to hospital, 3 positives transferred to home isolation.
- HHS is working on a memo to DoD to extend operations at the three military bases.
- HHS is working on contact tracing for the patient admitted to UC Davis.
- HHS working on DEMOB plan for low-risk patients currently quarantined in Japan.
- ASPR asked if CDC is going to change the testing guidance “because the California cases was tested late.”

EMCC Actions:

- Due to notifications from suppliers the EMCC is developed and provided guidance on the proper use and type of gowns for treating/caring for COVID-19 patients.
- EMCC will conduct a nationwide conference call with VA Police to bring them up to speed on the COVID-19 response.
- Discussed PPE prioritization with HHS ASPR leadership. At this time HHS and the COVID-19 Task Force have not made any policy decisions that will drive prioritization, however one is expected as they review the needs. I provided the details of VHA's request in writing – the ability to treat 5000 patients for 30 days.
- HHS ASPR leadership did reveal that the COVID-19 Task Force has crunched the numbers and if the worst case scenario develops the US will require 300 million N95s per month to sustain the healthcare system. The manufacturing capabilities to meet that demand does NOT exist.
- EMCC was made aware of the “possibility” of the San Antonio VAMC receiving repatriated Veterans. There are currently 15 identified Veterans – 9 have tested negative, 4 have refused testing, 1 is being re-tested due to an inconclusive result, 1 Veteran just revealed he is a Veteran and will undergo testing. HHS has not requested VAMC assistance at this time. The contact with the VAMC was through the OEM AEM asking the question, “can you accept a positive Veteran if needed”. I reminded the AEM to call the EMCC prior to any discussions with facilities so we can ensure 1) the Veteran is enrolled and eligible for care, 2) work out any details with HHS prior to involving the VAMC.
- ALL 6 Veteran enrollees at Travis have tested negative!
- HHS IMT has asked for Chaplain Services for the Veterans at Lackland – the request is for a 15-30 minute service by phone this weekend. The EMCC has placed the request and awaiting a response
- EMCC will participate on the VHA VA Police call and provide and bring all Chiefs up to date on the current VHA response tomorrow.
- EMCC is working on securing PPE for RCS and developing a shipment strategy.
- EMCC has made a request through WMC to meet with and brief the Unions of current VHA response plans and future scenarios should there be a worst case scenario.
- 25059 unique visits to the Public Health Website

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Czarnecki, Tammy /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7F4012E074AC4891979C9CD6BC08DFA9-CZARNECKI, (B6)@va.gov>
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(B6) i@va.gov>;

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d5d7ac9e4e59421894fed99518788149-Jaastad, De
(B6) @va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/29 08:49:34

Delivered Date: 2020/02/29 08:49:35

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Veteran Cases

- 28 Veterans tested for COVID-19
 - 4 positives
 - 1 at Palo Alto HCS
 - 1 at Southern Nevada HCS- still need CDC confirmation, still in critical condition
 - 1 at Seattle quarantined to home- awaiting more details
 - 1 at Denver VAMC (presumptive, awaiting CDC confirmation)
- 12 tests pending
- 12 Veteran patients under quarantine/self-isolation
- 71 Veterans have been ruled out for COVID-19

Staff

- 2 employees tested for COVID-19
 - 1 negative
 - 1 still pending, in home isolation
- 41 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 20 ruled out for COVID-19

Summary of optimizing VHA Capabilities

Screening at all campuses- locations implementing this continue to increase each day. Expect to be implemented at all sites across VA by this Monday.

Testing – Palo Alto testing lab

- Capability increased to conduct 2000 tests following delivery of more kits
- 5 tests conducted on 3/4 – all negative
- 10 conducted on 3/5 – awaiting results
- Updated for 3/6 and beyond pending
- Many VA's are going to local state labs for their testing needs

From:	MeriTalk <newsletter@meritalk.com>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	[MARKETING] [EXTERNAL] OPM Issues Guidance on Telework Amid COVID-19 Concerns Pres. Trump Hires Rep. Mark Meadows as CoS and more...
Date:	2020/03/10 07:03:50
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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MERITALK READ ALL ABOUT IT

March 10, 2020

COVID-19 **OPM Issues Guidance on Telework Amid COVID-19 Concerns**

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management sent out a memo with additional guidance to Federal agencies on how to respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019.

[READ MORE](#)

WHITE HOUSE **Pres. Trump Hires Rep. Mark Meadows as CoS**

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., has been selected as President Donald Trump's next chief of staff after announcing in December that he will not be seeking reelection.

[READ MORE](#)

CISA **CISA Issues COVID-19 Prep List**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued a practical checklist to help executives "think through" infrastructure protection, supply chain, and cybersecurity issues in light of COVID-19.

[READ MORE](#)

EVENT **CDM Central: Tales from the Front Lines**

Join MeriTalk for CDM Central on May 14 from 7:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to hear from top cyber experts including Kevin Cox, CDM Program Manager, DHS, on the new chapters ahead for the CDM program in FY20 and beyond.

[REGISTER](#)

HUD **HUD Wants Cloud for Legacy Management System**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is seeking out a cloud-based technical solution for a legacy system that's integral to managing HUD's portfolio of homes.

[READ MORE](#)

EPA

Rep. Katko Intros Bill to Establish ARPA-Water

Rep. John Katko, R-N.Y., introduced legislation that would establish an Advanced Research Projects Agency within the Environmental Protection Agency to develop innovative technology to improve water management.

[READ MORE](#)

DEFENSE

DoD Needs to Appoint Digital People Officer

The Defense Innovation Board, a Federal advisory committee, is urging the Department of Defense to appoint a Digital People Officer.

[READ MORE](#)

MeriTalk - P.O. Box 1356 - Alexandria, VA 22313

The email address for you is richard.stone2@va.gov

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Sent Date:	2020/03/10 07:02:26
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Message Flags:	Unread

From:	Powers, Pamela /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6021D9C02594B52BC57194848CA7EF6-POWERS, PAM (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	FW: Executive Brief: Manufacturing capacity for life sustaining ventilators - Philips North America (Coronavirus / COVID-19)
Date:	2020/03/10 07:25:39
Importance:	High
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

FYI. Please pass on to your supply chain folks if it's helpful...

From: Naylor, Nathan (B6) @philips.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 8:24 PM
To: Powers, Pamela (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Brief: Manufacturing capacity for life sustaining ventilators - Philips North America (Coronavirus / COVID-19)
Importance: High

Chief Powers (Pam),

Good seeing you at the VFW Reception last week and I hope you are getting 4 hours of sleep, which is the minimum required for VA COS & Acting DEPSEC during emergencies of national significance. Hey – I don't make the rules...

Per our conversation please find this executive brief to explain what ventilators Philips North America builds here in the US and what our capacity is presently. Everything beneath my signature is additional background that might be needed by VHA and other SMEs.

--

**Coronavirus COVID-19 Preparedness, Response and Recovery Executive Briefing on
Non-Invasive and Invasive Ventilator Manufacturing Capabilities
Philips North America
Monday, March 9, 2020**

Executive Summary:

As you are likely aware Philips medical devices comprise roughly a third of the VHA fleet and have been procured directly and through partners for over 50 years. An example related to the Coronavirus

response is our nine year and counting Tele-ICU program (700ish of VA's 2,200 ICU beds installed and connected tonight.)

Several years ago and informed by previous responses to global health crisis, Philips was asked by the Bio-Medical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to specifically design a new life sustaining ventilator appropriate as a "stockpile" platform. My Philips colleagues were awarded that contract in 2014 to design and manufacture a solution capable of invasive and non-invasive ventilation, for use by infant-adult and in acute-care through home-care settings. The result of this Philips/BARDA program created two stockpile Ventilator versions known as the "Trilogy EVO platform":

1. • The EVO was designed for home-care use and was released three months ago while
2. • The EV300 was designed specifically for institutional use and was just released this month

Philips has manufactured a variety of ventilators used by VA for years and I've included information on our other ventilators also made in the US below. The EVO/EV300 platform is unique in that it was co-developed by Philips with BARDA, not unlike the telehealth solution Philips is currently co-creating with VA for ATLAS – which also has potential use-cases for COVID-19 response.

Lastly Philips North America Hospital Respiratory Care (HRC) manufacturing facilities are located in California and Pennsylvania where assembly and testing of all of our ventilators occurs, specifically greater Pittsburgh, PA and Carlsbad, CA. VA is Philips largest global partner and we have an obligation to flag for the Department that Philips HRC is facing unprecedented global demand for these ventilators. Our HRC team is committed to meeting the needs of all of our clients and have begun adding more manufacturing capacity through additional shifts, duplicating of production lines and additional methods. Before the Coronavirus explosion of demand Philips had the capacity to manufacture around a half million devices per year across our many services lines (Trilogy, Trilogy EVO, BiPAP, etc). Leadership believes our annual capacity could increase by up to ~50% within 6 months if required. I misspoke earlier, I regret to update the Department that our working inventory of ventilators is rapidly depleting and will soon be exhausted. It now appears that we will have a multi week gap between orders and initial delivery. If asked to further increase production of ventilators I know Philips will do our part to get through the coming months of crisis.

I hope this is helpful to you and not alarmist. This is one of those speak-truth-to-power moments, or "Powers" as the case may be... (my apology!)

Very respectfully,

Nathan

--

Nathan Naylor
Vice President for Veterans Healthcare
Philips North America
Mobile: (B6)

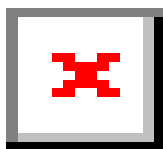


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Coronavirus COVID-19 Preparedness, Response and Recovery Executive Briefing on
Non-Invasive and Invasive Ventilator Manufacturing Capabilities
Philips North America
Monday, March 9, 2020
Appendix – Ventilator Formulary

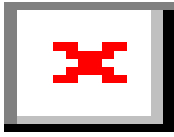
EV300 Combined Non-Invasive and Invasive ventilator- Manufactured in Pittsburgh, PA



-
The EV300 and EVO (Home-Care version) were specifically designed in conjunction with the Bio-Medical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) for a new “stockpile” ventilation platform. Philips was awarded the contract in 2014 to design and manufacture a ventilator capable of Invasive and Non-Invasive ventilation, Infant-Adult and, Acute-Care through Home-Care. The result was the launch of the Trilogy EVO platform and its two platforms. The EVO was designed for Home-Care use and was released in Dec 2019 while the EV300 was designed specifically for institutional use and was released on March 1, 2020.

The Trilogy EV300 ventilator delivers enhanced performance in noninvasive (NIV) and invasive (IV) ventilation, so patients can be treated with a single device throughout their hospital stay, regardless of changing conditions. Comprehensive, advanced NIV auto-titrating therapy modes include AVAPS-AE, and invasive ventilation is available with single- and dual-limb circuits and leak compensation. The Trilogy EV300 ventilator is designed to treat the varying needs of respiratory insufficiency throughout the patient’s stay. The EV300 boasts an industry leading 15-hr battery and unprecedented 70,000 hr blower replacement making it the best in class for transport and emergency operations.

V30 NIV Ventilator – Manufactured in Pittsburgh , PA



The V30 Auto is Philips mid-to-low acuity offering with hospital-grade alarms, a 7-hr battery and nine different modes to support to a variety of respiratory-compromised patients.

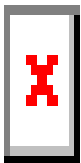
The V30 is often chose as a solution for NIV applications where minimal or no oxygen supplementation is needed, such as:

- NIV on the general floors,
- OSA patients on the general floors
- PACU and interventional areas, during and after procedures for patients with potential OSA and those with diagnosed OSA who may have new pressure needs because of the effect of analgesics or sedatives
- Patients with compromised control and regulation of breathing.

In addition, the V30 Auto uses the same NIV accessories as high-acuity devices, reducing the need for dedicated inventory. This includes bacteria filters, external humidifiers, NIV circuits, and masks. Because the V30 Auto uses terminology that is identical to the Philips-Respironics EV300 and V60 ventilators, clinicians who are familiar with one can easily use the others, reducing the training time.

This product is also affected by the global demands of the COVID-19 health crisis. The V30 is also 6 to 8 weeks from order to receipt by customers. This is also being managed of a FIFO basis.

V60 NIV Ventilator – Manufactured in Carlsbad, CA.



This solution has been widely adopted across the VHA enterprise as an acute care ventilator for Non-Invasive (mask) ventilation. This vent is NOT capable of invasive ventilation but is used to non-invasively ventilate patients with a spontaneous drive to avoid intubation. This product and the therapy of Non Invasive ventilation are the standard of care for COPD and CHF exacerbations or any respiratory impairments (not ARDS) to keep from having to intubate a patient and use invasive ventilation.

Note: Due to the fact that Philips is a Global supplier of this product and the V60 is the world's leading NIV platform, the inventory for V60 here in NA has been challenged due to the global health crisis of the

COVID – 19 Virus. We are working at 2.5 times capacity in our factory and we are building V60's 24 hours a day in Carlsbad. However, the need to manufacture for other markets (China, Italy, Korea) has reduced the number of units available here in the USA. Our normal expected delivery times to customers are 2 to 4 weeks from order to delivery. Across our production lines Philips HRC reports they are now running at 6 to 8 weeks from order intake to delivery. HRC has adopted a FIFO standard (first in/ first out) at present and orders in the queue are being fulfilled but again, it is 6 to 8 weeks lead time.

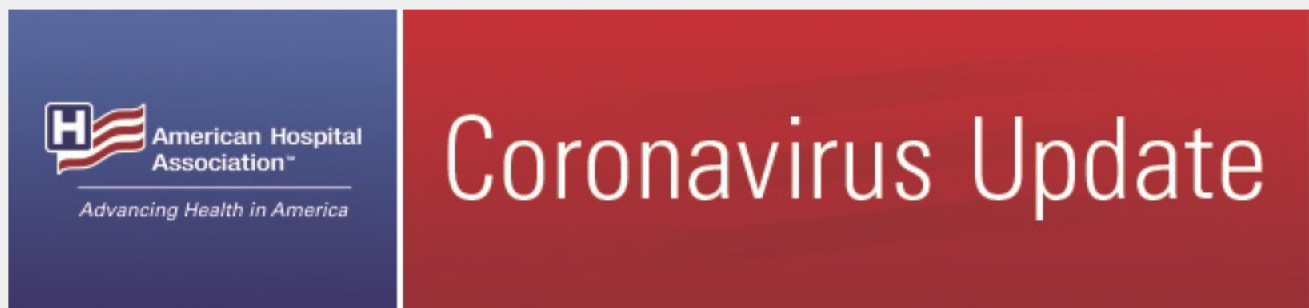
Flag: Unlike much of our catalog Philips HRC ventilators are not directly listed on GSA or FSS contract vehicles. Philips HRC products are sold through the Philips North America government authorized distributor, First Nation.

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Date:	2020/03/03 15:35:15
Priority:	Normal
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AHA Special Bulletin

March 3, 2020

CDC Releases Updated COVID-19 Guidance and Resources for Hospitals and Health Systems

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a number of updated resources and interim guidance documents for hospitals and health systems to prepare for and respond to the possibility of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in their community.

AHA Take: Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, the AHA has worked closely with the CDC, Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies to ensure the hospital field is informed and prepared to respond. The AHA has developed and shared a number of resources, and we update our [COVID-19 webpage](#) daily. In addition, we have developed and [updated talking points](#) with key messages that you can use in your community to discuss COVID-19.

What You Can Do: Please share this advisory with your executive management team, hospital epidemiologist, infection control leadership, emergency department director, emergency preparedness staff, employee health and heads of services (e.g., environmental services, resources and materials managers, hospital engineers, pediatrics and critical care).

See below for a brief description and links to the CDC documents, including tips for consumers and

other COVID-19 updates.

UPDATED CDC RESOURCES AND OTHER COVID-19 INFORMATION

[Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States](#). This guidance outlines goals and strategies for all health care facilities to prepare for and respond to community spread of COVID-19, including escalating actions to take as public health guidance shifts in an evolving outbreak. These include:

- actions to take now to prepare for an outbreak of COVID-19;
- actions to take if COVID-19 is spreading in your community;
- considerations for specific settings, including inpatient and outpatient facilities, as well as long-term care facilities; and
- shifting health care delivery modes during a COVID-19 outbreak, including adjustments to the way providers triage, assess and care for patients using methods that do not rely on face-to-face care, such as promoting the increased use of telehealth.

[Revisions to Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\)](#). CDC has expanded the criteria for identifying PUIs for COVID-19 to include certain symptomatic patients with no known source of exposure.

[Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take Now to Prepare for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). This document outlines steps all health care facilities can take to get ready for an outbreak of COVID-19 in a community, including carrying out basic preparedness activities; communicating with staff and patients; and protecting patients and health care workers.

[Updates to Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#). This updated document offers a series of strategies or options to optimize supplies of disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirators (commonly called "N95 respirators") in health care settings when there is limited supply. In this update, the agency adds information on [Crisis/Alternative Strategies](#) to the previous [information on Conventional](#) and [Contingency Capacity Strategies](#), and includes additional information to expand on strategies, including two new resources:

- [Checklist for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during the COVID-19 Response](#)
- [Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life: Considerations for COVID-19 Response](#)

[Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities \(LTCF\)](#). This document describes general strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in LTCF, including strategies to prevent the introduction of respiratory germs into a facility and to prevent the spread of respiratory germs within a facility.

[Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#). This resource includes steps to protect oneself and the community from COVID-19.

[ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Coding](#). CDC last month released [ICD-10-CM diagnosis coding guidance](#) for COVID-19 infections and deaths, developed with input from the AHA, and plans to release a new [unique diagnosis code](#) for the virus in October.

NEXT STEPS

The AHA will continue to share information with hospitals and health systems, including through written communications, calls and webinars. Please [visit our webpage](#) for the latest information.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please contact Roslyne Schulman at rschulman@aha.org or Nancy Foster at nfoster@aha.org.

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March 3, 2020 | www.aha.org/news

Today's Headlines

1. • FDA expands health care respirator access during coronavirus outbreak
2. • FDA warns of cybersecurity vulnerabilities in medical devices
3. • Hospitals treat patients from tornados in Tenn.
4. • House panel holds hearing on bills to address substance use disorder
5. • AHA comments on proposed rule for 2021 health plans, exchanges
6. • CMS issues state guidance on CHIP behavioral health coverage

[See Full Stories Below](#)

Insights & Analysis



[190x127ph.jpg](#)

AHA: Opinion piece on hospitals' community benefits misleading

Hospitals and health systems have a clear record of community benefit and the numbers to prove it, [writes](#) AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack, responding to a recent New York Times opinion piece that questions the value of their tax exemption. "In 2019, non-profit hospitals provided \$95 billion in value in community benefit programs, according to an analysis conducted by Ernst & Young. Pollack notes. "This eclipses the \$9 billion value of these institutions' tax exemption by a factor of nearly 11 to one."



[190x127ph.jpg](#)

Kaufman: FTC says no to social justice

In this guest blog, Kenneth Kaufman, chair of Kaufman Hall, says the Federal Trade Commission's recent move to stop the proposed merger of Philadelphia-based Jefferson Health and Einstein Healthcare Network is a "misguided approach" to health care. [Read more.](#)

AHA Market Scan: Growing list of investors

MARKET SCAN

[190x127ph.jpg](#)

target physician practices

The latest edition of Market Scan — a newsletter from AHA's Center for Health Innovation — dives into a new AHA report on evolving physician-practice ownership models, including the implications and considerations for hospitals and health system [Read more.](#)

HOUSING AND HEALTH: A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE



ValueInitiative

In collaboration with the Advancement League at the Energizing Health House
South by Southwest Festival, March 14

[AHA](#)

Today's Headlines Continued

1. FDA expands health care respirator access during coronavirus outbreak

Health care personnel may use certain N95 and other respirators approved for use in industrial settings during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak under an emergency use authorization [approved](#) yesterday by the Food and Drug Administration.

"Given the increased demand and supply challenges on the availability of respirators, today's EUA helps to provide alternatives that can enable more health care personnel to have access to this potentially lifesaving personal protective equipment," the agency said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will no longer report the number of patients under investigation for COVID-19, agency officials said at a briefing today, noting that state-reported tallies more up to date.

Nancy Messonnier, M.D., director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said the agency is following a report out of China that on average the virus results in serious illness in 16% of cases, with older individuals and patients with underlying health issues twice as likely to develop serious illness.

In a media briefing today, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [said](#), "Globally, about 3.4% of reported COVID-19 cases have died. By comparison, seasonal flu generally kills far less than 1% of those infected." He also expressed concern about "severe and increasing disruption to the global supply of personal protective equipment."

As the virus continues to spread in the U.S., local communities may start employing tools that encourage social distancing, Messonnier said, noting that CDC continues to recommend that patients with suspected COVID-19 exposure first reach out to their health care providers by telephone or through patient portals.

At a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing today on COVID-19, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, M.D., said India has restricted the export of 26 active pharmaceutical ingredients, which is about 10% of their export capacity. "We are working very closely to look at that to assess how that will affect the supply chain," he said.

Vice President Mike Pence and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar recently [named](#) HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, M.D., to the President's Coronavirus Task Force. The White House also has [asked](#) the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to create a standing committee to provide evidence-based advice on COVID-19 and other emerging disease threats.

CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity will [host a call](#) Thursday at 2 p.m. ET on what clinicians need to know to prepare for COVID-19. For the latest information and resources, visit [AHA coronavirus webpage](#).

2. FDA warns of cybersecurity vulnerabilities in medical devices

The Food and Drug Administration today [said](#) cybersecurity vulnerabilities known as "SweynTooth" could pose a risk to some medical devices, such as pacemakers, glucose monitors and ultrasound equipment that use Bluetooth Low Energy. Manufacturers are assessing and identifying which devices could be at risk, and some microchip manufacturers have released patches. Find a list of affected devices [here](#). FDA will conduct a Response Coordination Call at 2 p.m. ET Wednesday. Join by calling 800-409-8594, participant code 02977.

3. Hospitals treat patients from tornados in Tenn.

Hospitals have treated more than 150 people from tornadoes that swept through middle Tennessee today, killing at least 22 people and causing widespread damage, according to news reports. The state has declared an emergency and first responders continue to search for victims.

4. House panel holds hearing on bills to address substance use disorder

The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee today [held a hearing](#) titled "Combatting an Epidemic: Legislation to Help Patients with Substance Use Disorders."

Witnesses included officials from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Subcommittee members inquired about the status of several not yet implemented provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act and Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act. They also discussed 11 bills to further expand access to substance use disorder treatment, including two bipartisan bills supported by the AHA.

The [Opioid Workforce Act](#) (H.R. 3414/S.2892) would add 1,000 Medicare-funded training positions to approved residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry or pain management over a five-year period. The Ways and Means Committee, which also has jurisdiction over the bill, reported favorably last June.

The [Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act](#) (H.R. 2482/S. 2074) would eliminate a requirement that practitioners apply for a separate waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration to prescribe buprenorphine for SUD treatment.

5. AHA comments on proposed rule for 2021 health plans, exchanges

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' proposed rule on the standards governing health insurance issuers and the Health Insurance Marketplaces for 2021 includes a number of policies that could benefit patients by lowering drug prices and premiums, incentivizing use of high-value services ensuring premium dollars are spent wisely, AHA said in [comments](#) submitted yesterday.

"We are concerned, however, that CMS continues to consider changes to automatic reenrollment, which could result in the loss of coverage for vulnerable enrollees and contribute to marketplace destabilization," AHA said. "We are also concerned about the continued rise in annual cost-sharing limits, which many Americans already struggle to afford."

AHA encouraged the agency to "go further in future rulemaking to advance policies that will not only maintain the status quo but also build on the progress already made. Such policies include substantially increasing funding for outreach and enrollment efforts, extending the open enrollment period, and increasing lower- and middle-income individuals and families' access to premium tax credits."

6. CMS issues state guidance on CHIP behavioral health coverage

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services yesterday issued [guidance](#) to states implementing Section 5022 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act of 2018, which requires all states with separate Children's Health Insurance Programs to cover specific behavioral health-related screening and preventive services for children and pregnant women. The guidance includes a template for submitting CHIP state plan amendments to comply with the section, including requirements to provide these services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner and facilitate use of appropriate screening and assessment tools.



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VA Central Office
Washington, DC

March 6, 2020

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER (OCHCO) BULLETIN

SUBJ: *Updated* Preliminary Guidance during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

UPDATE - As we continue to provide Veteran care and maintain workforce readiness, only mission-critical travel and training will be authorized. Conferences must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether to cancel or proceed.

This OCHCO Bulletin notifies Human Resources (HR) offices of the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) [memorandum](#) providing preliminary guidance to prepare the Federal workforce for the potential impacts of COVID-19. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides this guidance to address telework and mission resilience, domestic and international travel by employees, management of visitors to Federal facilities as well as updated recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Telework and Mission Resilience

To be prepared for COVID-19, VA administrations and staff offices must incorporate telework in their continuity of operations (COOP) plans. If a COOP plan is in operation, that plan "shall supersede any telework policy." Therefore, administrations and staff offices should immediately review their current COOP plans to ensure that telework has been fully incorporated and that as many employees as possible have been identified as telework employees in the plan and are telework capable (or "telework ready").

Mission-Critical Travel and Training

Effective March 6, 2020, only mission-critical (or essential) travel will be permitted until further notice. Travel is mission-critical (or essential) when it is for the purpose of carrying out the mission of VA. Due to VA's unique mission, all travel and training requests must be closely reviewed to ensure approval supports providing care and benefits to Veterans. Travel that is not mission-critical (or essential) may be canceled or disapproved by the employee's supervisory chain of command. Further questions regarding travel support can be directed to the VA Travel Helpdesk at 1-866-533-0188.

Conferences

VA Administrations and Staff Offices/Organizations are required to review conferences, scheduled or planned to occur within the next 60 days, and determine whether to proceed or cancel the event. If Administrations or Staff Offices/Organizations propose to proceed,

authorization is required at the Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or Heads of Staff Offices/ Organizations level.

Domestic Travel

Employees planning domestic travel for personal reasons should routinely check [COVID-19 Information for Travel](#) for information about COVID-19 and take into consideration the location and purpose of their travel.

International Travel

VA employees who have spent time in certain countries or specific regions designated by the [U.S. Department of State as Level 4 \(Do Not Travel\)](#) are advised to stay at home and monitor their health for 14 days after returning to the United States. VA employees should seek medical advice if they become sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing.

VA employees planning to travel to other destinations overseas are advised to individually review up-to-date overseas [travel information for destination countries](#) and the [Emergency Alert for Coronavirus](#) page. Approval for travel to any country outside the continental United States is approved by the Chief of Mission for that country. This is usually the Ambassador or his/her designee. Travel advisories are directly available at [Department of State Travel Advisories](#). Travelers should also consult CDC's [guidelines for the prevention of coronavirus](#) and visit the [CDC Travelers' Health Page](#) for information on specific country health conditions.

Guidance on Visitor Access to Federal Offices and Buildings

The Interagency Security Committee has established standards for day-to-day risk management of Federal facilities. State and Federal health officials are providing ongoing guidance to Federal agencies regarding control and containment of COVID-19 exposure. Based on that health guidance, the Facility Security Committee (FSC) and/or designated official (DO) in each Federal facility has the authority and discretion to set requirements for admission to Federal property. VA facilities should contact their respective FSC or DO for any further developments on visitor access, as well as for any developments related to protection of facilities.

CDC Guidance

The CDC continues to update the American public that the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is low at this time. Nevertheless, VA administrations and staff offices should review their plans and continue their preparations since this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. CDC will provide updated information on the [CDC website](#). Additionally, CDC and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have created a page to highlight resources available for the protection of U.S. workers in all settings. See [CDC/NIOSH worker resources](#).

CDC's [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) may help prevent workplace exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, in non-healthcare settings where it is unlikely that work tasks creates an increased risk of exposure. The guidance includes planning

considerations for widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19. CDC also provides [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

A list of everyday preventive actions to help mitigate the spread of respiratory diseases is available at [CDC Prevention and Treatment Actions](#).

Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4° F [37.8° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours and without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.

The CDC recommends that employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately. Sick employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available).

Additional HR information and resources can be found on the [HR Emergency Resource Center website](#).

Employees should contact their HR office with questions. HR offices with questions regarding this bulletin may be referred to Worklife and Benefits Service at vaco058worklife@va.gov.

Issued by: VA/OCHCO/Worklife and Benefits Service

From:	Connell, Lawrence B. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A3E7233376344045980AD214122389F4-CONNELL, LA (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Bonjorni, Jessica (WMC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0e1e5846dbda448cb7e60b5dca01a9d4-Bonjorni, J (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: OCHCO Bulletin - Updated Preliminary Guidance during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Date:	2020/03/09 16:24:33
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ok, will ask the boss at mail call

From: Bonjorni, Jessica (WMC) (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: OCHCO Bulletin - Updated Preliminary Guidance during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

They intended for any conferences that will proceed to be approved at the EIC level. But if you want to delegate that down, just let us know so the folks who do conference packages know who the sign-off authority is for go/no-go decisions.

From: Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Bonjorni, Jessica (WMC) (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: Re: OCHCO Bulletin - Updated Preliminary Guidance during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

So the way I read this is it's up to local leadership.

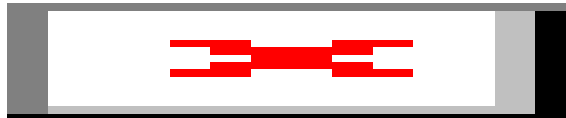
Thoughts?

Larry Connell
Chief of Staff
Veteran's Health Administration
(B6) @va.gov

From: Bonjorni, Jessica (WMC) (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 4:15:24 PM
To: Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov
Subject: FW: OCHCO Bulletin - Updated Preliminary Guidance during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

See below for HRA's guidance with a 60 day timeframe.

From: VACO 058 Worklife (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:19 PM
To: VHA HR 201 Series (B6) @va.gov; VHA HR Managers (B6) @va.gov; HR VBA-WIDE (B6) @vba.va.gov; VA National ER/LR Specialists (B6) @va.gov; NCA HR Supervisors (B6) @va.gov; VACO HR Liaisons (B6) mail.va.gov; VHA 10N Action (B6) @va.gov; VAIOC (B6) @va.gov; VHA 10A3 ACTION (B6) @va.gov
Cc: VACO 058 Worklife (B6) @va.gov
Subject: OCHCO Bulletin - Updated Preliminary Guidance during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



VA Central Office
2020
Washington, DC

March 6,

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER (OCHCO)
BULLETIN**

SUBJ: *Updated* Preliminary Guidance during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

UPDATE - As we continue to provide Veteran care and maintain workforce readiness, only mission-critical travel and training will be authorized. Conferences must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether to cancel or proceed.

This OCHCO Bulletin notifies Human Resources (HR) offices of the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) [memorandum](#) providing preliminary guidance to prepare the Federal workforce for the potential impacts of COVID-19. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides this guidance to address telework and mission resilience, domestic and international travel by employees, management of visitors to Federal facilities as well as updated recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Telework and Mission Resilience

To be prepared for COVID-19, VA administrations and staff offices must incorporate telework in their continuity of operations (COOP) plans. If a COOP plan is in operation, that plan "shall supersede any telework policy." Therefore, administrations and staff offices should immediately review their current COOP plans to ensure that telework has been fully incorporated and that as many employees as possible have been identified as telework employees in the plan and are telework capable (or "telework ready").

Mission-Critical Travel and Training

Effective March 6, 2020, only mission-critical (or essential) travel will be permitted until further notice. Travel is mission-critical (or essential) when it is for the purpose of carrying out the mission of VA. Due to VA's unique mission, all travel and training requests must be closely reviewed to ensure approval supports providing care and benefits to Veterans. Travel that is not mission-critical (or essential) may be canceled or disapproved by the employee's supervisory chain of command. Further questions regarding travel support can be directed to the VA Travel Helpdesk at 1-866-533-0188.

Conferences

VA Administrations and Staff Offices/Organizations are required to review conferences, scheduled or planned to occur within the next 60 days, and determine whether to proceed or cancel the event. If Administrations or Staff Offices/Organizations propose to proceed, authorization is required at the Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or Heads of Staff Offices/ Organizations level.

Domestic Travel

Employees planning domestic travel for personal reasons should routinely check [COVID-19 Information for Travel for](#) information about COVID-19 [and take into consideration the location and purpose of their travel.](#)

International Travel

VA employees who have spent time in certain countries or specific regions designated by the [U.S. Department of State as Level 4 \(Do Not Travel\)](#) are advised to stay at home and monitor their health for 14 days after returning to the United States. VA employees should seek medical advice if they become sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing.

VA employees planning to travel to other destinations overseas are advised to individually review up-to-date overseas [travel information for destination countries](#) and the [Emergency Alert for Coronavirus](#) page. Approval for travel to any country outside the continental United States is approved by the Chief of Mission for that country. This is usually the Ambassador or his/her designee. Travel advisories are directly available at [Department of State Travel Advisories](#). Travelers should also consult CDC's [guidelines for the prevention of coronavirus](#) and visit the [CDC Travelers' Health Page](#) for information on specific country health conditions.

Guidance on Visitor Access to Federal Offices and Buildings

The Interagency Security Committee has established standards for day-to-day risk management of Federal facilities. State and Federal health officials are providing ongoing guidance to Federal agencies regarding control and containment of COVID-19 exposure.

Based on that health guidance, the Facility Security Committee (FSC) and/or designated official (DO) in each Federal facility has the authority and discretion to set requirements for admission to Federal property. VA facilities should contact their respective FSC or DO for any further developments on visitor access, as well as for any developments related to protection of facilities.

CDC Guidance

The CDC continues to update the American public that the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is low at this time. Nevertheless, VA administrations and staff offices should review their plans and continue their preparations since this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. CDC will provide updated information on the [CDC website](#). Additionally, CDC and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have created a page to highlight resources available for the protection of U.S. workers in all settings. See [CDC/NIOSH worker resources](#).

CDC's [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) may help prevent workplace exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, in non-healthcare settings where it is unlikely that work tasks creates an increased risk of exposure. The guidance includes planning considerations for widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19. CDC also provides [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

A list of everyday preventive actions to help mitigate the spread of respiratory diseases is available at [CDC Prevention and Treatment Actions](#).

Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4° F [37.8° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours and without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.

The CDC recommends that employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately. Sick employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available).

Additional HR information and resources can be found on the [HR Emergency Resource Center website](#).

Employees should contact their HR office with questions. HR offices with questions regarding this bulletin may be referred to Worklife and Benefits Service at vaco058worklife@va.gov.

Issued by: VA/OCHCO/Worklife and Benefits Service

Sender:	Connell, Lawrence B. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A3E7233376344045980AD214122389F4-CONNELL, LA (B6) @va.gov>
Recipient:	Bonjorni, Jessica (WMC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0e1e5846dbda448cb7e60b5dca01a9d4-Bonjorni, J (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/09 16:24:31
Delivered Date:	2020/03/09 16:24:33



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness

Coronavirus COVID-19

9 March 20201500 ET

DisasterAssistance.gov



AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

000655

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000583



Agenda

- Roll CallOpening
RemarksCurrent
StateTravel
AdvisoriesRisk
AssessmentCurrent
Priorities
- 4th MissionNew
GuidanceNew
Initiatives CIRsOps
RhythmClosing
Remarks



Roll Call

OSP HRA

VHAVBA

NCA

OCLA OIT

OGC

OPIA

OM

OSLE

OS

OALC



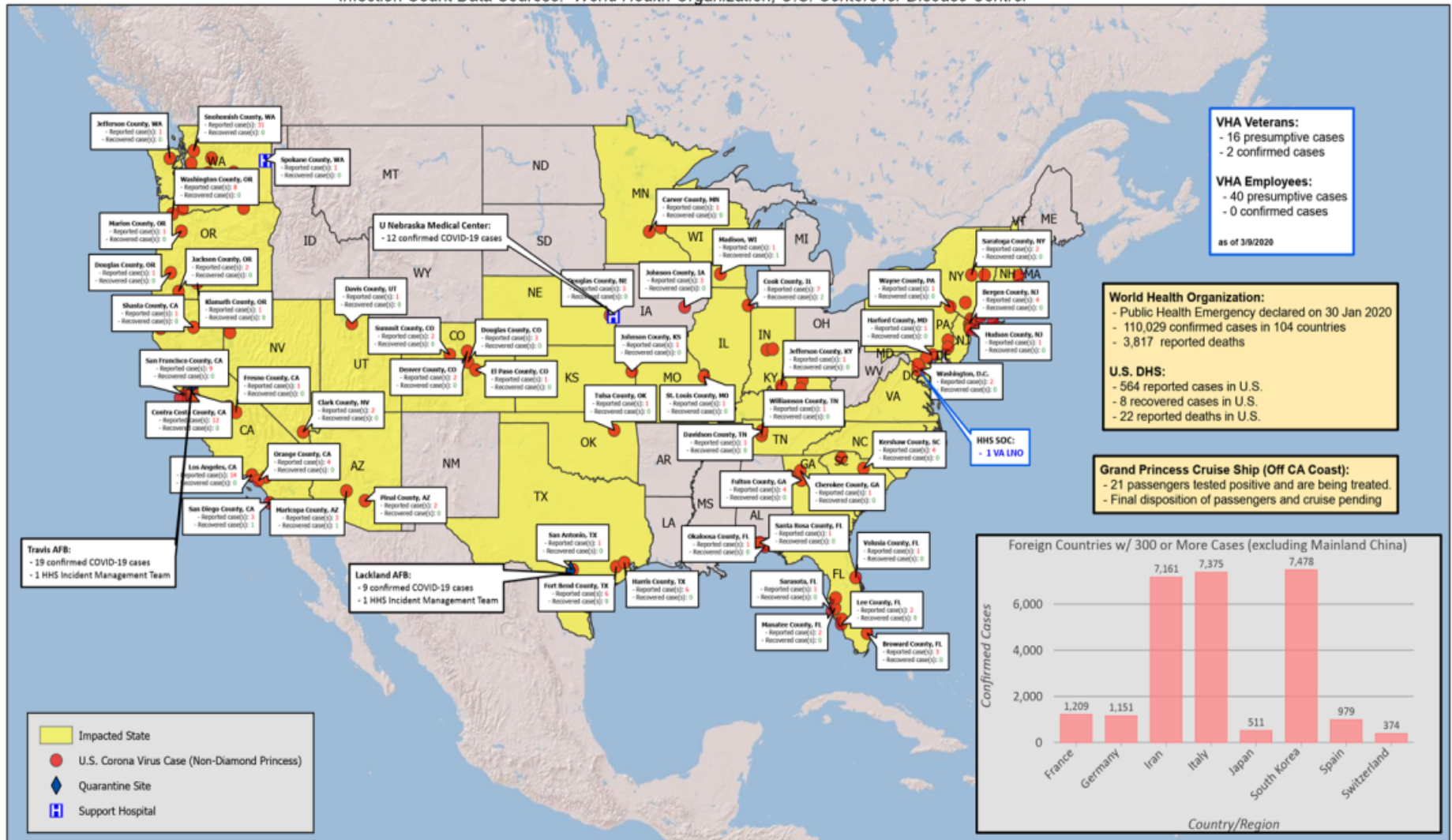
Current State

- 09 Mar, the WHO is reporting 110,315 confirmed cases globally and 3,841 deaths, throughout 107 countries. DHS reports the total U.S. cases is 564 confirmed cases across 27 states and territories; 22 total deaths: WA (19), FL (2) and CA (1). The GRAND PRINCESS cruise ship docked at Oakland Inner Harbor today at 1200 ET. U.S. passengers will be transported to DOD installations for quarantine (CA residents will be housed at Travis AFB and MCAS Miramar; non-CA residents will be housed at Lackland AFB, TX and Dobbins ARB, GA).



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impacts - 3/9/2020 as of 1400

Infection Count Data Sources: World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control



Created on: 3/9/2020 at 2:15 PM
Created by: VAIOC

000659

Unclassified - VA Sensitive

Document: Coronavirus
Data Sources: WHO, CDC, VA

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000587



CDC Travel Advisories

- Warning Level 3 Avoid Nonessential Travel: China, South Korea, Italy, Iran If you spent time in Level 3 areas during the past 14 days, stay home for 14 days from the time you left the area and practice social distancing. Alert Level 2 Practice Enhanced Precautions: Japan If you spent time in Japan during the past 14 days, limit contact with others and monitor your health for 14 days after returning to the U.S. CDC recommends travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, defer all cruise ship travel worldwide if you were on a cruise in the past 14 days, monitor your health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the U.S. If a case of COVID-19 was reported on your ship during the cruise, stay home 14 days and practice social distancing.



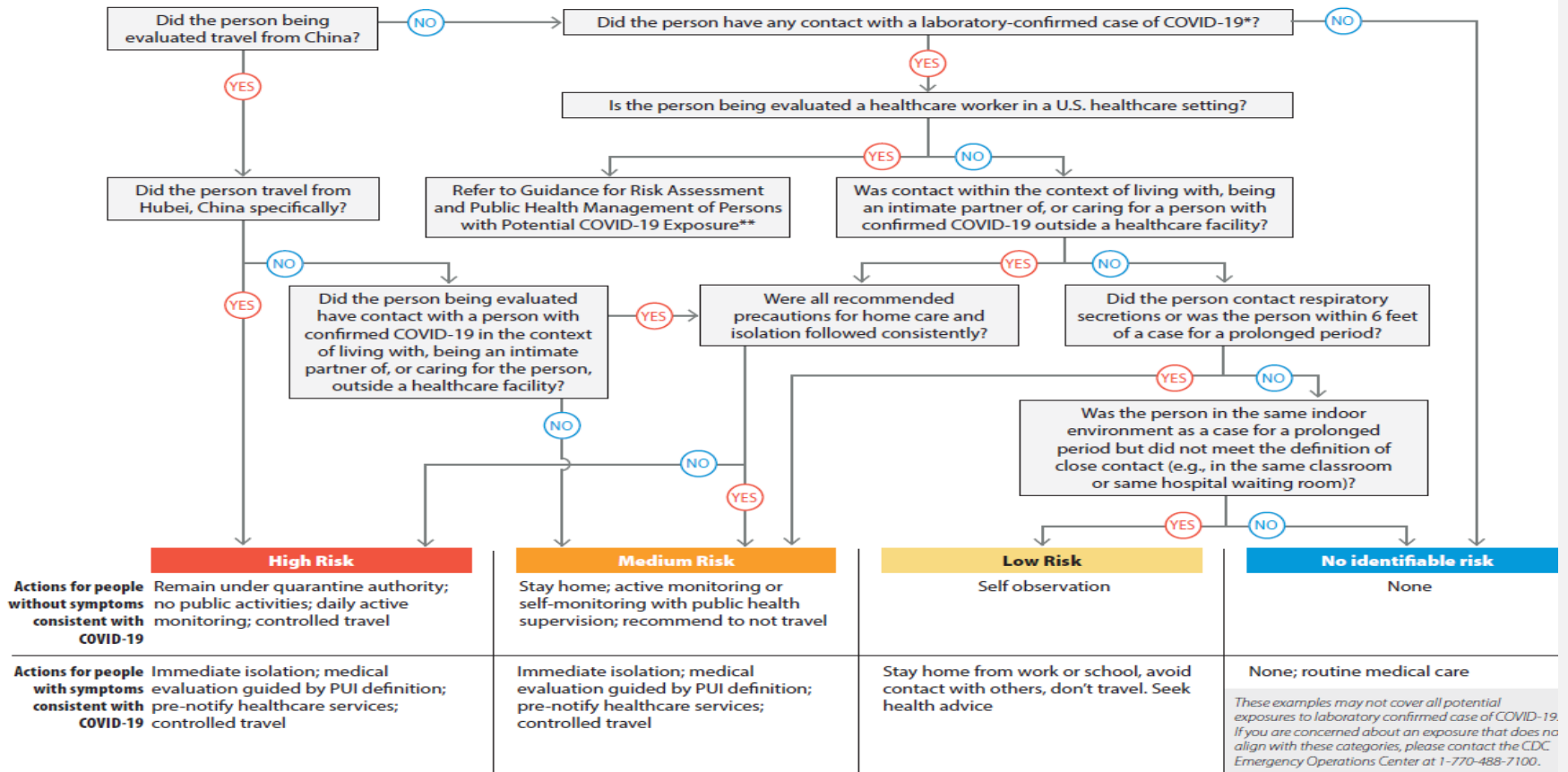
COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Risk Assessment and Public Health Management Decision Making

Each question refers to within the past 14 days



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



*Or a case diagnosed clinically with COVID-19 infection outside of the United States who did not have laboratory testing

**Healthcare provider (HCP) guidance outlines risk categories to determine work exclusion and monitoring procedures. After identifying risk category in the HCP guidance, use the categories outlined here to determine quarantine requirements.

02/28/20

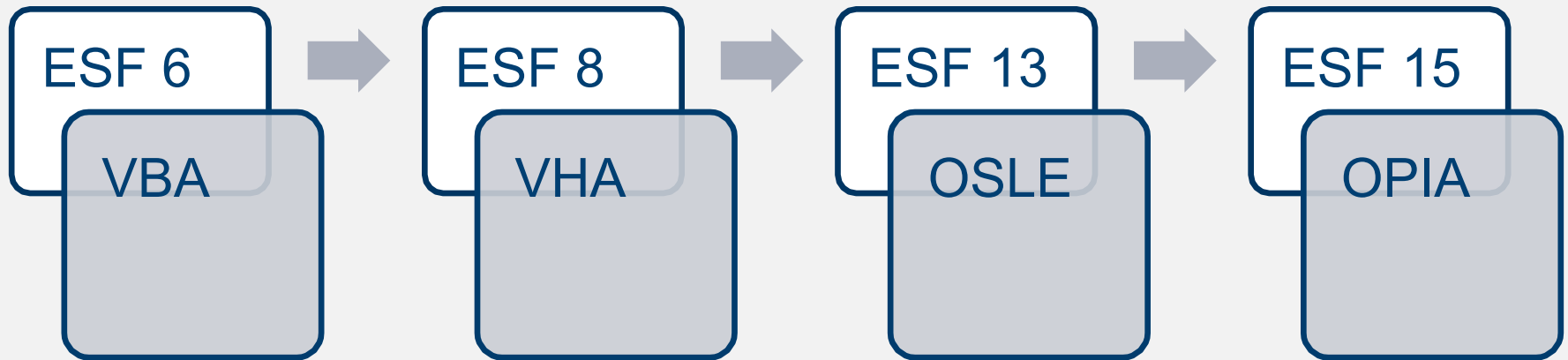


Current Priorities

- Work Force (Employees, Contractors, Volunteers, Affiliates)
ReadinessAdministrative ReadinessNetwork Readiness Facilities
ReadinessMessagingVeteran OutreachFourth Mission



Active Emergency Support Functions (ESF)





New Guidance

- Chief Human Capital Officer



New Initiatives

- VHAVBANCAOITCHCOHRA/OSPOSLEOGCOALCOCLAOMOPIA
MessagingOS

Questions/Resources Needed



Critical Information Requirement

- Employees, Veterans Access/non-Veterans Positive COVID-19 in Veterans Affairs Health Care System Under Investigation for COVID-19 Self-Quarantined Due to Possible COVID-19 Exposure CDC Quarantine (Cruise Ship, Repatriated Citizens) Tested Presumptive Positive for COVID-19 Operational Disruptions Due to COVID-19 Challenges Logistical Challenges Due to COVID-19



Ops Rhythm

TIME	EVENT	OPR
0700	VAIOC Shift Turnover	OSP
0815	HHS SOC Operations Coord Call	HHS
~1000	VA SITREP Published	OSP
~1200	SECVA Daily COVID-19 Placemat	OSP
1230	NICCL Call	National JIC
1100 (Th)	ESF8 Conference Call	VHA
1230 (Tu)	HHS Interagency VTC	OSP
1300 (Daily)	A/SO updates due	All
1430 (Wed)	Domestic Resilience Group SVTC (Restricted)	OSP
1500 (Daily)	Crisis Response Team (CRT) Meeting	OSP
1700 (Daily)	CRT Meeting Minutes Distributed	OSP
1900	VAIOC Shift Turnover	OSP



Closing Remarks

- Due-outsNext meeting Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 1500
ETClosing Remarks

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

COVID-19

Crisis Response Team
1500 ET, Thursday, March 09, 2020

ROLL CALL

OFFICE	PRESENT
VHA	X
VBA	X
NCA	X
OIT	X
HRA/OSP	X
OSLE	X
OGC	X
OALC	X
OCLA	X
OM	X
OS	X
OPIA Messaging	X

OPENING REMARKS

- Let's get to it.

SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 Background/Current State

- 09 Mar, the WHO is reporting 110,315 confirmed cases globally and 3,841 deaths, throughout 107 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases is 564 confirmed cases across 27 states and territories; 22 total deaths: WA (19), FL (2) and CA (1).
- The GRAND PRINCESS cruise ship docked at Oakland Inner Harbor today at 1200 ET.
- U.S. passengers will be transported to DOD installations for quarantine (CA residents will be housed at Travis AFB and MCAS Miramar; non-CA residents will be housed at Lackland AFB, TX and Dobbins ARB, GA).

Statement: (B6) The COVID-19 Risk Assessment model is something we should be using.

Statement: (B6) is now a daily 1200 call with the Deputies. They are putting together a MAX.gov page to share information. Some agencies are taking their laptops home every day. We should consider this as well. There is a large lead time on items like hand sanitizer, etc, so some employees in other agencies are asked to use their own at home by teleworking.

PRIORITIES

- Work Force (Employees, Contractors, Volunteers, Affiliates) Readiness
- Administrative Readiness
- Network Readiness
- Facilities Readiness
- Messaging
- Veteran Outreach
- Fourth Mission

Question: What kind of messaging?

Answer: CDC approved guidance which tells you what to do if you think you are exposed, etc.

Statement: We need to ensure all messaging is synched. VHA has been working on this with OPIA.

ACTIVE EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

- We support ESF 6 with VBA, ESF 8 with VHA, ESF 13 with OSLE, ESF 15 with OPIA.

Statement: We are looking not just at leads but also all the support. OSP is the tip of the spear for the response.

NEW GUIDANCE

- Chief Human Capital Officer: More messages are going out. We met with VHA and OIT. There is a lot of information going out about telework as well. We are looking at all of that and how it would affect VA. We are still working on travel restrictions.

Statement: Stay home when you are sick. Self-quarantine if you think you need to. We may never get exact guidance on when and where to travel. You will have to make those decisions. Absent specific guidance you will have to run risk mitigation on your own.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF OFFICES/QUESTIONS-RESOURCES

VHA: We closed our community living center (CLC) to visitors. Also looking at the high risk population, PTSD Centers, etc. Moved from passive to active screening in most facilities. Ordering more isolation gowns. Looking to get some PAPRs. Have three AEMS deployed and are expecting patients from the Grand Princess cruises. We have identified some veterans on the ship, including a WW2 Veteran.

VBA: We are concerned with a narrative saying we are not serving Veterans. We have employees going out to people's homes, including special adaptive agents. We don't have screening abilities to protect the employee nor the Veteran. We are talking to VHA about screening people who come into facilities as well as screen employees. We are having daily calls with the 56 offices to see the challenges they are having. We want to make sure they are in line with current directions. We have eight overseas military coordinators, including Italy. I am not sending over anyone new. We are asking folks to stay or come back and be quarantined. There may be a gap in providing services so we will work with DoD.

NCA: Audio dropped out.

OIT: Will track CAG access, though it may not be by office, rather by name.

Question: Does the VSAT bandwidth count against the total department bandwidth?

Answer: Will ask.

CHCO: Nothing else to report.

HRA/OSP: Nothing else to report.

OSLE: Training is up and running so all officers will be tasked to complete on their next shift. Thank you to OGC for their guidance.

OGC: Contact us for legal guidance.

OALC: Messaging is coming out to the contractors spelling out guidance. This is much like it would be for a shut-down.

OCLA: Nothing to report.

OM: Working on costs estimates for future needs for submission tomorrow. We are still doing our weekly submissions on ongoing spending.

OS: Nothing to report.

OPIA Messaging: Nothing to report.

CRITICAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENT

- Employees, Veterans Access/non-Veterans
 - Positive COVID-19 in Veterans Affairs Health Care System
 - Under Investigation for COVID-19
 - Self-Quarantined Due to Possible COVID-19 Exposure
 - CDC Quarantine (Cruise Ship, Repatriated Citizens)
 - Tested Presumptive Positive for COVID-19
- Operational Disruptions Due to COVID-19 Challenges
- Logistical Challenges Due to COVID-19

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Due-outs**
 - A/SOs please provide alternate POCs to the VAIOC.
 - A reporting tool will be sent out in conjunction with VHA to assist with all reporting.

NEXT CALL

1500 ET, Tuesday, March 10, 2020



Veterans Health Administration

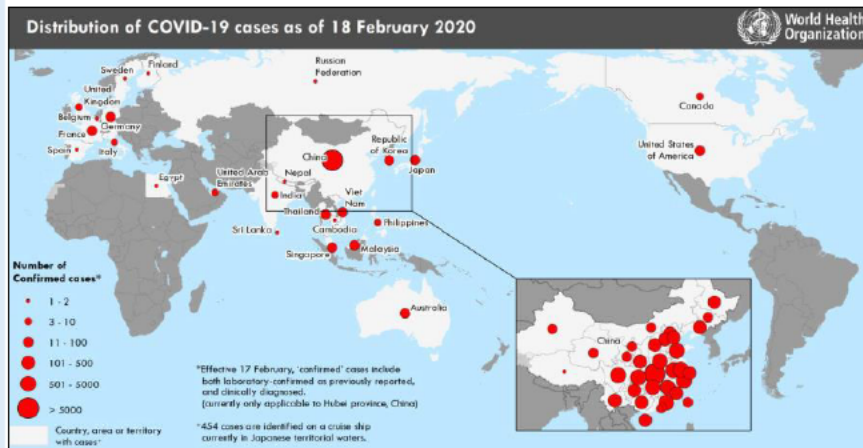
Senior Leadership Brief: 18 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 73,332 (+1,901) and the total number of confirmed deaths is now 1,870 (+98). According to the WHO, there are now 804 (+10) confirmed cases outside China in 25 countries with 3 deaths reported. On Thursday, Feb. 20, Russia will suspend the entry of Chinese citizens into the country due to the coronavirus outbreak. This includes Chinese citizens traveling to Russia for employment, tourism and education. The Diamond Princess cruise ship, docked in Yokohama, Japan will have its quarantine end on Wednesday, Feb. 19. Roughly 500 passengers who have tested negative and are asymptomatic will be allowed to leave.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 1800, the number of U.S. citizens with confirmed cases of the coronavirus is 29. There are 26 active cases and 3 people have recovered.
- There are now 950 people located at the (5) U.S. quarantine sites.
- Diamond Princess cruise ship: Yokohama, Japan: On Monday, Feb. 17, two (2) Department of State coordinated repatriation flights transferred a total of 335 American citizens to the U.S.; included 14 passengers with confirmed coronavirus cases.
 - Flight 1: 177 passengers were flown to Travis AFB, CA. (5) passengers with confirmed coronavirus cases were relocated to local hospitals for isolation. (3) additional passengers tested positive and were flown to Omaha, NE.
 - Flight 2: 158 passengers were flown to Omaha, NE. (6) passengers with confirmed coronavirus cases were relocated to local hospitals.
- Westerdam Holland American cruise ship: Cambodia.
 - 652 American Citizens were onboard.
 - 300 citizens departed Cambodia; includes (1) citizen that is now located in Malaysia that has tested positive for the coronavirus.
 - 260 American citizens tested negative and are now lodged in a local hotel and awaiting flights to depart the country.
 - 92 American citizens remain on the ship.

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**; Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (6) Nursing Assistants onsite at Travis AFB.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) will continue to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.



Buses carrying American evacuees from the Diamond Princess cruise ship leave the runway at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on Feb. 17 in San Antonio, Texas. (Getty)

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000601

UNCLASS//FOUO

VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0268

Significant Activities

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Monday, Feb. 17: Website has been visited 20,577 (+1,087) times with 19,151 (+1,010) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Friday, Feb. 14: 93 Questions submitted; 62 Answered; 31 Being reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SME).



Checking for signs of COVID-19, a medical worker in a protective suit checks the temperatures of people who were on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship as they fly on a chartered evacuation plane from Japan to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. (Reuters)

000499



CURRENT Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases with Veteran Population Density - 2/18/2020

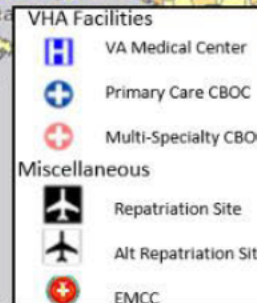
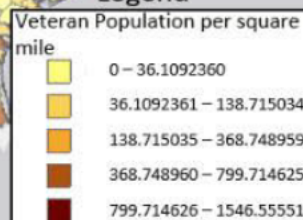
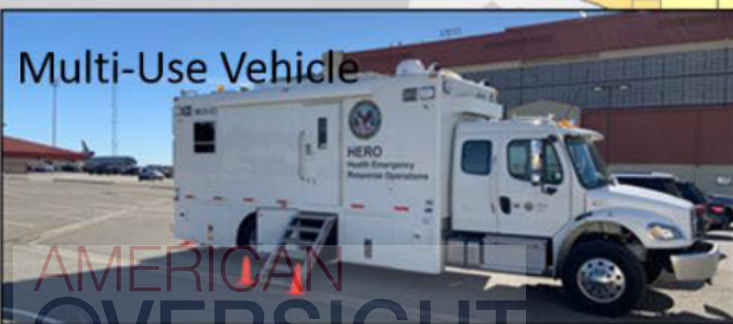
(B6)

1 Number of Confirmed Cases out
29 US confirmed cases
*Recovered cases are NOT depicted

1 x REM
1 x Public Affairs
1 x EMA
4 x AEM

6 x DEMPS
1 x Multi-Use Vehicle
1 x Logistics Support Vehicle (LSV)
2 x AEM

City	St	Active	Recovered
Tempe	AZ	1	
Los Angeles	CA	1	
Orange	CA	1	
San Benito	CA	2	
Santa Clara	CA	2	
San Diego	CA	2	
*Chicago	IL	0	2
Boston	MA	1	
San Antonio	TX	1	
*Seattle	WA	0	1
Madison	WI	1	
Fairfield	CA	5	
Omaha	NE	9	
Atlanta	GA	0	3



MULTI-VA VHA-20-0471-A000602

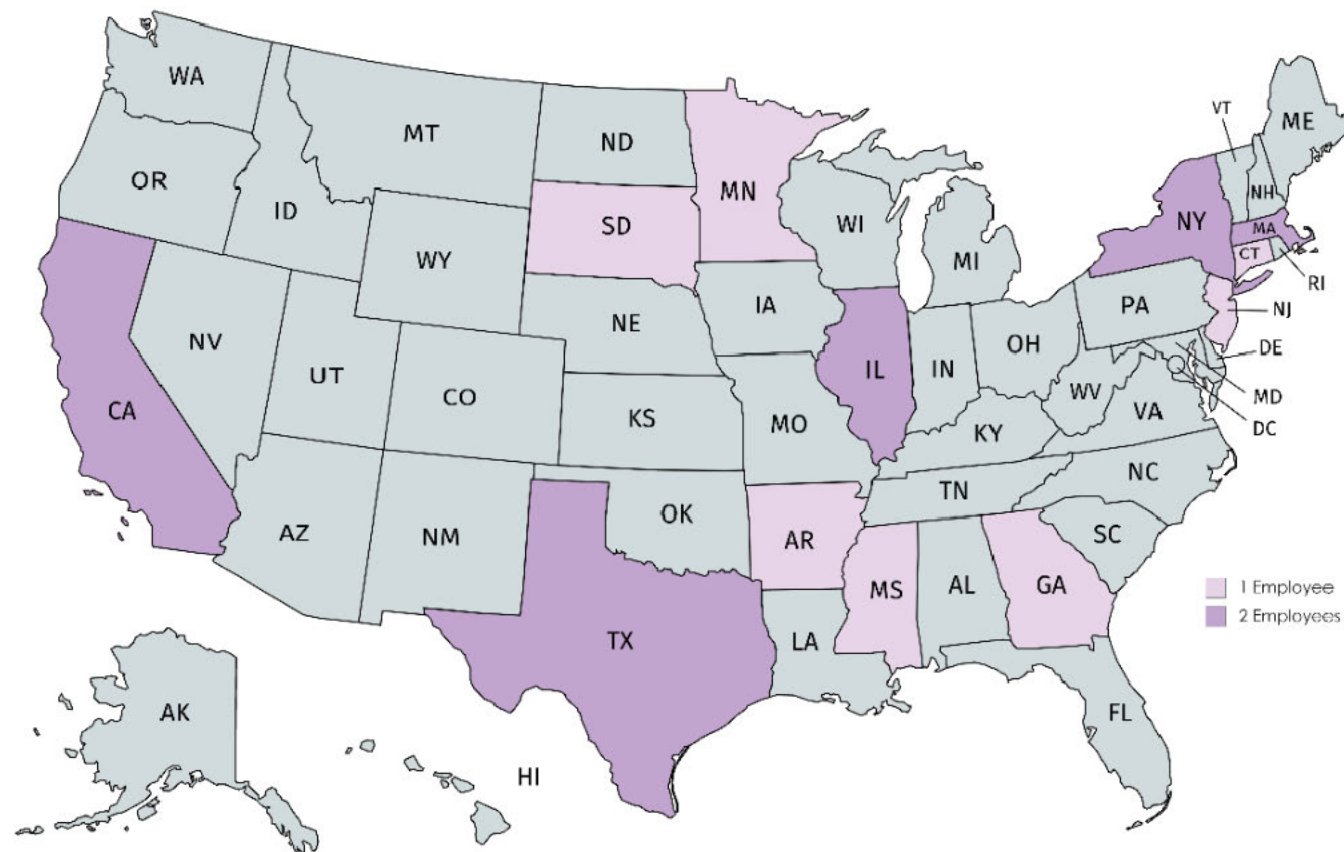
Data Sources: VA, WHO, CDC

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/18/2020

Status of employees screened
(N = 19):*

- 1 in home quarantine
- 14 completed home quarantine or work under supervision

*0 new in last 72 hours



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net

Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHAID=0471&NOI=000603> for chart review verification for Veterans.

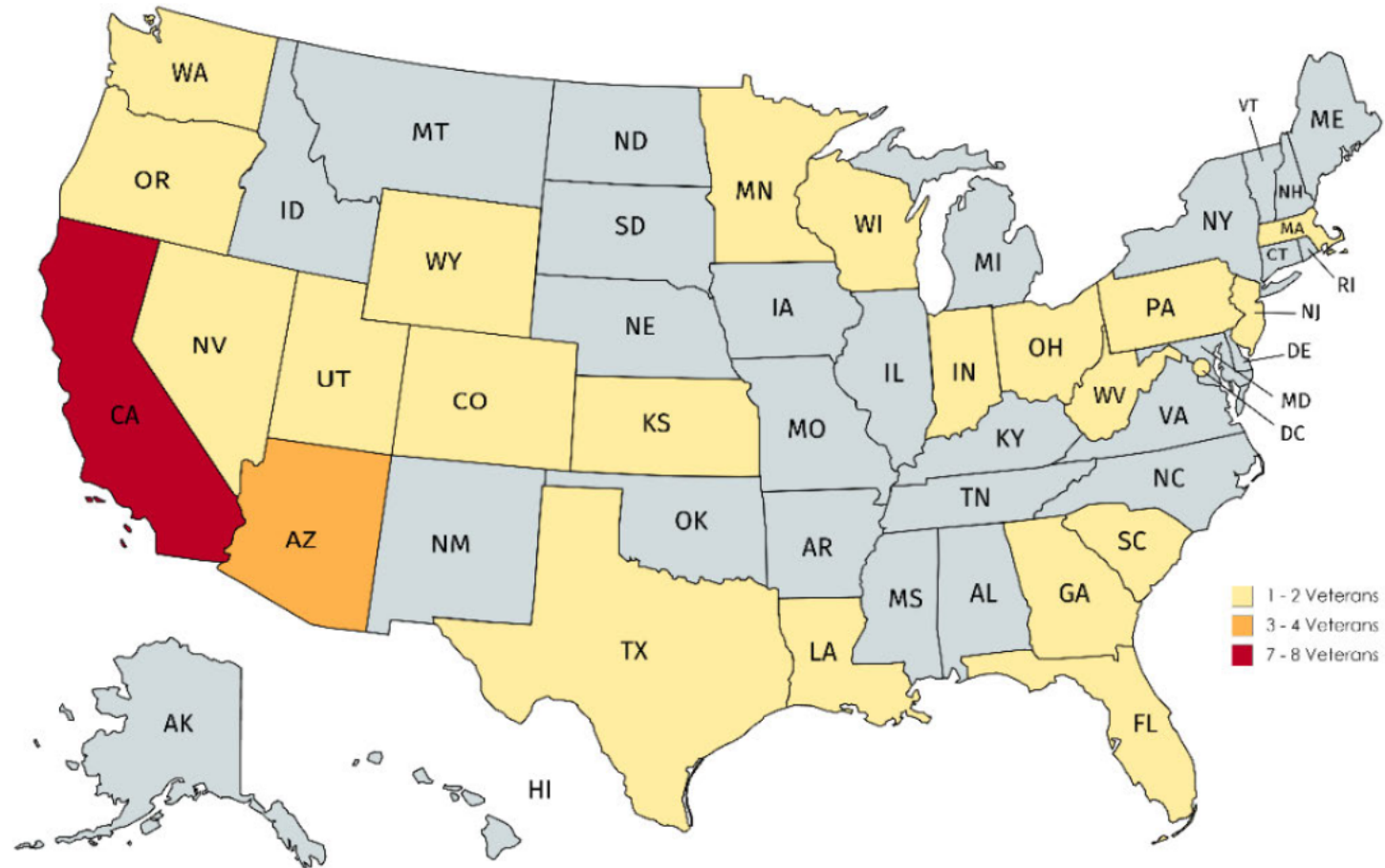
VHA Veterans Screened
for Possible Exposure to
COVID-19 as of 2/18/2020

Status of Veterans screened
(N =37):*

- 2 Veterans tested for COVID-19 – NEGATIVE (one of whom was in home isolation and is now removed)
- 35 ruled out for PUI**

*2 new in last 72 hours

****PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19**



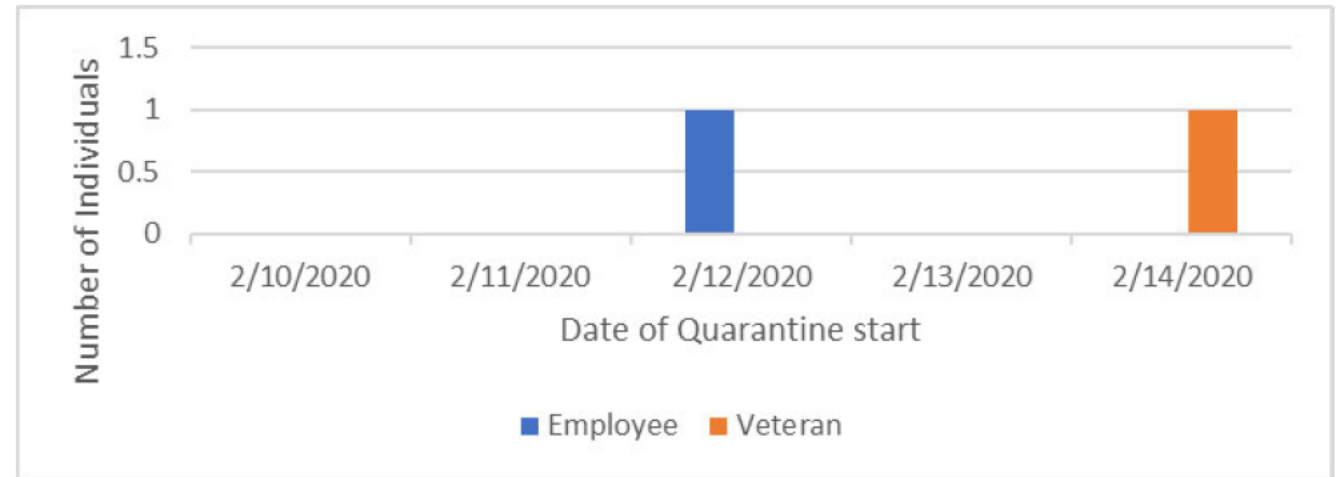
Created with mapchart.net &

Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHA=290471-A000604> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 2/18/2020

N = 2*
(1 Employee,
1 Veteran patient)

*1 new Veteran patient added; 0 new employees
added in last 72 hours.
4 employees completed home isolation in last 72
hours.





Veterans Health Administration

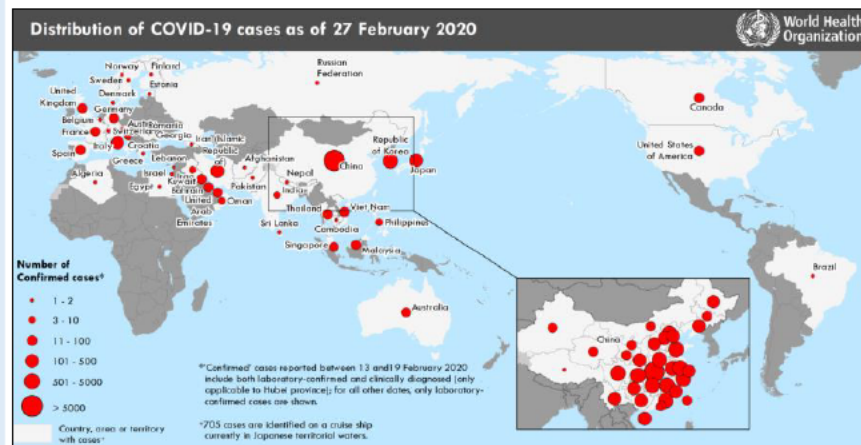
Senior Leadership Brief: 27 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 82,294 (+1,185) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is 2,747 (+29). According to the WHO, there are now 3,664 (+746) confirmed cases outside China in 46 countries (+9 – Brazil, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, and North Macedonia) with 57 (+13) deaths reported. On Thursday, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in South Korea rose to 1,766 indicating the virus was spreading faster in the country than in China where it originated. This prompted the country to place itself on the highest possible alert, suspend all nonessential military training, including planned exercises with the United States, and place more than 9,500 troops under quarantine. Though Saudi Arabia has not reported any coronavirus cases, the country suspended the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and other holy sites, when millions of Muslims make the Hajj.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Thursday, Feb. 27, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 60 (NC).
- CDC indicated Tuesday that they would consider expanding screening at U.S. airports to include travelers coming from countries like Italy and South Korea where the number of confirmed coronavirus cases has dramatically increased.
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases initiated a clinical trial to test a rapidly developed coronavirus vaccine. Initial results may not be available until July or August 2020. The institute also initiated a clinical trial for a new antiviral drug at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where 13 U.S. citizens from the Diamond Princess cruise ship are receiving care.
- A 23 year old U.S. soldier in South Korea has tested positive; currently off base in self-quarantine near the southeastern City of Daegu where most of the cases in the country have occurred.
- 83 people in Nassau County, New York who were recently in China are in voluntary isolation out of precaution.

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level 1**; Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Lackland AFB, TX.
 - DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (5) Nursing Assistants onsite at Travis AFB.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) extended until March 3 to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.



Waiters stand by an empty restaurant in Venice's St. Mark's Square, which would normally be full of tourists, as a coronavirus outbreak grows in Italy. (Reuters) The number of confirmed coronavirus cases increased to 650 in Italy on Wednesday with 17 deaths. The rapid growth of cases in Italy promoted the U.S. Department of State to issue a Level 2 travel advisory to "exercise increased caution."

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000606

UNCLASS//FOUO

VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0268

Significant Activities

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Wednesday, Feb. 26: Website has been visited 25,059 (+1,252) times with 23,278 (+1,136) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Thursday, Feb. 27: 127 Questions submitted; 97 Answered; 30 Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).



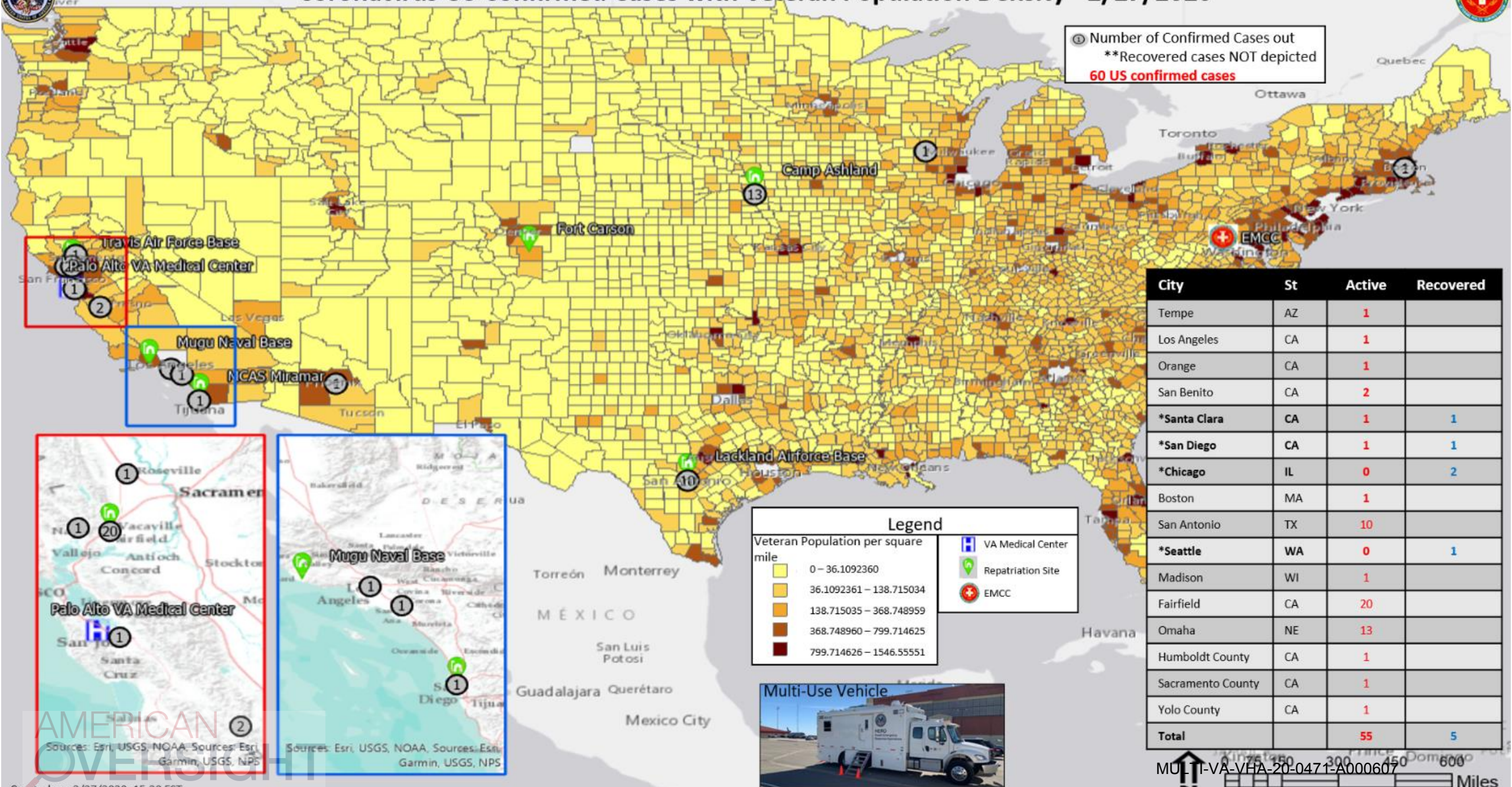
Children in a park in Tokyo, Japan. (Reuters) The Prime Minister of Japan suspended classes nationwide until the end of March to decrease exposure to the coronavirus.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases with Veteran Population Density - 2/27/2020

① Number of Confirmed Cases out
**Recovered cases NOT depicted
60 US confirmed cases



City	St	Active	Recovered
Tempe	AZ	1	
Los Angeles	CA	1	
Orange	CA	1	
San Benito	CA	2	
*Santa Clara	CA	1	1
*San Diego	CA	1	1
*Chicago	IL	0	2
Boston	MA	1	
San Antonio	TX	10	
*Seattle	WA	0	1
Madison	WI	1	
Fairfield	CA	20	
Omaha	NE	13	
Humboldt County	CA	1	
Sacramento County	CA	1	
Yolo County	CA	1	
Total		55	5

Legend

Veteran Population per square mile

0 – 36.1092360

36.1092361 – 138.715034

138.715035 – 368.748959

368.748960 – 799.714625

799.714626 – 1546.55551

VA Medical Center

Repatriation Site

EMCC



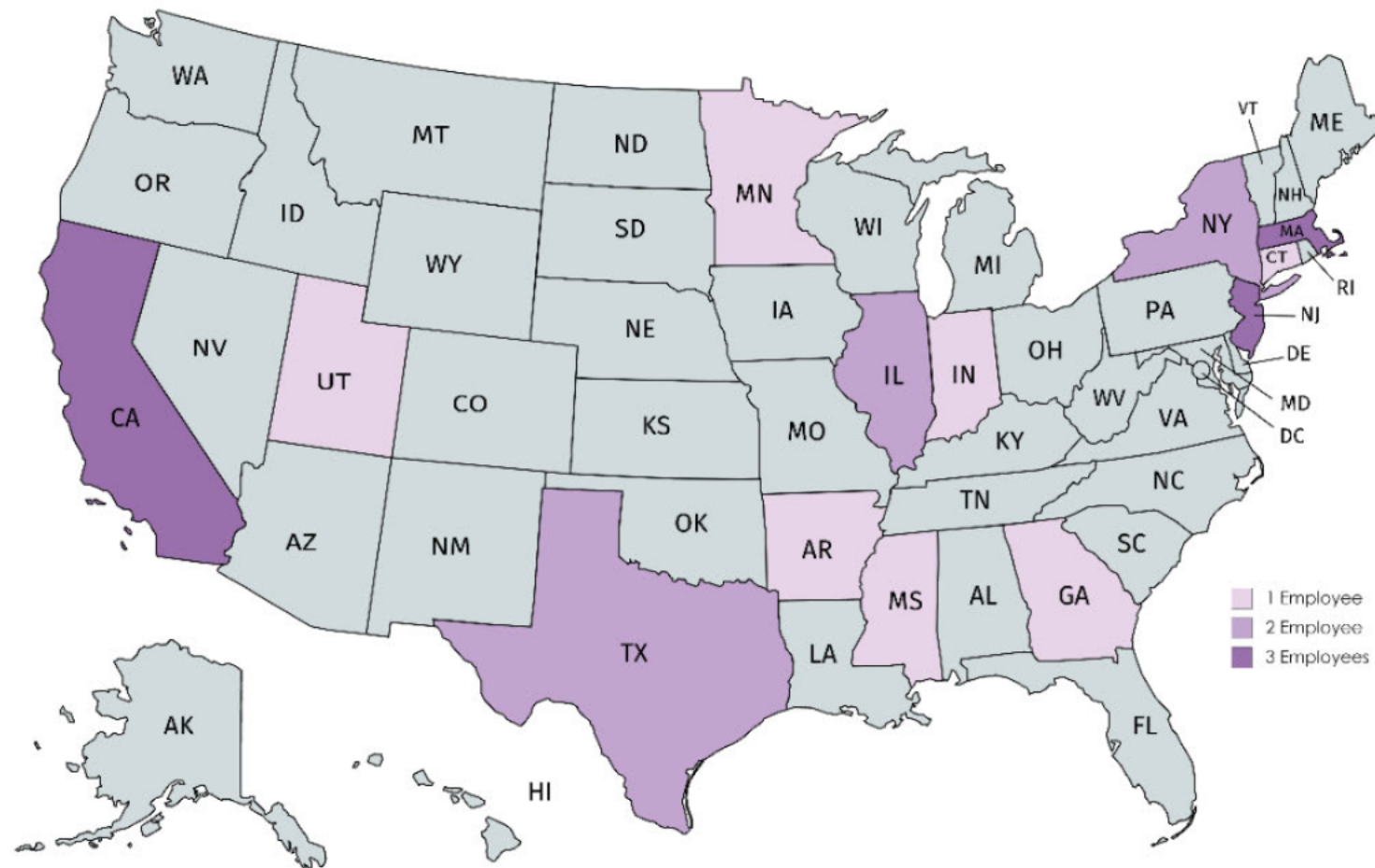
MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000607

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/27/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 25):*

- 5 in home quarantine
- 13 completed home quarantine or work under supervision

*1 new in last 24 hours



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net ©

Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlittappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHAID=04714000608> for chart review verification for Veterans.

VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/27/2020

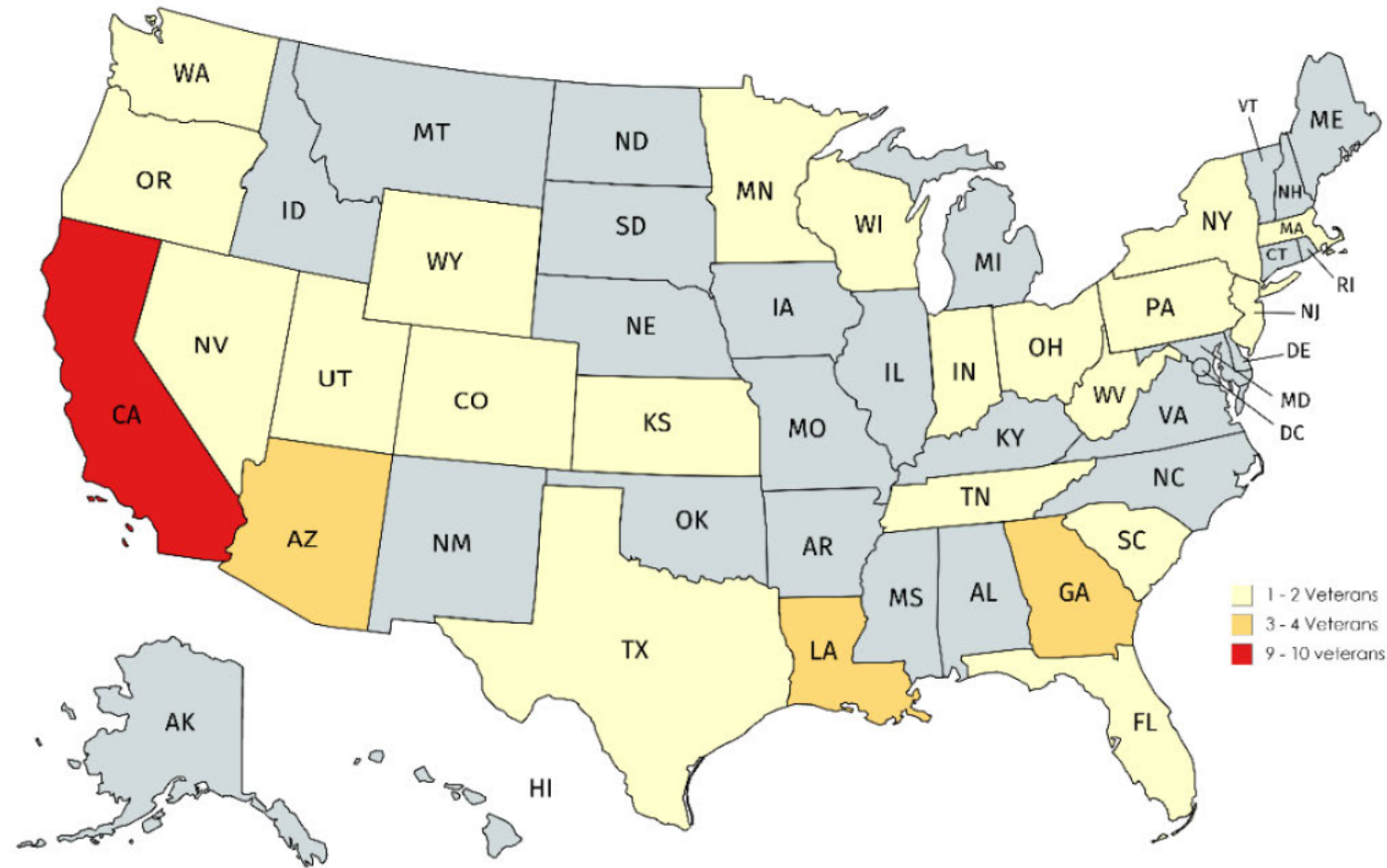
Status of Veterans screened (N =47):*

- 3 Veterans tested for COVID-19 – NEGATIVE (two of whom were in home isolation and are now removed)
- 44 ruled out for PUI**

*7 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



Created with mapchart.net ©

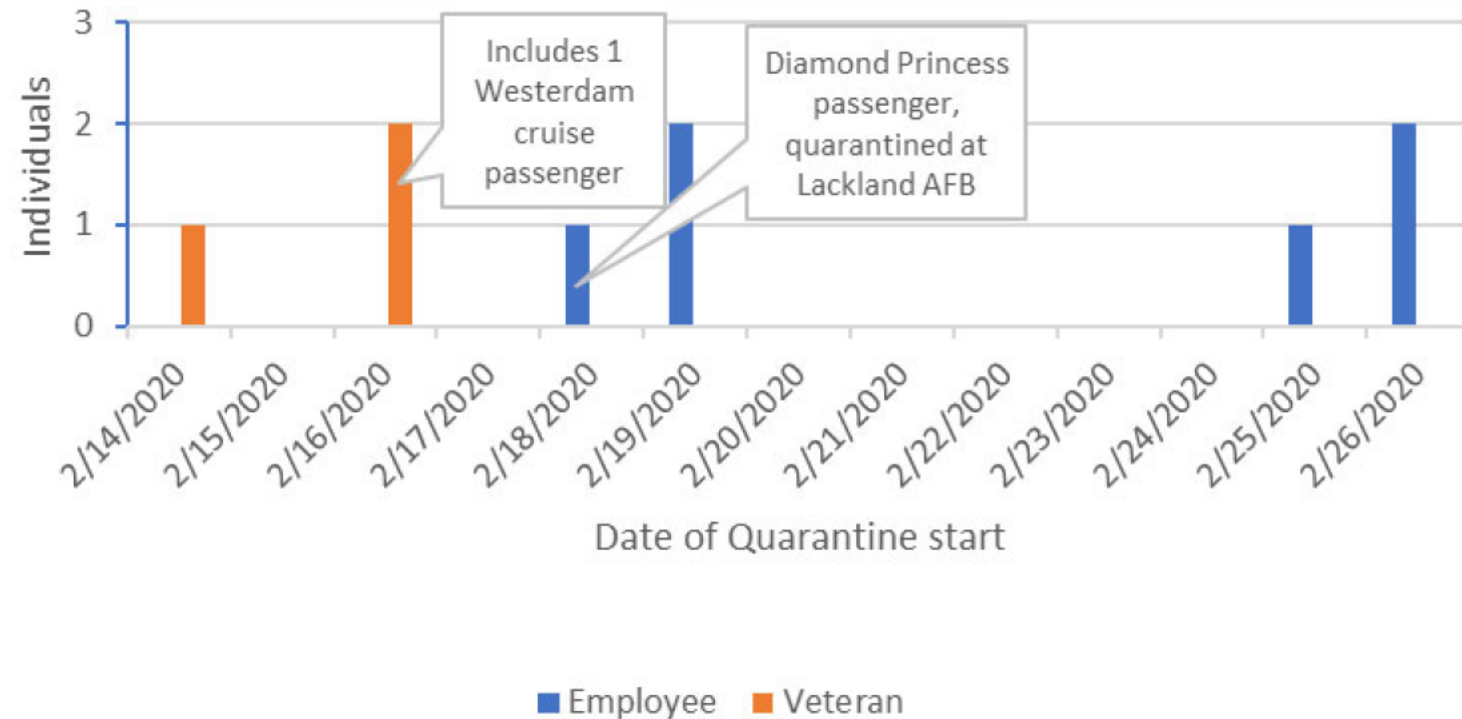
Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHAID=04714000309> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 2/27/2020

N = 9*

6 Employees,
3 Veteran patients)

*1 new Veteran patients and 1 new employee
added in last 24 hours.





Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 9 March 2020

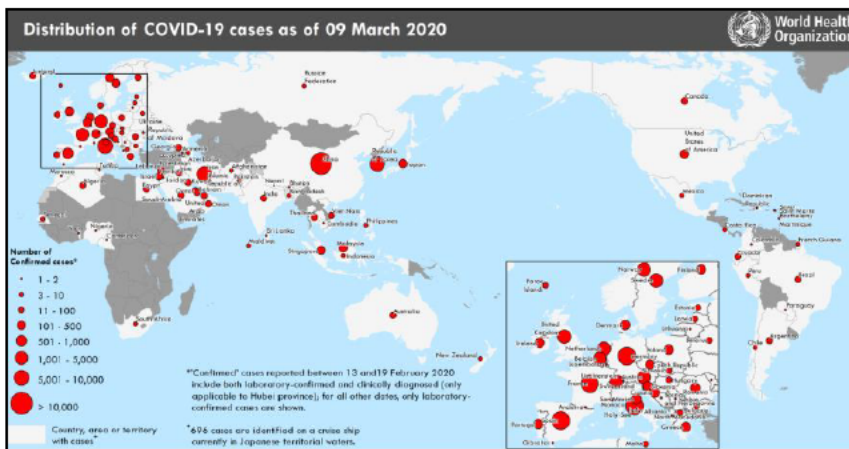
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Sunday, Mar. 8: the website has been visited 48,668 times with 45,115 unique visits.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Monday, Mar. 9: 208 Questions submitted; 176 Answered; 32 Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).
- 18 of 18 VISNs have completed COVID-19 Table Top Exercise.
- Guidance on Requesting Government Furnished Equipment for the COVID-19 Response; Posted on SharePoint site.
- VA Health Care Systems have launched a notification campaign to inform and educate the Veteran population visiting facilities.

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 109,578 (+3,994) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 3,809 (+225). According to the WHO, there are now 28,674 (+3,949) confirmed cases outside China in 104 countries (+3 – Bangladesh, Albania, and Paraguay) with 686 (+202) deaths reported. The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Italy is now 9,172 with 463 deaths, outpacing South Korea over the weekend for the largest number of cases and deaths outside mainland China. As a result, Italy's Prime Minister extended travel restrictions on the country's entire population, approximately 60 million people, banning public gatherings and asking people not to travel except for work or emergencies. Israel only has 39 confirmed cases with no deaths but imposed a 14 day quarantine for anyone entering the country to help curb the spread of the virus.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Monday, Mar. 9, 2020 (WHO).



VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC)** activated to Level 1; Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - HHS Incident Management Team Support
 - (1) AEM deployed to Travis AFB
 - (1) AEM requested to Miramar MCAS
 - (1) AEM requested for Lackland AFB
 - (1) AEM requested to JB Dobbins
 - OEM Plans' COVID-19 Response Annex distributed HCL workgroups for review and input.
 - Communication
 - Community Living Center (CLC) guidance provided to field.
 - Guidance on the viability of COVID-19 on non-permeable surfaces transmitted to the Director of Environmental Services.
 - Guidance to VA Police on Quarantine Authority transmitted to the field; VA Police representative to the EMCC and EMCC Logs are working a PPE plan for VA Police.



The Grand Princess cruise ship sails toward the Port of Oakland on March 9, 2020. (Bloomberg) On Monday the ship with 3,533 passengers and crew members docked in Oakland, CA. To date only 46 people on the ship have been tested for coronavirus with 21 people testing positive. All passengers and crew will be screened and subject to a 14 day quarantine at four locations throughout the U.S.

Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Monday, Mar. 9 at 1800, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 607 (+171) with 26 (+6) deaths reported.
- Department of State issued a travel advisory recommending travelers with underlying health conditions avoid travel by cruise ship due to the increased risk from the coronavirus.
- The coronavirus and Saudi Arabia's decision to increase oil production and cut prices negatively impacted the stock market. U.S. stocks suffered their worst single days since December 2008 dropping 2,000 points or 7.8 percent. The S&P fell 7.6 and was briefly halted to prevent stocks from crashing.



Armed Italian police officers at a checkpoint in Valsamoggia, Italy, on the border between the quarantined provinces of Modena and Bologna on Monday, March 9, 2020 (New York Times/Getty)

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000611

UNCLASS//FOUO

VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0265



Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 4 March 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

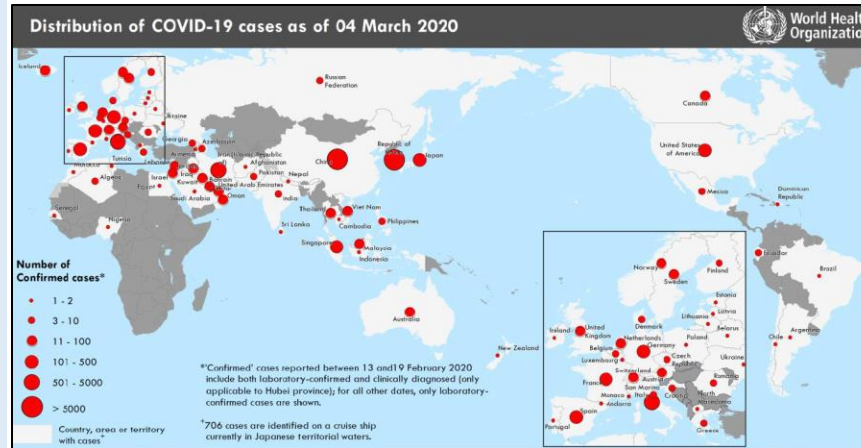
UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 93,090 (+2,223) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 2,984 (+38). According to the WHO, there are now 12,668 (+2,103) confirmed cases outside China in 76 countries (+4 – Argentina, Chile, Poland, and Ukraine) with 214 (+48) deaths reported. Per the WHO, severe and mounting disruption to the global supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), caused by rising demand, panic buying, hoarding and misuse is putting lives at risk from the new coronavirus and other infectious diseases. Based on WHO modelling, an estimated 89 million medical masks are required for the COVID-19 response each month. For examination gloves, that figure goes up to 76 million, while international demand for goggles stands at 1.6 million per month. To meet rising global demand, WHO estimates that the PPE industry must increase manufacturing by 40 percent.

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Tuesday, Mar. 3: the website has been visited 33,670 (+1,884) times with 31,175 (+1,716) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Wednesday, Mar. 4: 187 (+39) Questions submitted; 105 (+2) Answered; 82 (+39) Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).
- Guidance on Requesting Government Furnished Equipment for the COVID-19 Response; Posted on SharePoint site.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Wednesday, Mar. 4, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Wednesday, Mar. 4 at 1800, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 129 (+21) with 11 (+2) deaths reported including the first death reported outside of Washington state in California.
- CDC on Wednesday broadened the guidelines for coronavirus testing, allowing doctors to order a test for any patients who have symptoms like fever, cough or difficulty breathing.
- On Wednesday, the Vice President announced that 1.5 million coronavirus test kits will be available this week.
- New York officials warned on Monday that the coronavirus was likely to spread in New York City, a day after confirming that a Manhattan woman had contracted the virus while traveling in Iran. On Tuesday, a second case was confirmed in New York City and on Wednesday three of the individuals family members also tested positive. The State of New York now has 11 confirmed cases.
- House and Senate leaders agreed on a \$8.3 billion funding package to fight the coronavirus. Includes \$500 million for Medicare providers to provide telehealth services for elderly patients, who at greater risk, to avoid increased exposure from medical visits.

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**. Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (1) AEM redeployed from Lackland AFB, TX.

VHA OEM



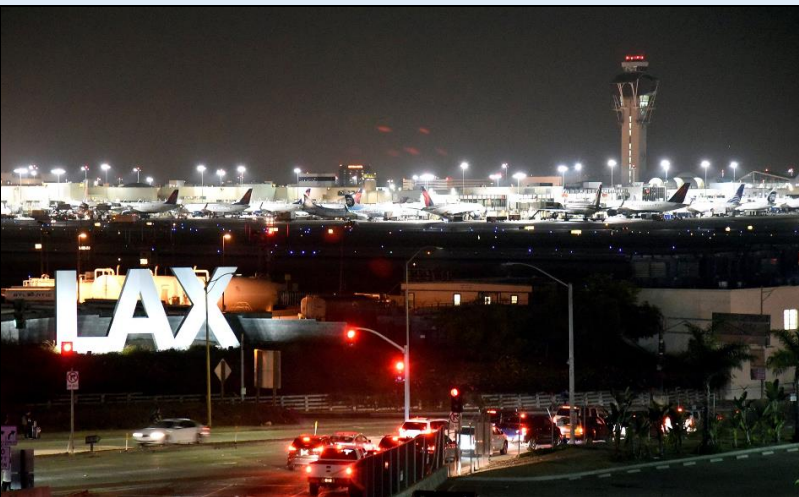
Iranians pass a closed cinema on Wednesday in Tehran. (Washington Post)
There are now 2,922 confirmed cases in Iran with 92 deaths reported. Iran has the highest mortality rate for the coronavirus in the world. Health officials are concerned the full extent of the epidemic in Iran is being under reported with data suggesting there could be up to 28,000 cases.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000612

UNCLASS//FOUO

VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0265

Significant Activities



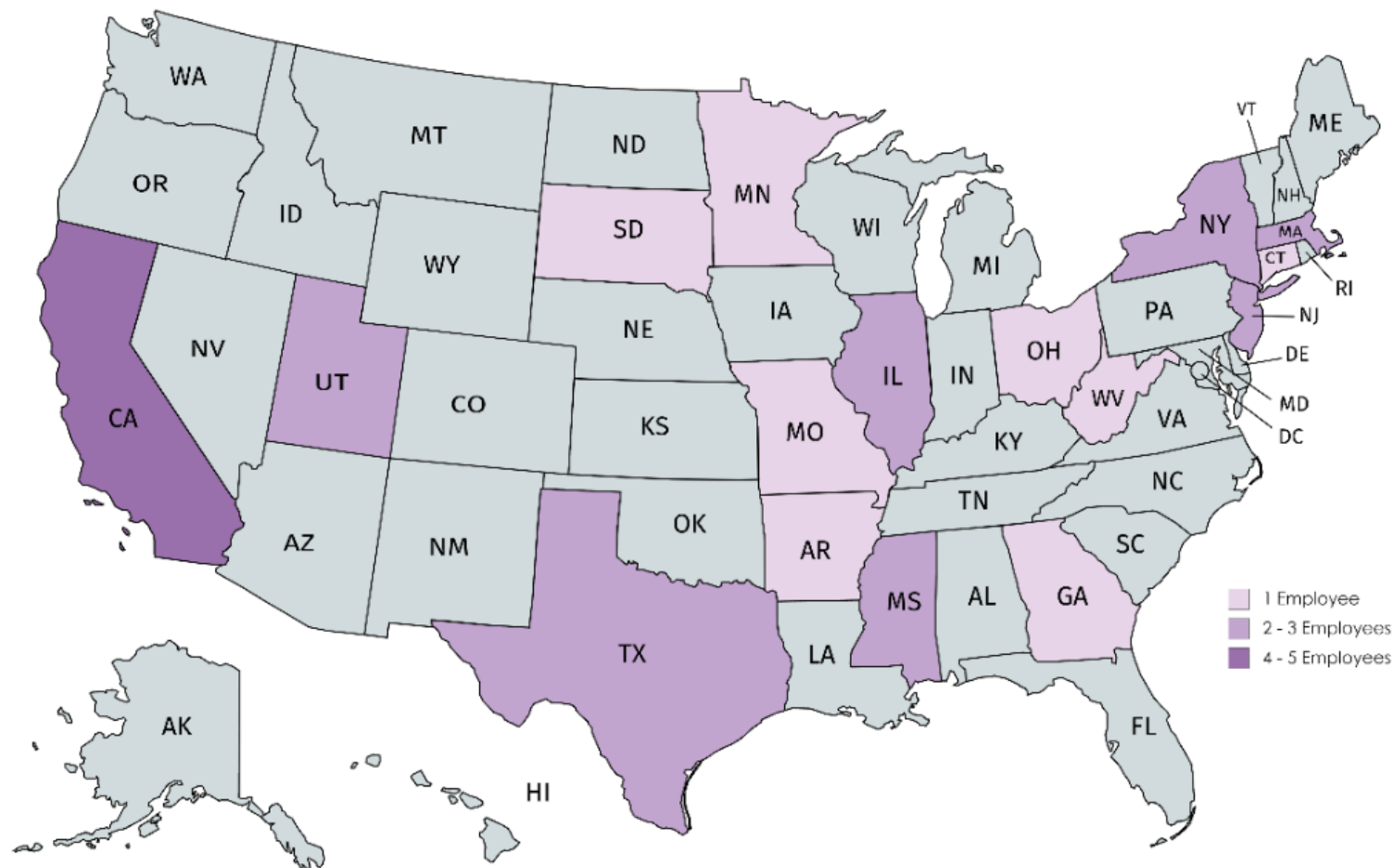
March 4, 2020: A Department of Homeland Security contracted medical professional who screened passengers at Los Angeles International Airport has tested positive for the coronavirus. (Reuters) The person last screened passengers on February 21, more than a week prior to the onset of symptoms.

000504

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/4/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 34):*

- 2 employees tested for COVID-19:
 - 1 NEGATIVE (employee removed from isolation at home)
 - 1 still pending, in home isolation
- 12 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 18 completed home quarantine or work under supervision



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net ©

VHA Veterans Screened
for Possible Exposure to
COVID-19 as of 3/4/2020

(N = 74):*

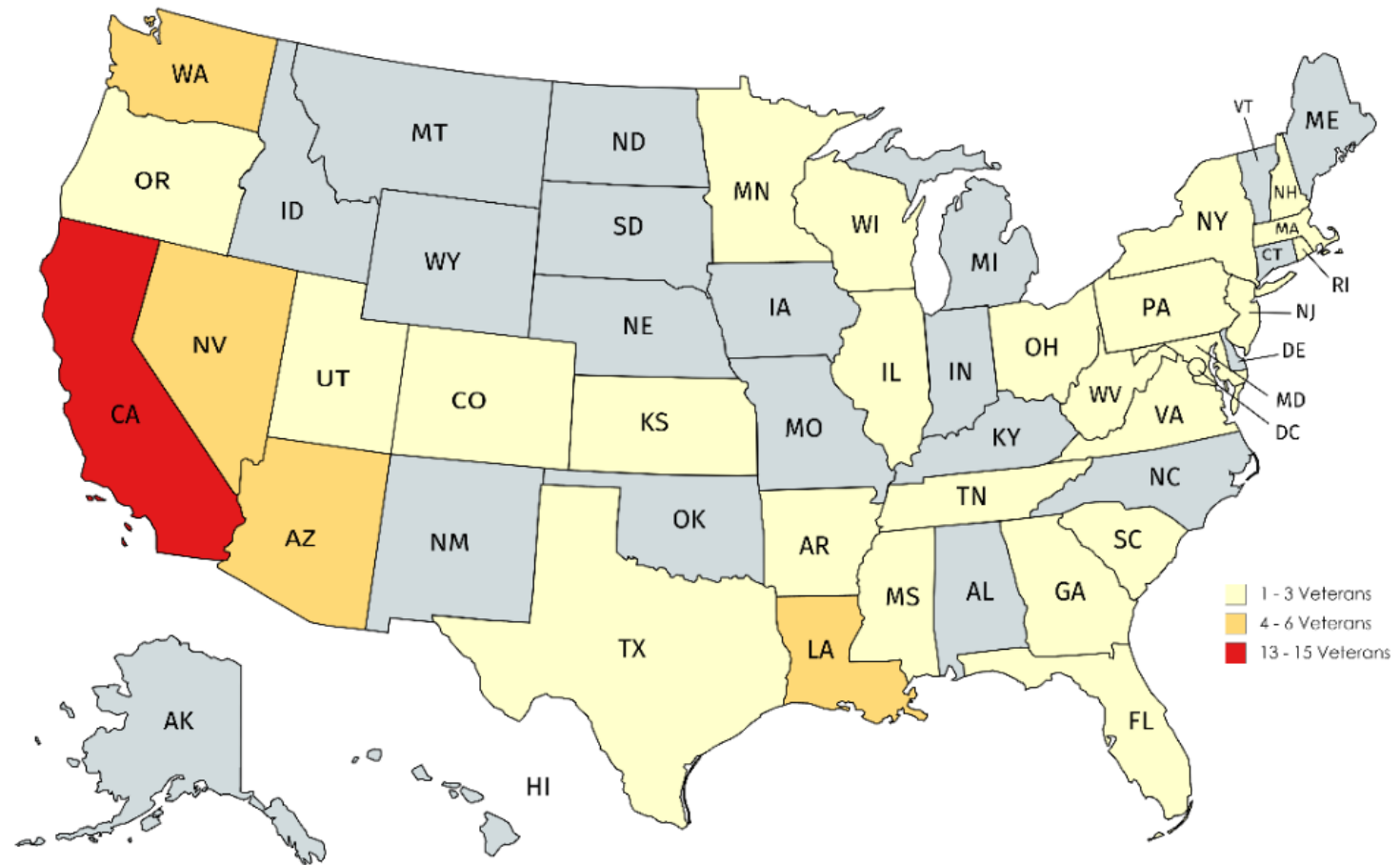
- 9 Veterans tested for COVID-19
 - 1 POSITIVE (Diamond Princess repatriation Veteran, now being housed at VA Palo Alto HCS)
 - 5 NEGATIVE
 - 3 tests pending
- 65 ruled out for PUI** (1 case still being determined)

*5 new in last 24 hours

****PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

000506



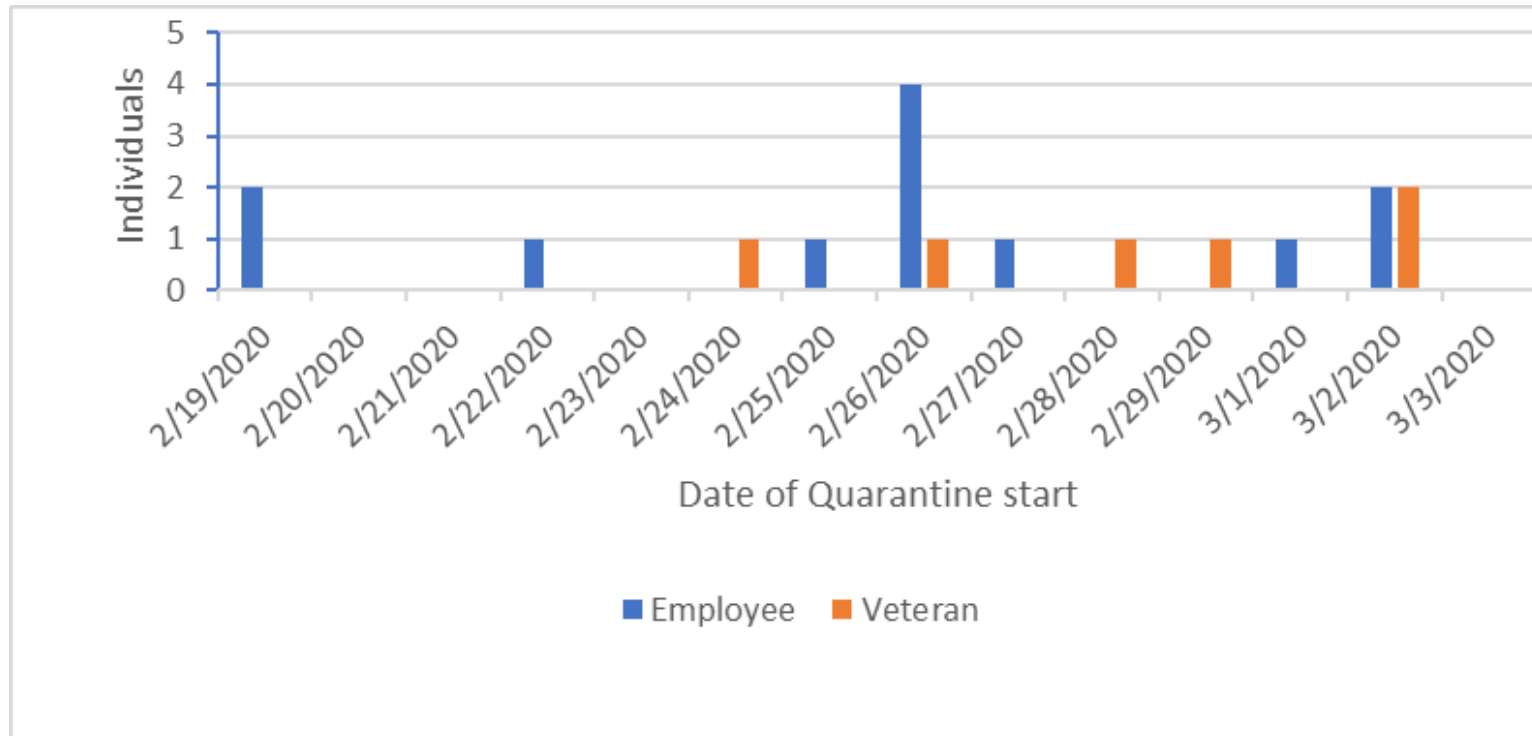
Created with mapchart.net

Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHA=20-0471-A000614> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 3/4/2020

N = 18*
(12 Employees,
6 Veteran patients)

*0 new Veteran patients and 2 new employees
added in last 24 hours.





Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 6 March 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

• Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Thursday, Mar. 5: the website has been visited 39,121 (+3,324) times with 36,176 (+3,077) unique visits.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Friday, Mar. 6: 211 (+13) Questions submitted; 161 (+56) Answers; 50 (-43) Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).
- 14 of 18 VISNs have completed COVID-19 Table Top Exercise.
- Guidance on Requesting Government Furnished Equipment for the COVID-19 Response; Posted on Share Point site.
- VA Health Care Systems have launched a notification campaign to inform and educate the Veteran population visiting facilities.

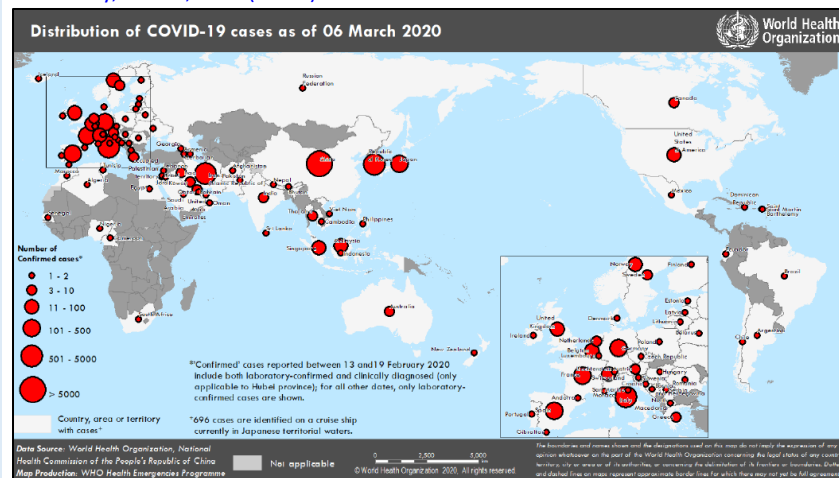


Helicopter carrying airmen with the 129th Rescue Wing flies over the Grand Princess cruise ship off the coast of California Thursday, March 5, 2020. (California National Guard/AP) 45 test kits from the Grand Princess were picked-up and transported to Richmond, CA for analysis. This includes the entire group of passengers that had been symptomatic during the cruise. There is a Coast Guard cutter with 200 additional test kits standing by and will proceed to the ship at first light this morning. Additional medical staff are also being sent to assist the ship's medical staff with collection of specimens.

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 98,192 (+2,859) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 3,045 (+30). According to the WHO, there are now 17,481 (+2,713) confirmed cases outside China in 88 countries (+4 – Bhutan, Cameroon, Serbia, South Africa) with 335 (+68) deaths reported. The number of coronavirus cases in New York state has tripled over the last 48 hours to 33, putting 2,700 people under a precautionary quarantine with an additional 1,000 under voluntary isolation. Minnesota confirmed Friday its first virus case. The HHS reports there are two suspected COVID-19 cases on the CS VIKING SUN (Norway Flag) off the coast of East Java, Indonesia with 930 passengers with approximately 556 American Citizens.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Friday, Mar. 6, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Friday, Mar. 6 at 1800, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 233 (+22) with 15 (+3) deaths reported; the latest in Washington.
- On Wednesday, Mar. 4, the Vice President announced that 1.5 million coronavirus test kits will be available this week.
- House and Senate leaders agreed on a \$8.3 billion funding package to fight the coronavirus. Includes \$500 million for Medicare providers to provide telehealth services for elderly patients, who at greater risk, to avoid increased exposure from medical visits.
- The Governors of seven (+2) states have declared Public Health or States of Emergency in response to COVID-19.
- The U.S. has relaxed criteria for testing patients; it no longer requires travel history or close contact with a known case.

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**. Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - OEM Plans' COVID-19 Response Annex distributed HCL workgroups for review and input.
 - Communication
 - Community Living Center (CLC) guidance provided to field.
 - Guidance on the viability of COVID-19 on non-permeable surfaces transmitted to the Director of Environmental Services.
 - Guidance to VA Police on Quarantine Authority transmitted to the field; VA Police representative to the EMCC and EMCC Logs are working a PPE plan for VA Police.



South Korea continues to step up its response to the virus and declared a "special care zone" on Thursday around a second city hit hard by the coronavirus. The US Forces Korea is reporting 7 cases. South Korea has the largest outbreak outside China. Australia and Japan have joined the list of almost 100 nations now limiting arrivals of people from South Korea, which reported 518 new coronavirus cases on Friday for a total of 6,284.

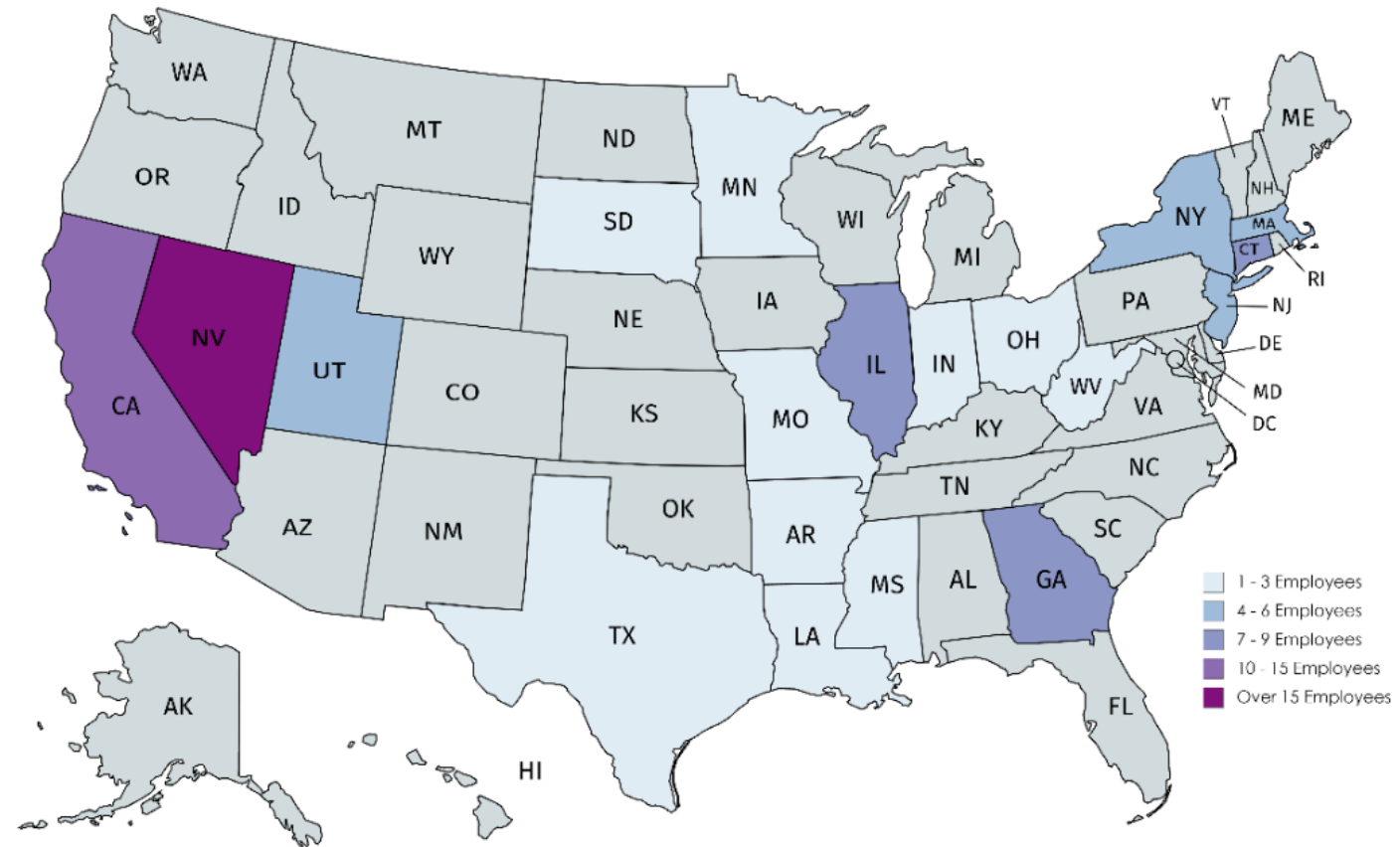
MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000616

UNCLASS//FOUO

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/6/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 101):*

- 2 employees tested for COVID-19:
 - 1 NEGATIVE (employee removed from isolation at home)
 - 1 still pending, in home isolation
- 13 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 20 completed home quarantine or work under supervision



VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/6/2020

Status of Veterans screened

(N =99):*

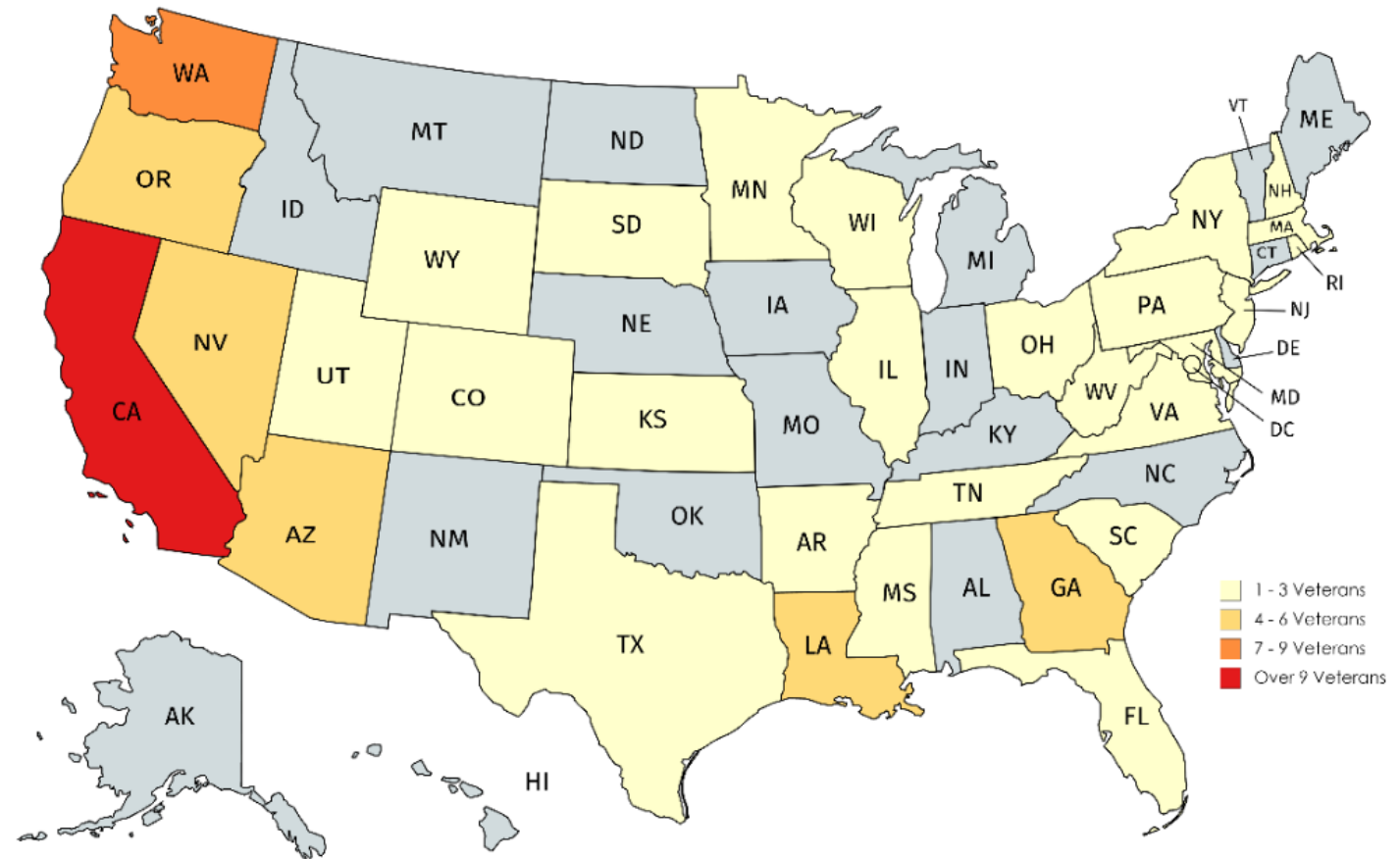
- 28 Veterans tested for COVID-19
 - 2 POSITIVE
 - 1 at 640-VA Palo Alto HCS
 - 1 at 593-Southern Nevada HCS
 - 14 NEGATIVE
 - 12 tests pending
- 71 ruled out for PUI**

*9 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

000676



Created with mapchart.net ©



Data sources: Praedico and PraediGene Public Health and Laboratory Software (Bitscopic Inc.), Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx>; Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV) for chart review verification for Veterans.

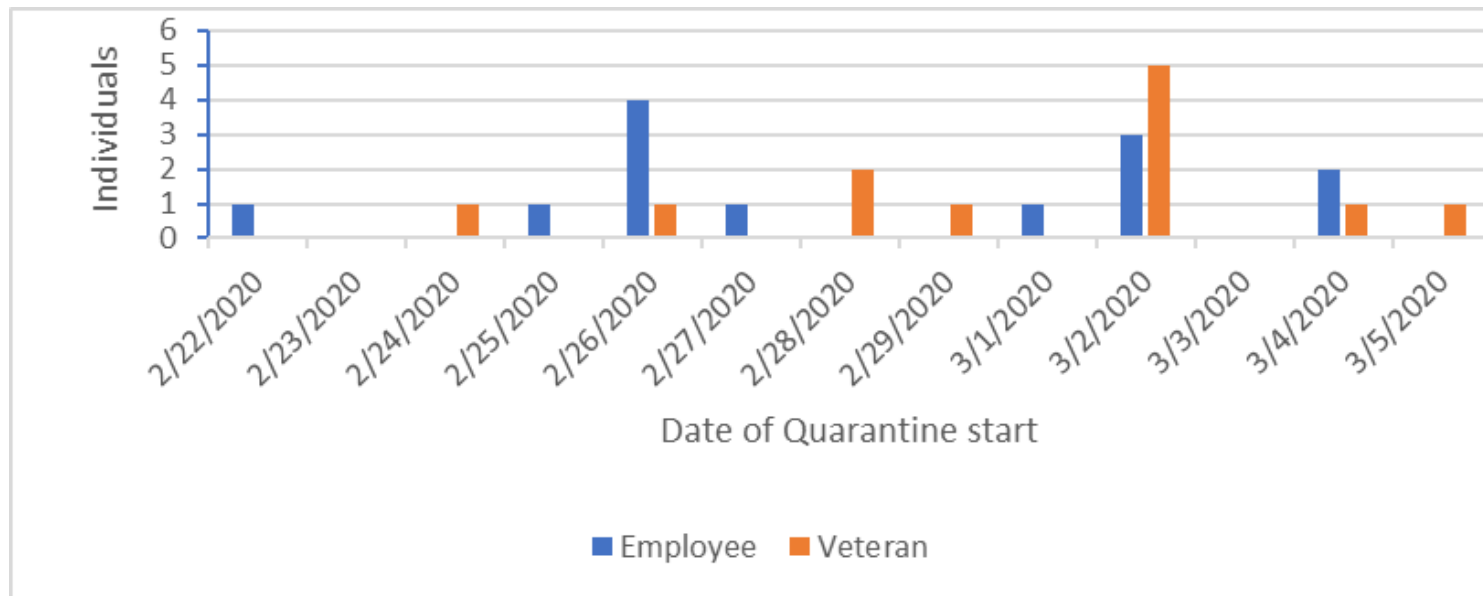
MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000618

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 3/6/2020

N = 25*

(13 Employees,
12 Veteran patients)

*5 new Veteran patients and 0 new employees
added in last 24 hours.



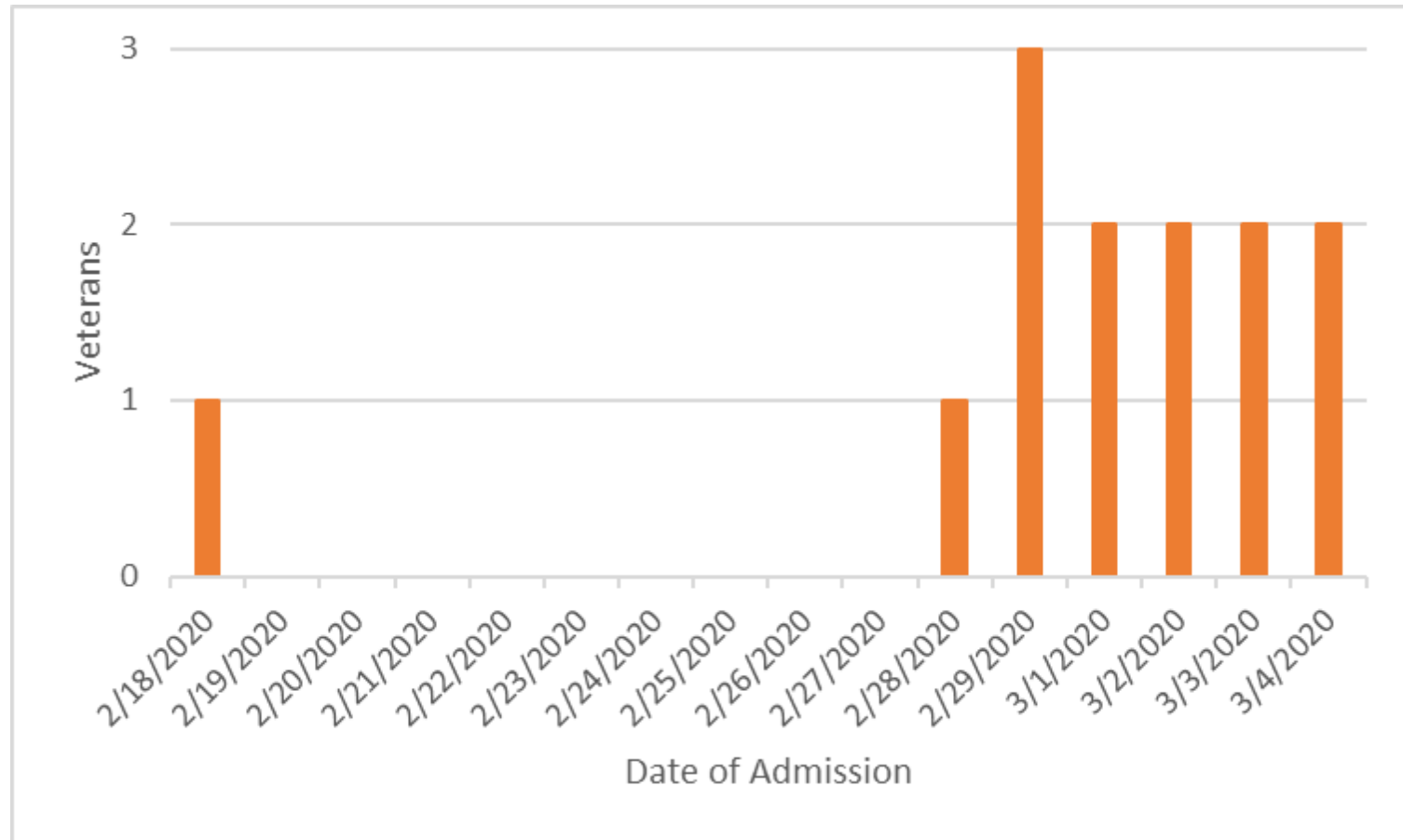
Veteran Patients PUI** Admitted to VA Medical Centers as of 3/6/2020

N = 13*

*5 new in last 24 hours

*PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



Data sources: Praedico and PraediGene Public Health and Laboratory Software (Bitscopic Inc.), Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx>; Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV) for chart review verification for Veterans.

From:	Oshinski, Renee /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=56925A4F59DF47D19FCCEB5E7C270BC0-OSHINSKI, R (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/19 18:18:32
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Some great information in here. Thanks for sharing

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D.

<(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis

<(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E.

<(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Carroll, William D.

(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)

- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
- Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
- DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"

- The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans than we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet Marc Fisher with HHS Public Health Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.
- VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.
- (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.
- (B5) [REDACTED] (my opinion).
- Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]e@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries outside of mainland China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained. [02/18/20]
- HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.
- I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.

- The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his February 6th appointment at the Fremont, CA CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.
- The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - Two (2) are PUIs
- One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick

<(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.
(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is (B6) [REDACTED] and the other is (B6) [REDACTED] Both are (B6) [REDACTED] Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D.

(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
 - Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
 - Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
 - The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
 - Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
 - Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.
- Note:** A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
 - COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- • HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- • TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- • HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- • DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- • A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- • I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- • OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- • Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- • 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- • The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- • Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run

- • Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- • First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • US confirmed cases 15
- • AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- • HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- • HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- • HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- • HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- • HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- • HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- • The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.

- Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA's order of COVID-19 test kits.
- OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field

- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.

- • DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- • Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- • Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- • Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) n@va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.

- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- • The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- • It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- • The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- • 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- • CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- • Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- • US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan

- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- Coordinating with (B6) to add a "clinical" section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one "voice"
- Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- Reached out to CDC/HHS on the "one and done" usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US

- • Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- • Global draw down will continue
- • Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- • The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- • The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- • The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- • The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- • The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- • Team is tired but spirits are high.
- • VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- • OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- • HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- • At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- • At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must

be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents

- • The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- • The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- • Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- • Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- • Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- • Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- • DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- • CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- • China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- • We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- • We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of "Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don't believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions."

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- • 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- • I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- • At approximately 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- • At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- • At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- • At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- • Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- • At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- • OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.

- Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) and (B6) they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov;

Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
128 minors over 2
20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals

- • HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- • The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- • The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- • CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- • The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- • While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- • CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- • Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- • We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Oshinski, Renee /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=56925A4F59DF47D19FCCEB5E7C270BC0-OSHINSKI, R (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6)@va.gov>;

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki,
(B6) @va.gov>;
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(B6) @va.gov>;
Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi
(B6) @va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/19 18:18:30

Delivered Date: 2020/02/19 18:18:32



Veterans Health Administration

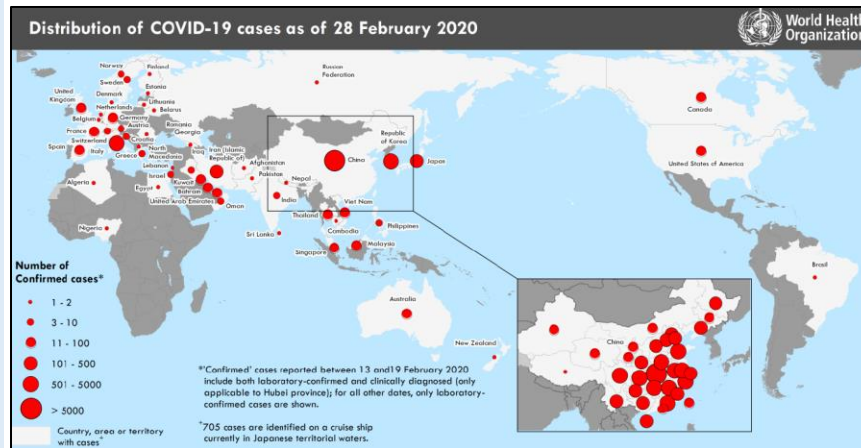
Senior Leadership Brief: 28 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 83,652 (+1,358) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 2,791 (+44). According to the WHO, there are now 4,691 (+1,027) confirmed cases outside China in 51 countries (+5 – Belarus, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, and Nigeria) with 67 (+10) deaths reported. On Friday, the WHO raised its assessment of the global coronavirus risk from high to very high, the most serious assessment in its new four-stage alert system. Nigeria reported its first case that was traced to an Italian citizen who had returned to Lagos from Milan, Italy. There has been concern about the virus spreading in sub-Saharan African continent due to the vulnerable public health systems and likely inability to adequately contain the outbreak.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Friday, Feb. 28, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Friday, Feb. 28, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 61 (+1).
- On February 26, CDC and FDA developed a protocol that uses two of the three components of the original CDC test kit to detect the virus that causes COVID-19. This will allow at least 40 public health laboratories, from the current 8, to be able to begin testing.
- On Friday, the U.S. Navy ordered all ships that have made stops in the Pacific (30 to 40 vessels) to self-quarantine at sea for 14 days and closely monitor all sailors that have traveled to high-risk areas.

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Thursday, Feb. 27: the website has been visited 26,452 (+2,645) times with 24,540 (+2,398) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Friday, Feb. 28: 134 Questions submitted; 105 Answered; 29 Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to Level I. Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Lackland AFB, TX.
 - On Thursday, Feb. 27, all DEMPS personnel located at Travis AFB, CA redeployed to their home station; mission complete.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) extended until March 3 to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.



South Korean Marines march during the U.S.-South Korea joint landing military exercises in March 2015. (AP File Photo) Thursday's announcement to cancel the 2020 U.S.-South Korean joint exercises came after South Korea reported 21 coronavirus cases in its military and the U.S. military reported one case among its 28,500 troops in South Korea. The South Korean military has now placed 9,500 troops in quarantine.



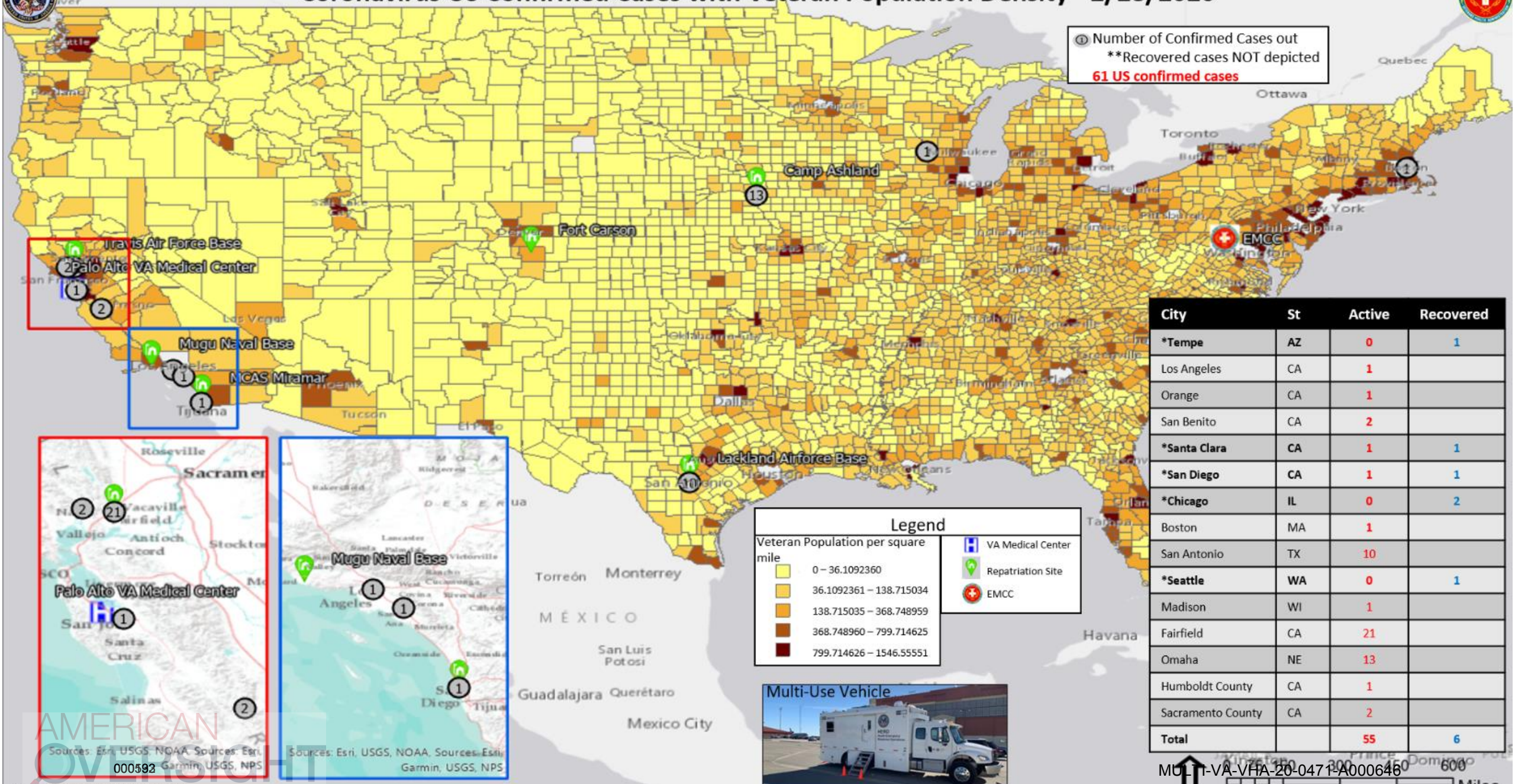
On Thursday, Feb. 27, an empty shopping area in Beijing, China. (New York Times) The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 3,500 points this week due to coronavirus concerns. The drop represents a 12% drop in total value for the week, the Dow's worst performance since October 2008. On Thursday alone, the Dow dropped 1,200 points, the biggest one day drop in history.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000645

UNCLASS//FOUO

VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0268

Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases with Veteran Population Density - 2/28/2020



① Number of Confirmed Cases out
 **Recovered cases NOT depicted
61 US confirmed cases

City	St	Active	Recovered
*Tempe	AZ	0	1
Los Angeles	CA	1	
Orange	CA	1	
San Benito	CA	2	
*Santa Clara	CA	1	1
*San Diego	CA	1	1
*Chicago	IL	0	2
Boston	MA	1	
San Antonio	TX	10	
*Seattle	WA	0	1
Madison	WI	1	
Fairfield	CA	21	
Omaha	NE	13	
Humboldt County	CA	1	
Sacramento County	CA	2	
Total		55	6

Legend

Veteran Population per square mile

- 0 – 36.1092360
- 36.1092361 – 138.715034
- 138.715035 – 368.748959
- 368.748960 – 799.714625
- 799.714626 – 1546.55551

- VA Medical Center
- Repatriation Site
- EMCC



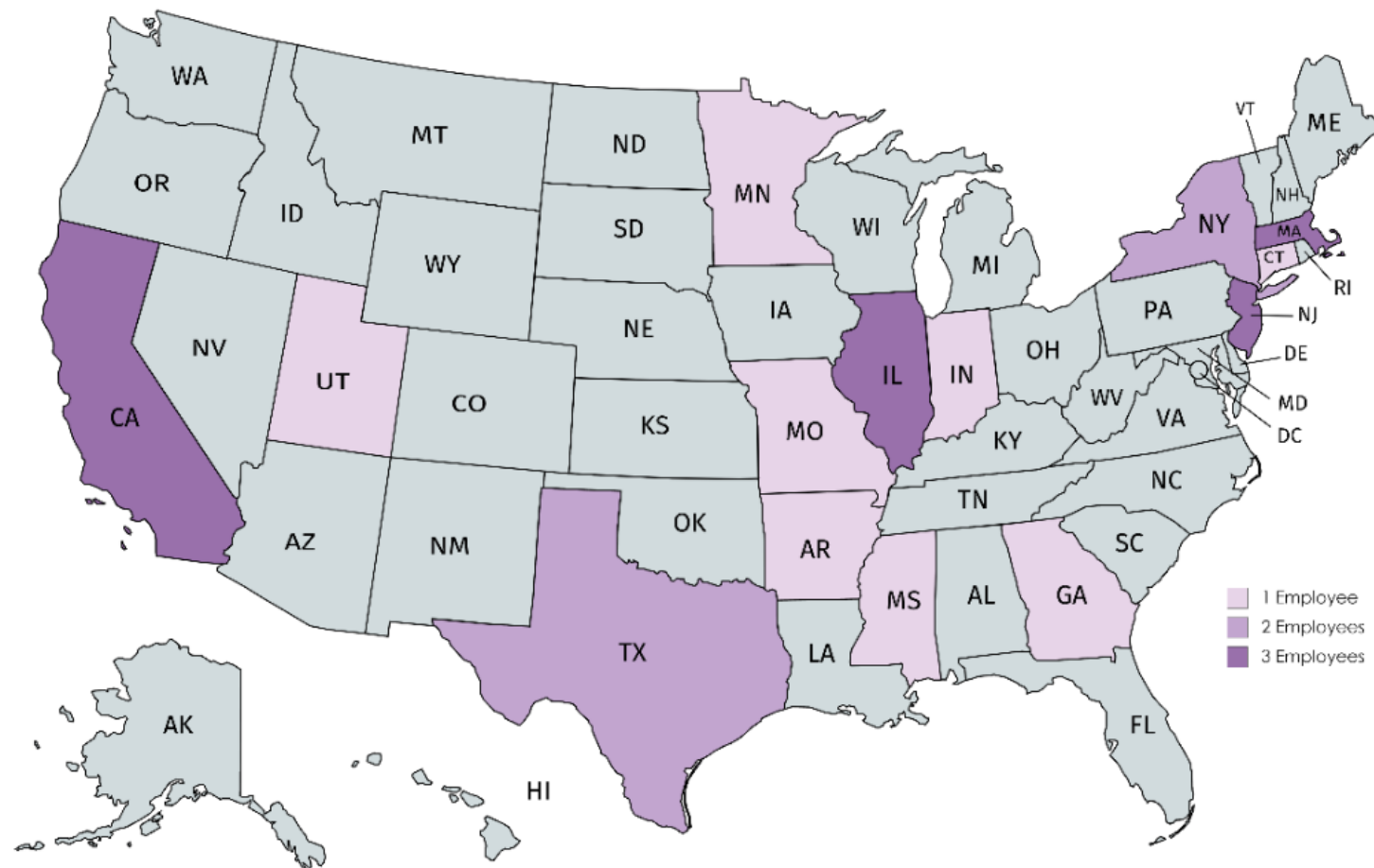
MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000646

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 Miles

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/28/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 27):*

- 1 employee tested for COVID-19 (pending, employee currently in self-isolation at home)
- 7 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 13 completed home quarantine or work under supervision



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net

*2 new in last 24 hours

VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/28/2020

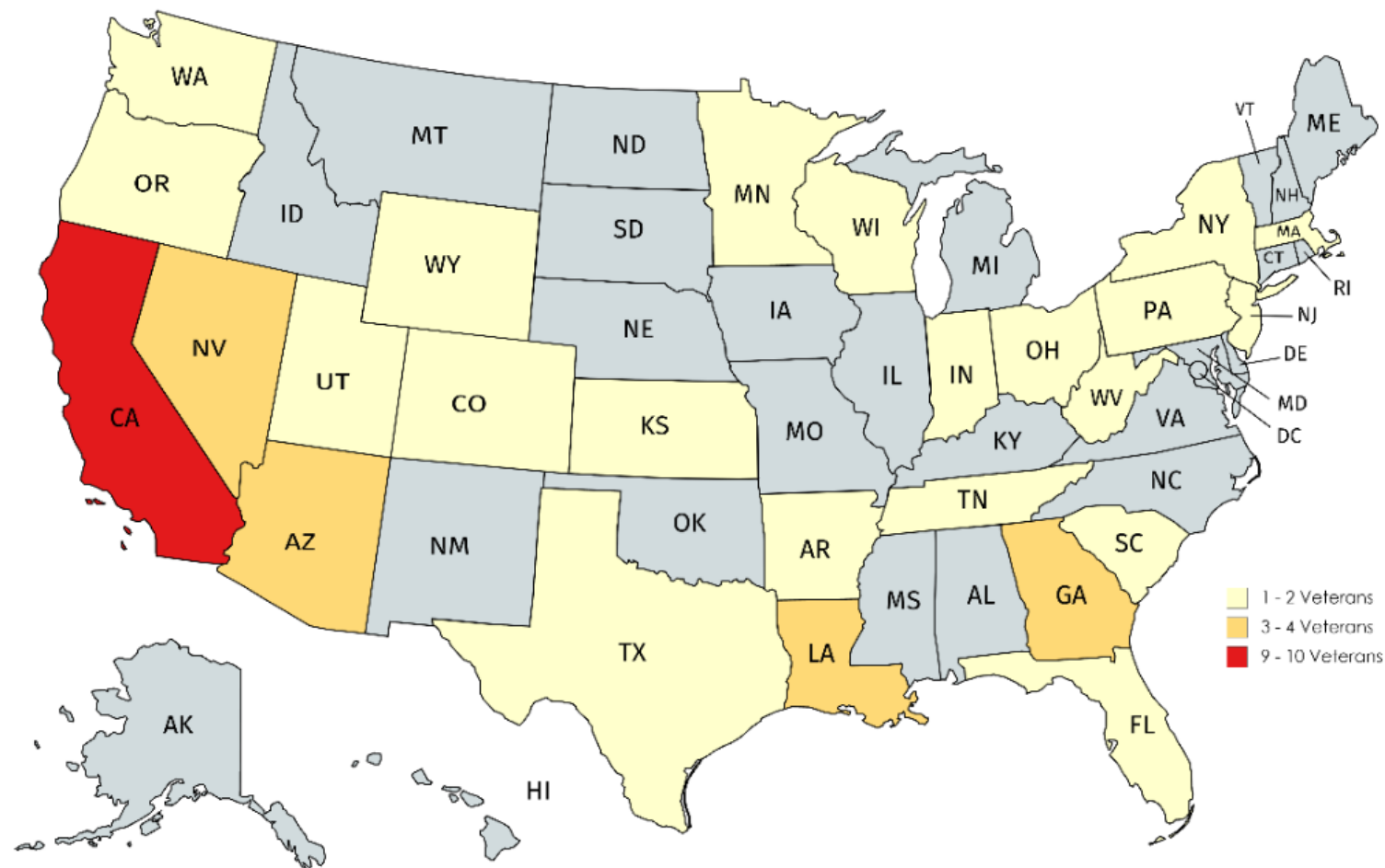
Status of Veterans screened (N =50):*

- 3 Veterans tested for COVID-19 – NEGATIVE (two of whom were in home isolation and are now removed)
- 47 ruled out for PUI**

*3 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



Created with mapchart.net ©

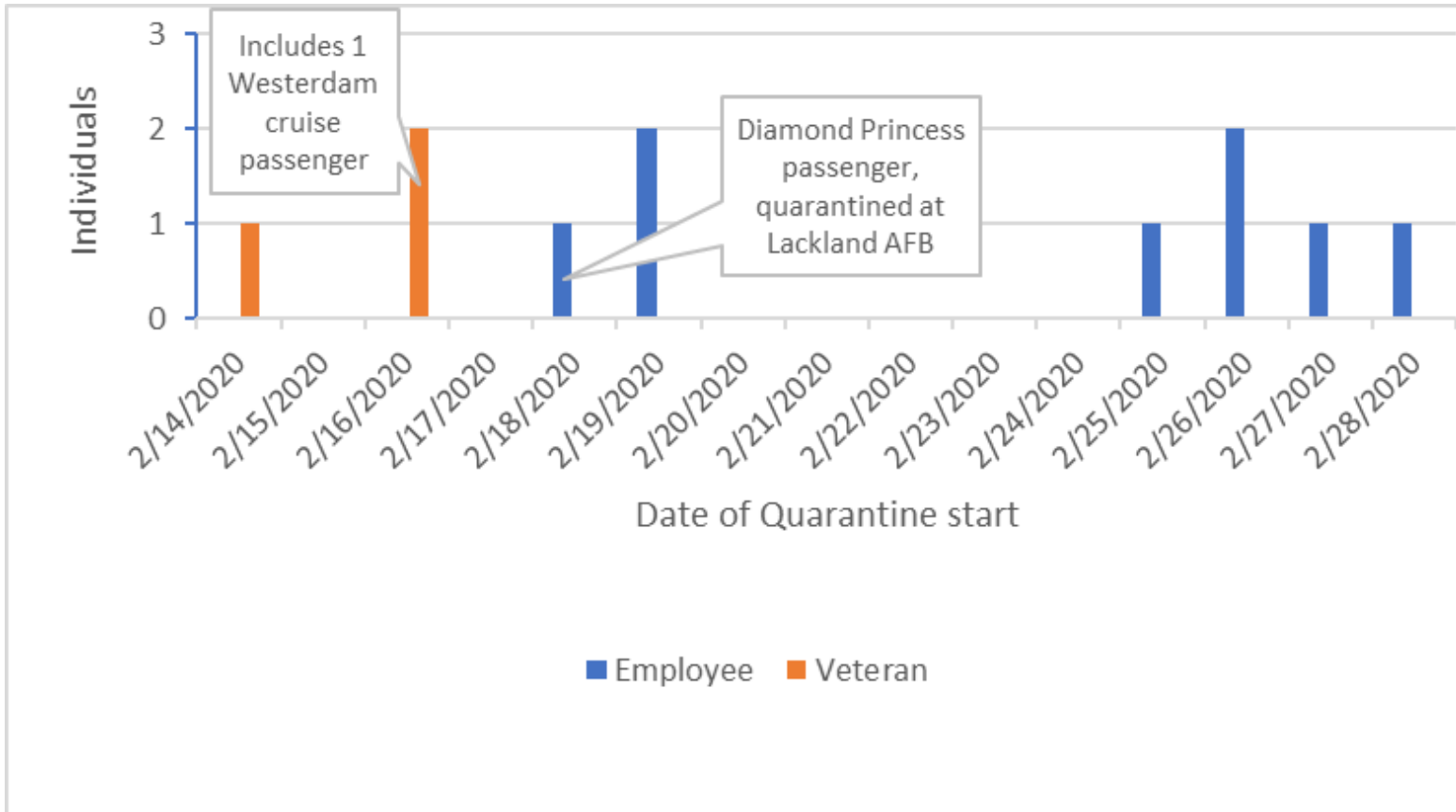
Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHAID=4714000648> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 2/28/2020

N = 11*

8 Employees,
3 Veteran patients)

*0 new Veteran patients and 2 new employees
added in last 24 hours.



Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

March 05, 2020

National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

1. Executive Summary

- Monitoring Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Tornado in Nashville, TN area; one facility is without phones, no disruption to services.

2. Significant Weather Source: NWS

- Severe thunderstorms possible across portions of the Southeast; wind, hail, and tornadic activity possible.
- Excessive rainfall expected from the Gulf Coast to the Mid Atlantic; isolated flash flooding possible.

3. Tornado Touchdown in Nashville, TN Source: A/SOs

- On 3 March, severe storms spawned tornadoes that touched down in the Nashville area.
- Cookeville VA Clinic does not have telephone service, but there has been no disruption to service. Network connectivity has been restored. The facility did not sustain any structural damage and does have power.
 - Local IT is waiting for AT&T to provide a repair estimate.
- Readjustment Counseling Services (RCS) deploying a Mobile Vet Center (MVC) to area, location TBD.

4. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, FEMA

- As of 0600 ET, 5 Mar, the WHO reports 95,265 confirmed cases globally; 3,279 deaths throughout 79 countries.
- CDC reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 108 across 12 states and territories.
- Washington State Department of Health is reporting nine deaths.
- FEMA is standing-up a COVID-19 response cell on 6 Mar.
- **VA Response Efforts**
 - VA OSP established a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
 - Further details can be found in the COVID-19 VA SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.

5. Long Term Facility Disruptions

- **Blythe CBOC, CA Source: VHA**
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimated date of completion is the end of March.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.
 - An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.
- **Arecibo CBOC, PR Source: VHA**
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
- **Vieques Rural OPC, PR Source: VHA**
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.

6. Ten Day Outlook

- **2020 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Houston, TX (SEAR 2)**
 - The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HSLR) will take place on 14-22 Mar in Houston, TX. This event has received a Special Event Assessment Rating and a Federal Coordinator has been designated. The event will be held at the NRG Arena, which has a

Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

March 05, 2020

seating capacity of 10,000 persons. It includes one of the richest regular-season professional rodeo events and more than 34,000 livestock and horse entries. The show will also feature a carnival and concerts which draw some of the world's biggest recording artist.

- **50th St. Patrick's Parade, Washington, DC (SEAR 3)**
 - The parade is scheduled for Sunday, March 15th, 2020 at 12 PM – 3 PM. The route is on the National Mall and extends from 7th St to 17th St on Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC; 50,000 participants expected.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED] Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) [REDACTED], Watch Officer

From:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fcceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald, (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) l@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) r@va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/21 08:44:47
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Results: The median age was 47.0 years, and 41.90% were females. Only 1.18% of patients had a direct contact with wildlife, whereas 31.30% had been to Wuhan and 71.80% had contacted with people from Wuhan. Fever (87.9%) and cough (67.7%) were the most common symptoms. Diarrhea

is uncommon. **The median incubation period was 3.0 days (range, 0 to 24.0 days).** On admission, ground-glass opacity was the typical radiological finding on chest computed tomography (50.00%). Significantly more severe cases were diagnosed by symptoms plus reverse-transcriptase polymerase-chain-reaction without abnormal radiological findings than non-severe cases (23.87% vs. 5.20%, $P < 0.001$). Lymphopenia was observed in 82.1% of patients. 55 patients (5.00%) were admitted to intensive care unit and 15 (1.36%) succumbed. Severe pneumonia was independently associated with either the admission to intensive care unit, mechanical ventilation, or death in multivariate competing-risk model (sub-distribution hazards ratio, 9.80; 95% confidence interval, 4.06 to 23.67).

Conclusions: The 2019-nCoV epidemic spreads rapidly by human-to-human transmission. Normal radiologic findings are present among some patients with 2019-nCoV infection. The disease severity (including oxygen saturation, respiratory rate, blood leukocyte/lymphocyte count and chest X-ray/CT manifestations) predict poor clinical outcomes.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2020 8:36 AM

To: Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D (B6) @va.gov>; MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

As a follow up to this morning's discussion:

Incubation period of up to 24 days?

The incubation period has been found to be **as long as 24 days** (range: **0-24 days**; median: **3.0 days**) in a [study by Zhong Nan-Shan](#) published on February 9. The study has **yet to be peer reviewed**.

The **WHO** said in a [press conference on February 10](#) that:

- a very long incubation period could reflect a double exposure.
- 24 days represented an outlier observation that must be taken into consideration in the context of the main finding of the study.
- WHO is **not considering changing recommendations regarding incubation periods**.

CT diagnosis: BLUF: February 19, 2020 — In new [research](#) published in the journal [Radiology](#), researchers in China cite the need for computed tomography (CT) in diagnosing patients with suspected novel coronavirus [COVID-19](#), particularly when the lab test is negative. This is the first paper to closely examine the performance of CT vs. viral nucleic acid detection using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) for COVID-19 infection.

<https://www.itnonline.com/content/new-research-advocates-chest-ct-covid-19-diagnosis>

Multiple Infection Routes: BLUF: Currently, testing for and confirmation of infection with COVID-19 is conducted via oral swabs. But in a [study](#) published in *Emerging Microbes & Infections*, Chinese scientists report evidence of an oral-fecal transmission route for COVID-19 viruses and show that, in hospitalized patients, viral RNA was found in anal swabs and in blood samples.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/02/studies-show-covid-19-virus-likely-has-multiple-infection-routes>

From: Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:14 PM
To: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Thanks. glad no merit to Tampa allegation.

Do we have any more details about China's plans for "genetic testing" for Coronavirus confirmation?

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming "At the emergency room of the hospital, employees attending sick patients whom recently came from China with flu like symptoms are not being provided with respiratory protection, potentially exposing employees to the 2019 novel coronavirus." The facility in question was the Tampa VAMC. On follow-up this morning the unofficial reports are the claims are unfounded. A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.

- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.
- A draft document is under development concerning “stay home” messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.
- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA's ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.
- I advise Palo Alto of VHA's current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is “not enforceable”.
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>;

Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)

- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
- Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
- DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.

- The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet Marc Fisher with HHS Public Health Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.
- VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.
- (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.
- (B5) [REDACTED] (my opinion).
- Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D.

(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries outside of mainland China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained.
[02/18/20]
- HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.
- I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20

- COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his February 6th appointment at the Fremont, CA CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.
- The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - Two (2) are PUIs
- One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D.

(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis
<(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick
(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.
(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.
- AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D.

(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS
- • Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- • The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- • The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- • As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is 69 and the other is 72. Both are Air Force Veterans
- • One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- • Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- • The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- • In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- • In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- • 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- • Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- • The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- • A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.
 - • Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
 - • Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
 - • The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
 - • Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
 - • Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - • PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - • Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.
- Note:** A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.
- • OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
 - • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis

<(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick
(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C.
(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.
- TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.

- COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San

Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.

- Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA's order of COVID-19 test kits.
- OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

The TTXs are designed for:

- VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - DUSHOM memorandum distributed

- • Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- • Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- • 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- • HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- • Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- • CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- • Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- • Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- • OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- • The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – “follow the plan and you will be safe”
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.

- • Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- • DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- • Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- • Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- • Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O
- • Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- • The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- • It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- • The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- • 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- • CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- • Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan

- • US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- • CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- • Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- • Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- • Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- • Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- • Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- • All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live
- • Coordinating with (B6) to add a "clinical" section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one "voice"
- • Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- • Reached out to CDC/HHS on the "one and done" usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- • (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- • PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- • CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- • No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- • 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- • Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- • 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production

- • Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- • Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- • Global draw down will continue
- • Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- • The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- • The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- • The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- • The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- • The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.
- • Team is tired but spirits are high.
- • VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- • OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- • HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- • At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- • At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information

attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents

- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.
- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of "Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don't believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions."

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- • 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- • I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- • At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.
- • At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- • At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- • At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- • Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- • At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- • The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.

- OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with (B6) y and (B6) both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
128 minors over 2
20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven <(B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.

- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians
- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD
 Director
 VHA Office of Emergency Management
 (B6) Office
 (B6) Cell

Sender:	Kim, Paul D., MD /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A5941BF8631A4BD4AA63AA8732C5FD05-KIM, PAUL_3 (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6)@va.gov>;

Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic
(B6) @va.gov>;
Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich
(B6) @va.gov>;
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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R
(B6) @va.gov>;
Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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(B6) @va.gov>;
Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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(B6) @va.gov>;
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Boyd, Teresa D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6886a7d555a43e0bee23c1e40e1c234-Boyd, Teres
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MacDonald, Jennifer E. (Physician) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=616a07a52ab5482caa35b55b0a35f065-MacDonald,
(B6) @va.gov>;
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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed
(B6) @va.gov>;
Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry
(B6) @va.gov>;
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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford,
(B6) @va.gov>;
Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar
(B6) @va.gov>;
Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri
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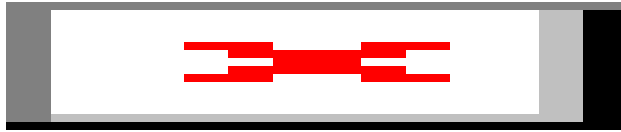
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Subject: SITREP (Update 40): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/03/05 11:01:13

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 5 Mar 20 / 1100 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 40:

- On 5 Mar, the WHO is reporting 95,270 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,280 deaths, throughout 79 countries.
- CDC reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 159 confirmed cases across 13 states and territories; 11 total deaths.
- HHS has been designated the Lead Federal Agency for the COVID-19 response. FEMA is establishing a Response Operations Cell in order to:
 - 1) provide synchronized support to HHS from across the agency.
 - 2) serve as the central point of information on the Agency's internal activities.
 - 3) provide updates to FEMA senior leadership on FEMA activities.
- The GRAND PRINCESS Cruise Ship has had separate cruises with the potential for exposure to COVID-19.
 - Cruise A: The first cruise occurred from 11 – 21 Feb, roundtrip from San Francisco-Mexico.
 - There were 3 presumptive positives (2 couples traveling together) with 2 Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) - all after disembarking cruise A.
 - One has died (first CA death) and another remains in ICU (spouse), the third case was confirmed positive.

- Cruise B: The second cruise is currently sailing from 21 Feb-7 Mar with four port calls in Hawaii, and the second leg of the trip was to Mexico but is being diverted to San Francisco.
- The ship has 2422 passengers and 1122 crew.
- 11 passengers are sick with upper respiratory illness, 4 flu tests given and 3 are positive for the flu so far; 20 crew are sick with respiratory illness, 7 tested for flu and pending results.
- There are 68 passengers who were holdovers between cruise A and B. Unknown number of crew changed out between voyages.
- Approximately 100 people will be tested - all those with symptoms plus the 68 holdovers from cruise A.
- The test kits will be picked up for the California Department of Public Health lab in Richmond, CA and flown via U.S. Coast Guard to the ship.
- The testing will be done by the ships medical staff.
- The CDC and the State of California are coordinating.
- On Wednesday, 4 Mar, VPOTUS announced that 1.5 million coronavirus test kits will be available this week.
- WA state has established a quarantine and isolation facility; currently zero occupants.
- China Economic Impact: Production, trucking, and port operations in China remain lower than normal, but supply chain indicators suggest a gradual resumption of economic and export activity. If these trends continue, container volume into U.S. ports may see increases by early April.

Update 39

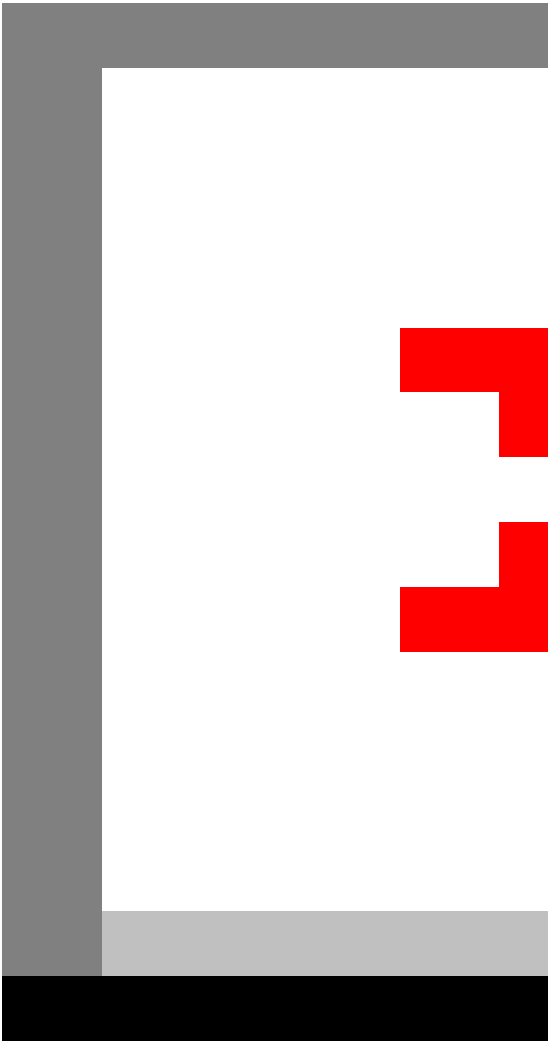
- • 4 Mar at 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 90,893 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,111 deaths, throughout 73 countries.
- • CDC reports the total U.S cases of COVID-19 is 91, including: 16 presenting in U.S., 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province and 45 among evacuees from Diamond Princess, 27 presumptive cases pending confirmation at CDC.
- • Washington Department of Health is reporting six COVID-19 deaths.
- • Washington and Florida have declared States of Emergencies, along with the city of San Antonio, TX and the following counties in California; Solano, Orange, San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Diego.
- • Supply Chain Task Force focused on implementing N95 policy courses of action including: increase production; prioritize availability for highest risk healthcare workers and first responders; modify guidance to emphasize conservation; and develop whole of nation communications strategy to promote conservation and responsible use.
- • King County, WA ordered the purchase of a motel for isolation of patients in active treatment and recovery; county will also set up modular housing units on publicly owned land.
- • CDC issued interim guidance for healthcare facilities on COVID 19 community transmission preparation.

- • No reports of impact to continuity of government. All federal departments and agencies continue to perform essential functions.

VA:

- • The VA LNO (AEM) at Lackland AFB, TX has redeployed.
- • VHA screened 74 Veterans, 65 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 1 tested positive, 5 tested negative, and 3 tests pending.
- • VHA screened 34 Employees, 18 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 12 under home quarantine.
- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) Watch Branch Chief

Released by: (B6) , Watch Officer

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Sender:	VAIOC /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=028F129D5C2D4A4C81F95B2BA8CA56E2-VAIOC (B6)@va.gov>
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Veterans Health Administration

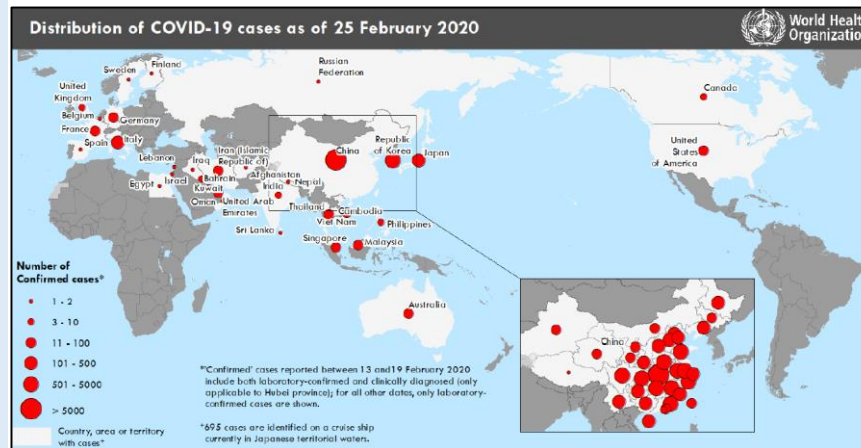
Senior Leadership Brief: 25 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 80,239 (+908) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 2,666 (+71). According to the WHO, there are now 2,459 (+390) confirmed cases outside China in 33 (+4 – Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman) countries with 34 (+11) deaths reported. On Tuesday, Italy reported 322 (+93) confirmed cases and 10 deaths from the coronavirus. Due to the dramatic increase of cases in Italy, a joint WHO and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) mission arrived in Italy on Feb. 24 to support Italian authorities with the growing COVID-19 outbreak. The number of confirmed cases in South Korea has increased to nearly 1,000 with 10 confirmed deaths prompting the CDC to advise U.S. citizens to avoid nonessential travel to country.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Tuesday, Feb. 25, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 57 (+4) with four new cases related to the Diamond Princess cruise ship.
- CDC indicated Tuesday that they would consider expanding screening at U.S. airports to include travelers coming from countries like Italy and South Korea where the number of confirmed coronavirus cases has dramatically increased.
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases initiated a clinical trial to test a rapidly developed coronavirus vaccine. Initial results may not be available until July or August 2020. The institute also initiated a clinical trial for a new antiviral drug at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where 13 U.S. citizens from the Diamond Princess cruise ship are receiving care.
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported they are monitoring supplies of 20 unrelated drugs that are either made in China, where the coronavirus epidemic has drastically reduced manufacturing, or contain ingredients from China. China produces a significant amount of medication used in the world to include aspirin and penicillin. (New York Times)
- Diamond Princess cruise ship: Yokohama, Japan:**
 - Over 700 confirmed coronavirus cases are linked to the cruise ship.
 - 68 U.S. citizens from the ship remain hospitalized in Japan
 - 36 U.S. citizens repatriated to the U.S. from the ship have confirmed cases.

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**: Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Lackland AFB, TX.
 - DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (5) Nursing Assistants onsite at Travis AFB.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) extended until March 3 to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
- Palo Alto created a ward in order to provide patient care for any repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB.
 - Will equip 13 rooms in total.
 - Nursing education and infection control will be providing just in time PPE/PAPR/donning/doffing training today for nursing, physician and other staff (EMS, police, etc.) as necessary.
 - Actual staffing scenarios are still being worked out, and they will severely limit who goes in or out.
 - EMCC has participated on the planning calls and provided cost tracking, COVID-19 Check list, PPE/Isolation flow chart documents to the planning team.



The Olympics rings reflected on the window of a hotel restaurant as a server with a mask sets up a table Monday in Tokyo, Japan. The International Olympic Committee, estimates there is a three month window to decide whether the Tokyo Games can go ahead as scheduled due to the spread of coronavirus. If the Games cannot occur in July, the games will likely be cancelled.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000690

VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0268

UNCLASS//FOUO

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Monday, Feb. 24: Website has been visited 23,166 (+425) times with 21,558 (+393) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Tuesday, Feb. 25: 115 Questions submitted; 92 Answered; 23 Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).
- Office of Communications produced/released Coronavirus Alert Bulletin Board (Attached)



Iran's deputy health minister, Iraj Harirchi, wiped his brow during a news briefing on Monday. Later that day, he tested positive for the coronavirus. (Getty/New York Times). On Tuesday, Iran reported 95 confirmed cases of the coronavirus with 15 deaths.

000537

COVID-19 ALERT

**If you have a fever, cough or other cold symptoms,
be prepared to talk about recent travel and/or contact with others with these symptoms.**

1

ASK FOR A MASK



Make sure the mask covers your mouth and nose.

2

KEEP HANDS CLEAN



Use hand sanitizer or soap and water.

3

TELL US ABOUT IT



Report any recent travel and your symptoms.



<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus>

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

This is current CDC guidance in a very rapidly changing environment. The VHA Emergency Management Coordination Cell will provide changes and/or updates as required.

02/25/2020

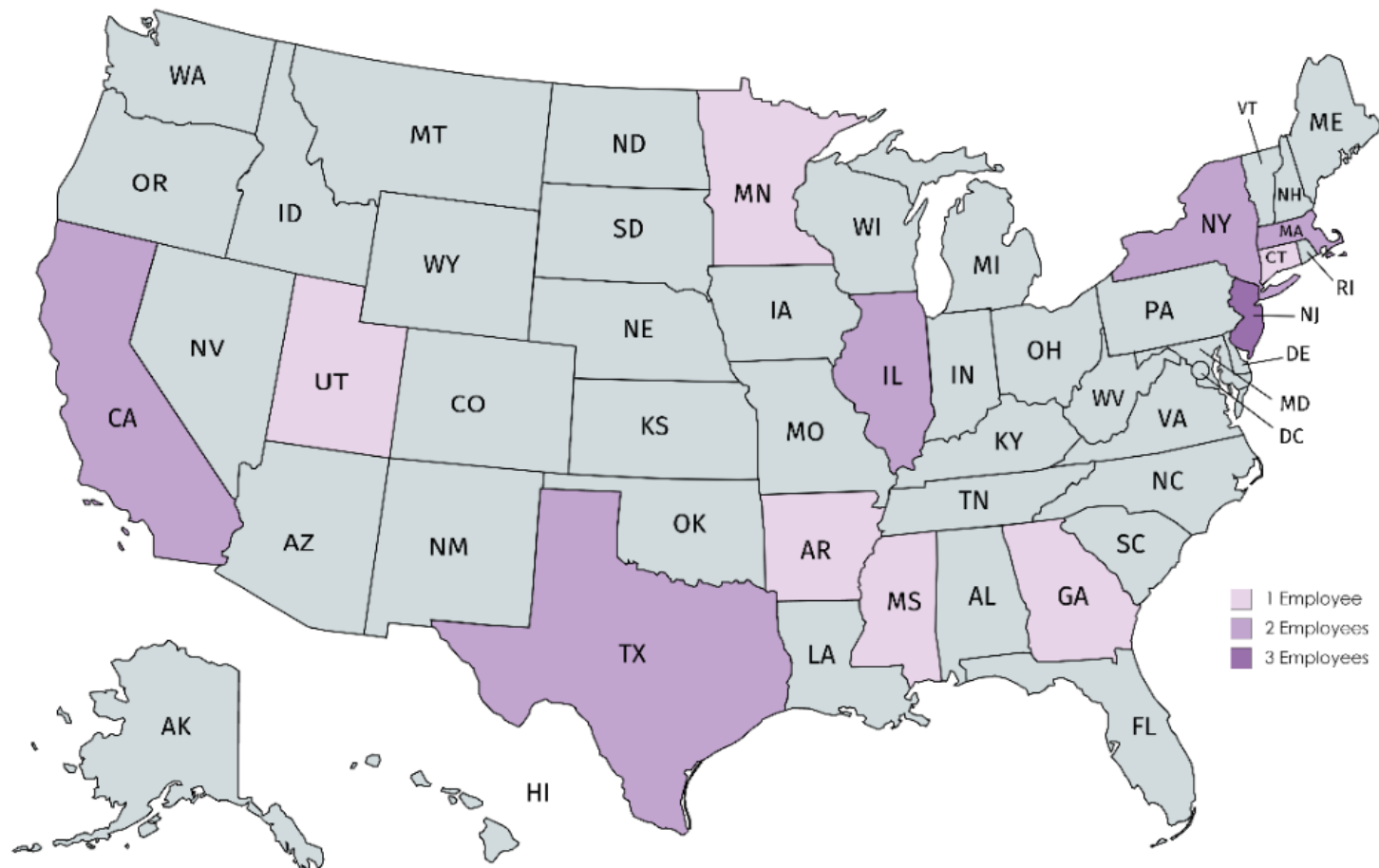
MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000691

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/25/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 22):*

- 4 in home quarantine
- 14 completed home quarantine or work under supervision

*1 new in last 24 hours



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net ©

Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHAID=0471&VHID=000692> for chart review verification for Veterans.

VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 2/25/2020

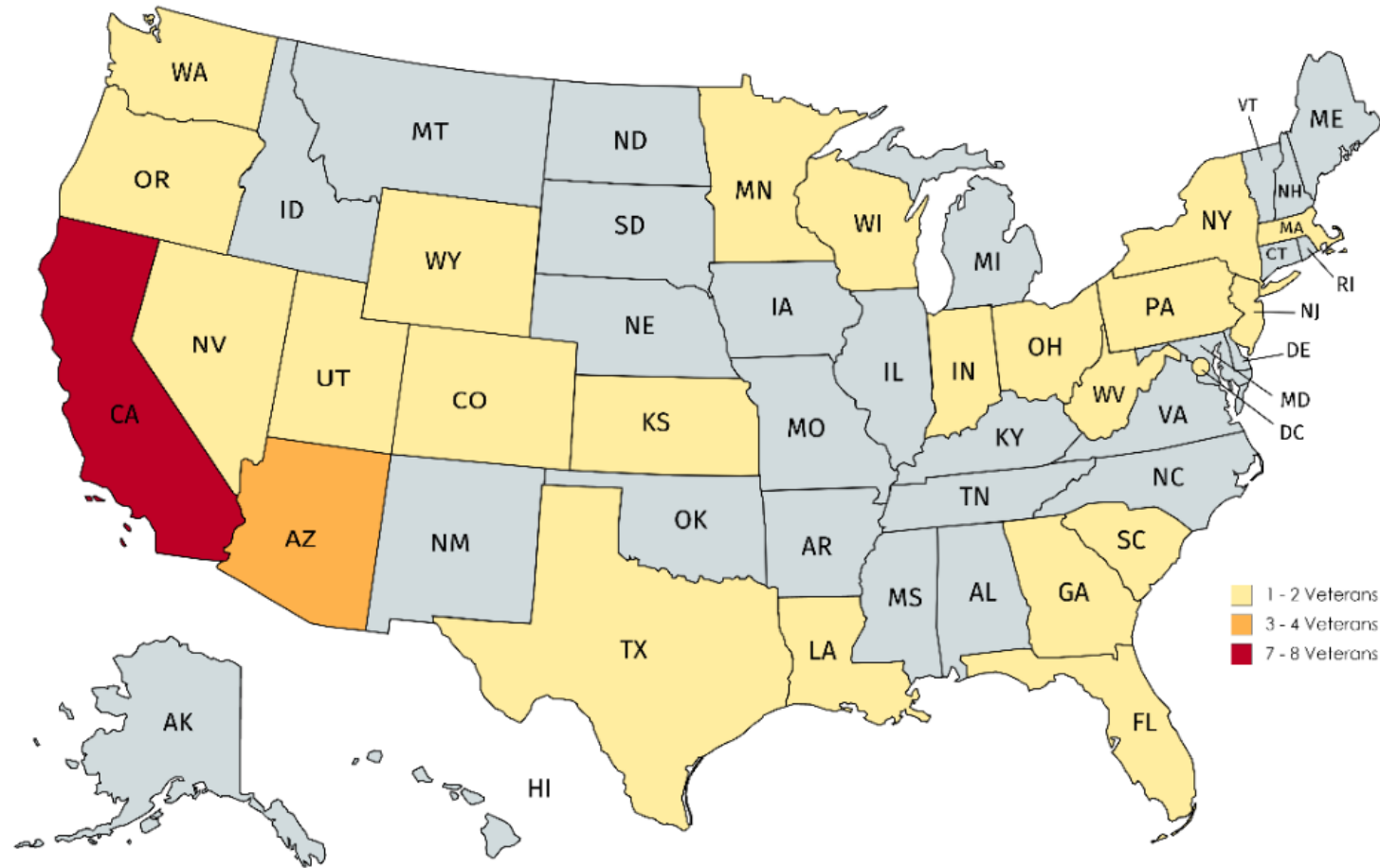
Status of Veterans screened (N =40):*

- 2 Veterans tested for COVID-19 – NEGATIVE (one of whom was in home isolation and is now removed)
- 38 ruled out for PUI**

*0 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



Created with mapchart.net ©

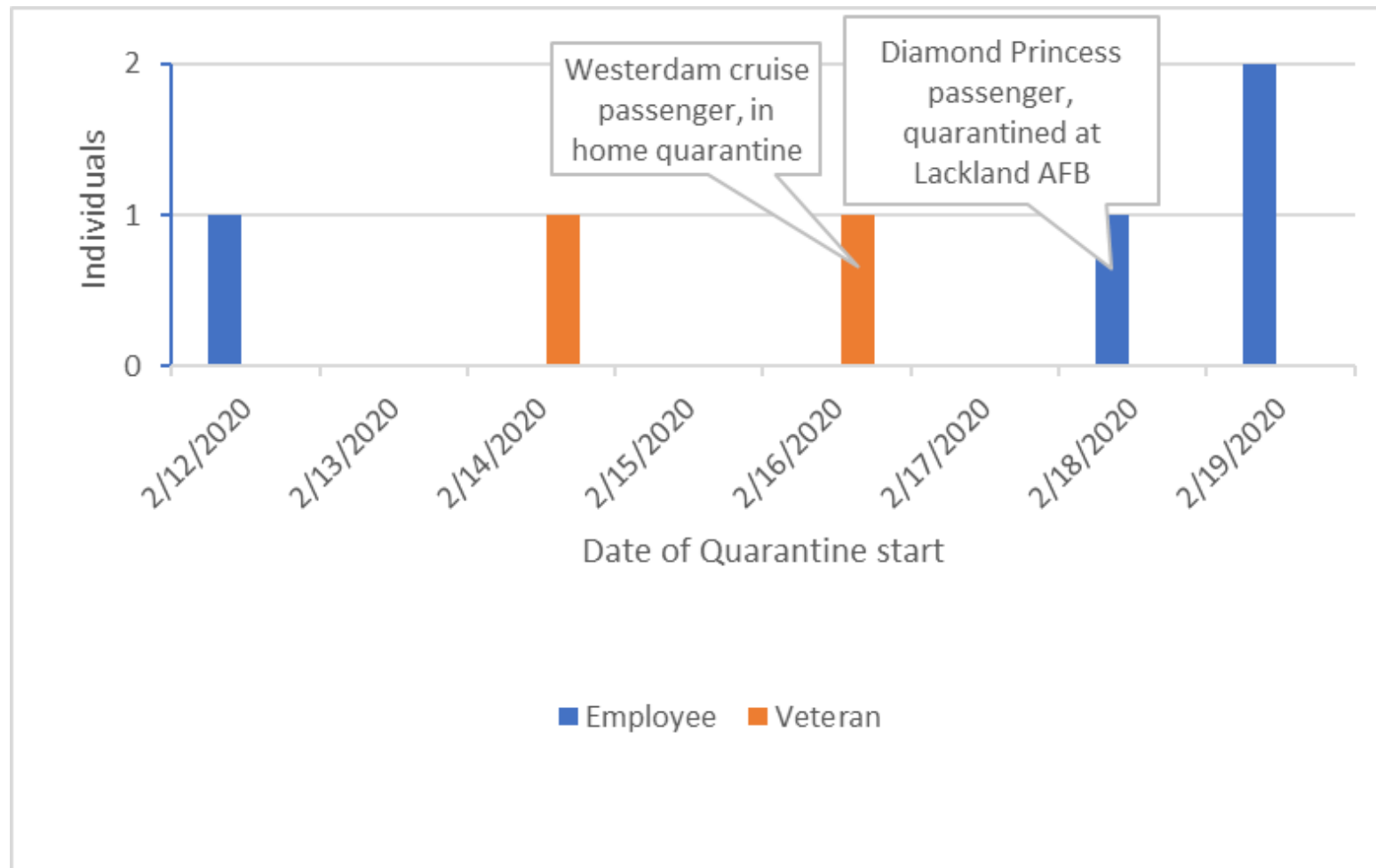
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Employees and Veterans
under 14 day
Quarantine/Self-Isolation
as of 2/25/2020

$$N = 6^*$$

4 Employees,
2 Veteran patients)

*0 new Veteran patients and 1 new employee added in last 24 hours.



Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHA=290471&WOC=694> for chart review verification for Veterans.



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Date:	2020/03/05 17:34:46
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Respectfully,

If masks are used to prevent contagious people from spreading the virus;
AND most people who are infected with COVID-19 are asymptomatic;
Then, why shouldn't most people wear them just in case they are unknowingly contagious?
At a minimum, masks reduce hand to face cross contamination. Is this really a supply issue?

If EVERYONE in public wore a mask starting right now, it would seem that we could significantly slow the spread of the virus; thereby, spreading the burden on the healthcare system across a longer period of time.

In my humble opinion.

(B6)

From: US Department of Veterans Affairs (B6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 1:33 PM
To: VHAALLEXOMailboxes (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE
March 05, 2020

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease UPDATE

We continue to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other Federal agencies to monitor and respond to the current outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States.

VA has received its first confirmed case of a COVID-19 positive Veteran at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center. First, I want to allay fears. VA has a comprehensive plan in place to protect the health of everyone who visits or works at one of our facilities. And while we must be prepared as a health care organization, the CDC still considers COVID-19 to be a low threat to the general American public. For people in

communities where the ongoing community spread of COVID-19 has been reported, the risk of exposure is elevated but still relatively low.

That said, preparation is a team approach, and everybody needs to be involved. It is imperative that all VHA employees understand and adhere to the Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions, which include the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Healthcare personnel evaluating or treating a patient suspected or confirmed to have a COVID-19 infection should use these precautions. In addition, it is critical that all facilities and VISNs communicate COVID-19 outbreak-related information to the Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) at OEMEMCCCcmdStaff@va.gov so we can maintain accurate, up-to-date information to respond to this rapidly changing situation.

All VA medical facilities are implementing screening measures for signs of respiratory illness and exposure to COVID-19. Via telehealth services, we will provide a first line of defense using virtual screening for symptoms or exposure. Onsite, we will use standardized screening questions at appointment check in and during initial clinical screening. The [High Consequence Infection \(HCI\) SharePoint](#) site has screening scripts and resources.

Prevention is the best medicine. To protect yourselves and others, wash your hands often for 20 seconds or the length of two happy birthday songs, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes, get a flu shot if you haven't already, avoid other people who are sick, and importantly, stay home if you are sick. If you notice that a fellow employee has come to work sick, encourage them to take leave. Our goal is to prevent COVID-19 infections from spreading within VA while maintaining our usual high level of care for all Veterans.

Follow CDC Guidance

People who show symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, or have had exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 should wear a facemask and isolate themselves from others.

At this time, the CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear PPE (e.g., facemasks) to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases in the community.

Please know that PPE does not fully protect a healthy person from becoming infected. Instead it is for use by people with symptoms to attempt to prevent the spread of infection.

Stay Informed

COVID-19 specific guidance developed by VA's Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) is available on the [HCI SharePoint](#) site. The site includes information on prevention, screening/diagnosis/treatment, Infection Control, Communications, Administration, and a series of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Links to the CDC Website and resources are also on the SharePoint site. You can also visit [VA's Public Health Website](#) for general updates to the public.

It is important for us all to work together to protect ourselves from infection, keep our facilities clean, follow CDC guidelines to evaluate and care for Veterans with potential exposure and symptoms of respiratory illness, and maintain our focus on doing our jobs to the best of our abilities.

Richard A. Stone, MD
Executive In Charge, VHA

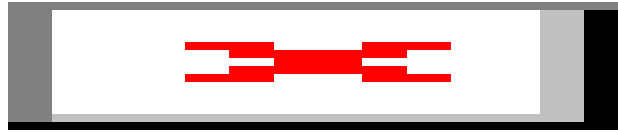
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Subject:	SITREP (Update 42): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global
Date:	2020/03/07 12:12:04
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 7 Mar 20 /1211 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 42:

- On 7 Mar, the WHO is reporting 101,828 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,486 deaths, throughout 94 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 338 confirmed cases across 25 states and territories; 16 total deaths.
- 69 public health laboratories are using CDC tests (45 states and Washington, D.C.)
- President signed into law \$8.3 billion emergency spending package Mar 6.
- Grand Princess cruise ship with 2,422 passengers and 1,122 crew; 46 individuals tested: 21 positive COVID 19 cases, 24 negative cases, 1 inconclusive; final disposition of ship pending.

Update 41:

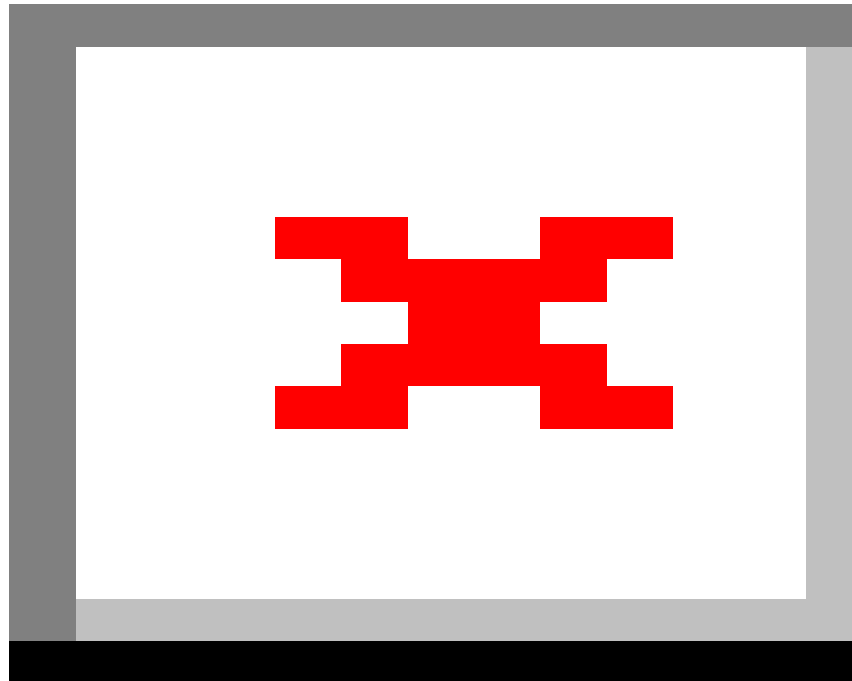
- On 6 Mar, the WHO is reporting 98,202 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,381 deaths, throughout 88 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 233 confirmed cases across 13 states and territories; 12 total deaths.

- • Grand Princess cruise ship with 2,383 passengers and 1,110 crew was scheduled to return to Port of San Francisco 5 Mar; 100 COVID-19 tests delivered 5 Mar; tests will be prioritized for flu-positive passengers (2) and crew members (4) along with 68 holdovers from previous sailing; final disposition of ship pending.
- • HHS to procure 500 million N95 respirators over the next 18 months for the Strategic National Stockpile to support healthcare workers in COVID-19 outbreaks.
- • The Governor of Maryland has declared a State of Emergency to further mobilize and coordinate state resources in response to COVID-19. This was after the Governor released information that the state's Public Health Laboratory had confirmed the first three positive cases of COVID-19 in the state. There are 11 State Emergency Operations Centers activated and Hawaii, West Virginia, and California have also all issued various preparedness and emergency declarations.
- • The EPA has published a list of qualified disinfectant products for use against the virus.
 - • <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- • The VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) has established the following email account to receive legal questions from the field in regards to COVID-19:
 - • ogccovid19@va.gov

VA:

- • On 6 Mar, the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) updated Guidance to Agencies (attached); only mission-critical travel and training will be authorized. Conferences must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether to cancel or proceed.
- • The Jack C. Montgomery VAMC, Muskogee, OK Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Edith Nourse Rogers VAMC, Bedford, MA Incident Command Center have been activated in response to COVID-19.
- • The VA LNO (AEM) at Lackland AFB, TX has redeployed.
- • VHA screened 74 Veterans, 65 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 1 tested positive, 5 tested negative, and 3 tests pending.
- • VHA screened 34 Employees, 18 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 12 under home quarantine.
- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED], Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) , Watch Officer

(B6)

VA Integrated Operations Center

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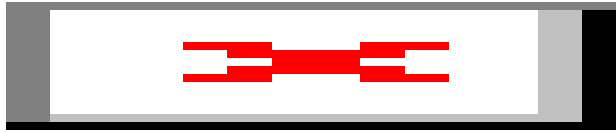
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Subject: CORRECTED SITREP (Update 42): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/03/07 12:18:19

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 7 Mar 20 /1217 ET

ATTACHMENT INCLUDED

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 42:

- On 7 Mar, the WHO is reporting 101,828 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,486 deaths, throughout 94 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 338 confirmed cases across 25 states and territories; 16 total deaths.
- 69 public health laboratories are using CDC tests (45 states and Washington, D.C.)
- President signed into law \$8.3 billion emergency spending package Mar 6.
- Grand Princess cruise ship with 2,422 passengers and 1,122 crew; 46 individuals tested: 21 positive COVID 19 cases, 24 negative cases, 1 inconclusive; final disposition of ship pending.

Update 41:

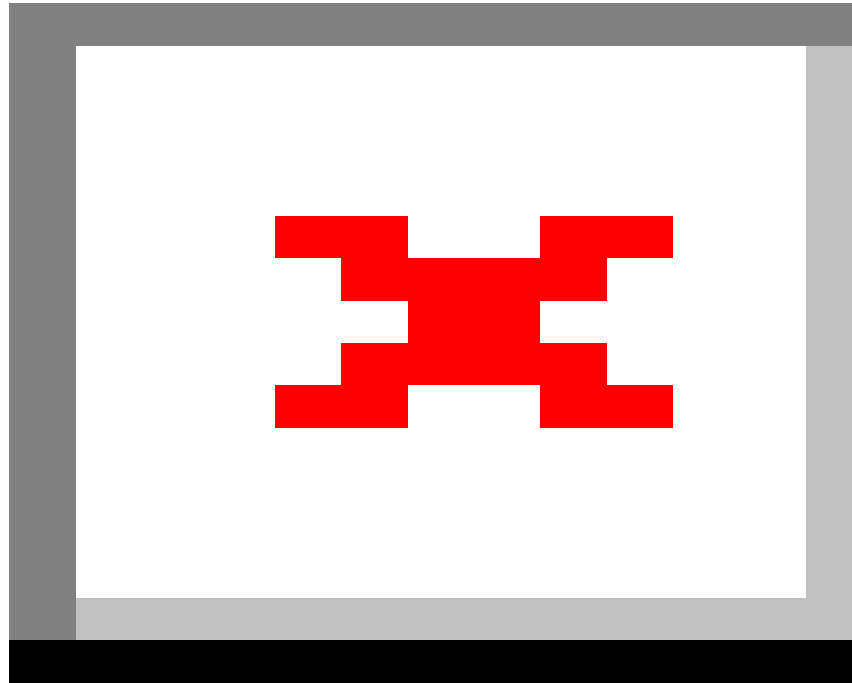
- On 6 Mar, the WHO is reporting 98,202 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,381 deaths, throughout 88 countries.

- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 233 confirmed cases across 13 states and territories; 12 total deaths.
- Grand Princess cruise ship with 2,383 passengers and 1,110 crew was scheduled to return to Port of San Francisco 5 Mar; 100 COVID-19 tests delivered 5 Mar; tests will be prioritized for flu-positive passengers (2) and crew members (4) along with 68 holdovers from previous sailing; final disposition of ship pending.
- HHS to procure 500 million N95 respirators over the next 18 months for the Strategic National Stockpile to support healthcare workers in COVID-19 outbreaks.
- The Governor of Maryland has declared a State of Emergency to further mobilize and coordinate state resources in response to COVID-19. This was after the Governor released information that the state's Public Health Laboratory had confirmed the first three positive cases of COVID-19 in the state. There are 11 State Emergency Operations Centers activated and Hawaii, West Virginia, and California have also all issued various preparedness and emergency declarations.
- The EPA has published a list of qualified disinfectant products for use against the virus.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- The VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) has established the following email account to receive legal questions from the field in regards to COVID-19:
 - ogccovid19@va.gov

VA:

- On 6 Mar, the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) updated Guidance to Agencies (attached); only mission-critical travel and training will be authorized. Conferences must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether to cancel or proceed.
- The Jack C. Montgomery VAMC, Muskogee, OK Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Edith Nourse Rogers VAMC, Bedford, MA Incident Command Center have been activated in response to COVID-19.
- The VA LNO (AEM) at Lackland AFB, TX has redeployed.
- VHA screened 74 Veterans, 65 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 1 tested positive, 5 tested negative, and 3 tests pending.
- VHA screened 34 Employees, 18 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 12 under home quarantine.
- VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED], Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) , Watch Officer

(B6)

VA Integrated Operations Center

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Veterans Health Administration

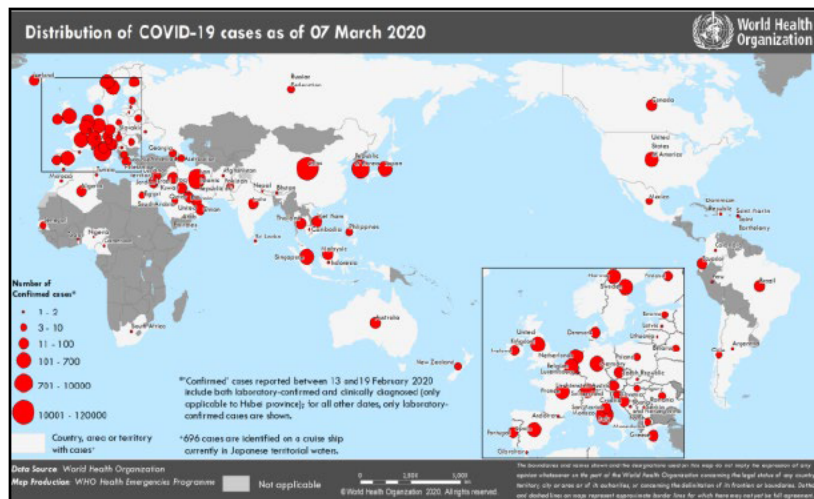
Senior Leadership Brief: 7 March 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UNCLASS//FOUO

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 101,927 (+3,735) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 3,073(+28). According to the WHO, there are now 21,110 (+3,629) confirmed cases outside China in 93 countries (+5 – Colombia, Holy See, Peru, Serbia, and Togo) with 413 (+78) deaths reported. New York declared a state of emergency today due to 76 cases. The Governor of MD declared a State of Emergency after three cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Montgomery County. Thirty-one patients were tested; 3 were positive; 17 were negative; and 11 are pending.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Saturday, Mar. 7, 2020 (WHO).

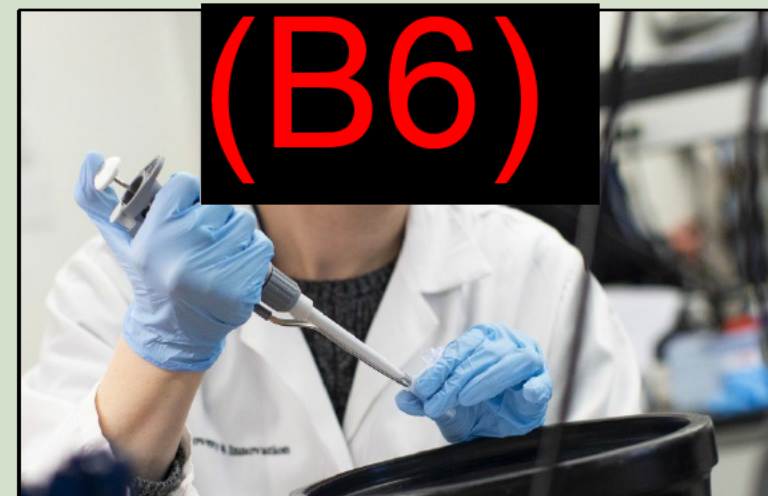


Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Saturday, Mar. 7 at 1700, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 338 (+105) with 20 (+5) deaths reported.
- House and Senate leaders agreed on a \$8.3 billion funding package to fight the coronavirus. Includes \$500 million for Medicare providers to provide telehealth services for elderly patients, who at greater risk, to avoid increased exposure from medical visits.
- Utah, Hawaii and South Carolina reported their first COVID-19 cases today and the Governors declared a state of emergency. The cases are related to the Princess Cruise ship and travel to Italy
- US European Command reported the first case in a US Navy Sailor stationed in Naples, Italy
- Amtrak has cancelled its Acela nonstop service between Washington, D.C. and New York as one of its safety measures amid concerns regarding the spread of the coronavirus.

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**: Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - OEM Plans' COVID-19 Response Annex distributed HCI workgroups for review and input.
 - Communication
 - Community Living Center (CLC) guidance provided to field.
 - Guidance on the viability of COVID-19 on non-permeable surfaces transmitted to the Director of Environmental Services.
 - Guidance to VA Police on Quarantine Authority transmitted to the field; VA Police representative to the EMCC and EMCC Logs are working a PPE plan for VA Police.



72 state and local public health labs in 48 states and the District of Columbia have successfully verified and are currently using COVID-19 diagnostic tests. But tests are in short supply. About 1,250 Californians who were possibly exposed to COVID-19 on a cruise ship need to be tested. There are more than 9,000 in California who have recently returned from countries experiencing severe outbreaks. California has tested 516 people to date. (LA Times)

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000718

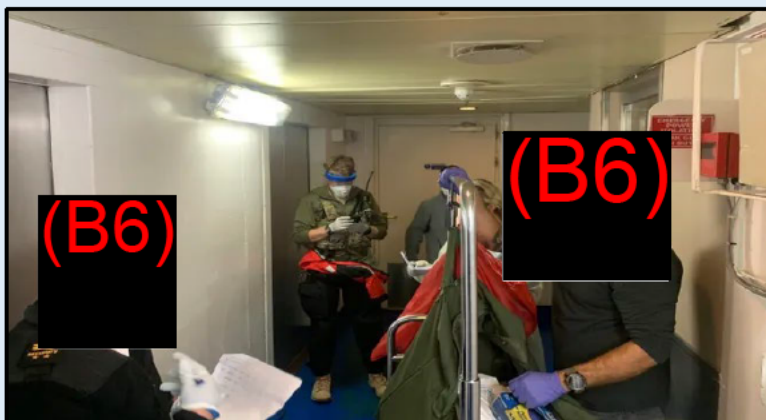
UNCLASS//FOUO

VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0268

Significant Activities

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Thursday, Mar. 5: the website has been visited 39,121 (+3,324) times with 36,176 (+3,077) unique visits.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Friday, Mar. 6: 211 (+13) Questions submitted; 161 (+56) Answered; 50 (-43) Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).
- 14 of 18 VISNs have completed COVID-19 Table Top Exercise.
- Guidance on Requesting Government Furnished Equipment for the COVID-19 Response; Posted on SharePoint site.
- VA Health Care Systems have launched a notification campaign to inform and educate the Veteran population visiting facilities.

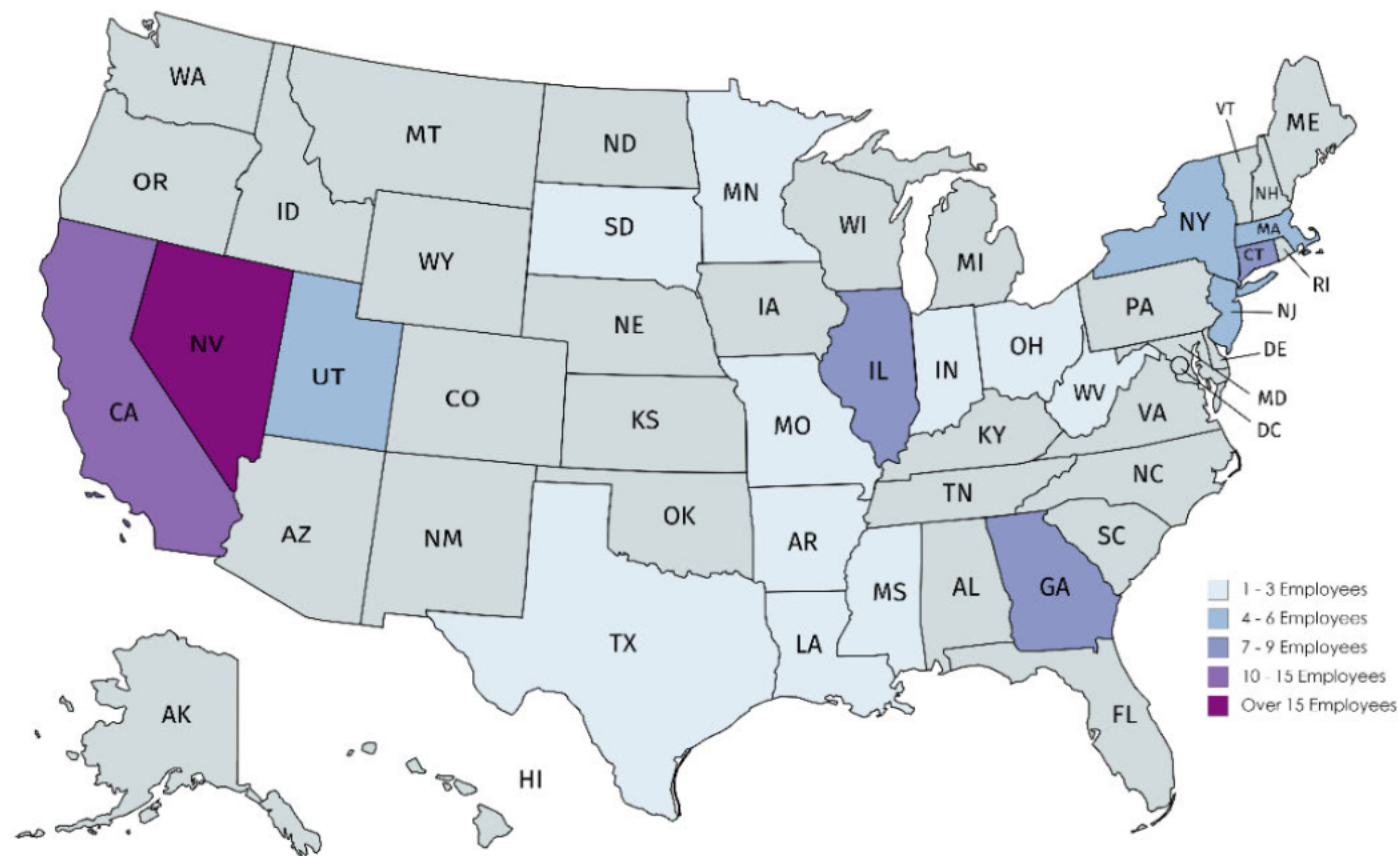


The US Coast Guard is planning to evacuate one passenger from The Grand Princess cruise ship that had a heart attack and doesn't exhibit symptoms. Of the 100 test kits delivered to the Grand Princess, 46 test kits were returned for analysis. 21 aboard the ship have tested positive, 24 have tested negative, 1 inconclusive. There is a plan to have the ship dock at a non-commercial port where an estimated 15,422 passengers will be allowed to depart.

VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/6/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 101):*

- 2 employees tested for COVID-19:
 - 1 NEGATIVE (employee removed from isolation at home)
 - 1 still pending, in home isolation
- 13 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 20 completed home quarantine or work under supervision



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net ©

VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/6/2020

Status of Veterans screened (N =99):*

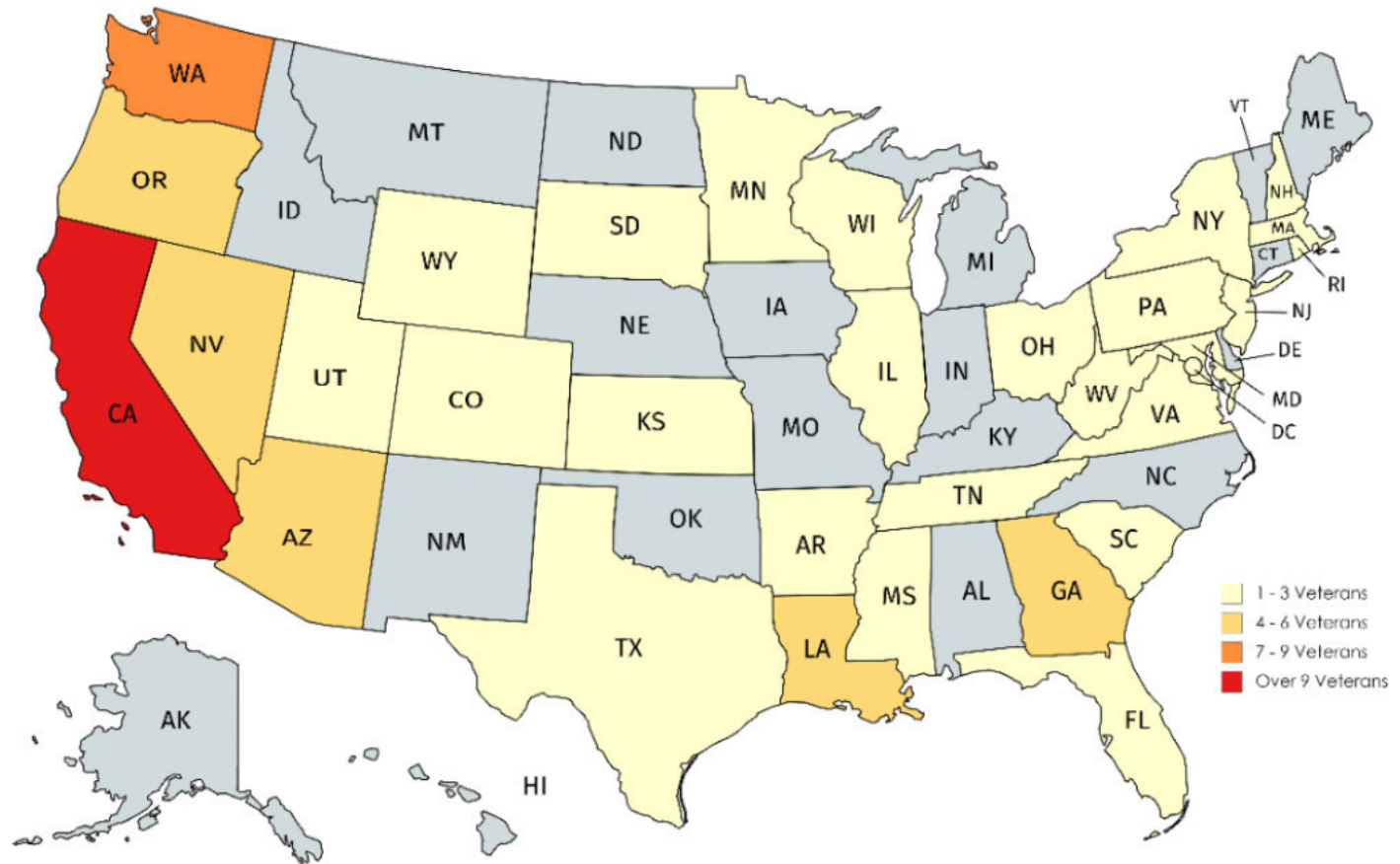
- 28 Veterans tested for COVID-19
 - 2 POSITIVE
 - 1 at 640-VA Palo Alto HCS
 - 1 at 593-Southern Nevada HCS
 - 14 NEGATIVE
 - 12 tests pending
- 71 ruled out for PUI**

*9 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

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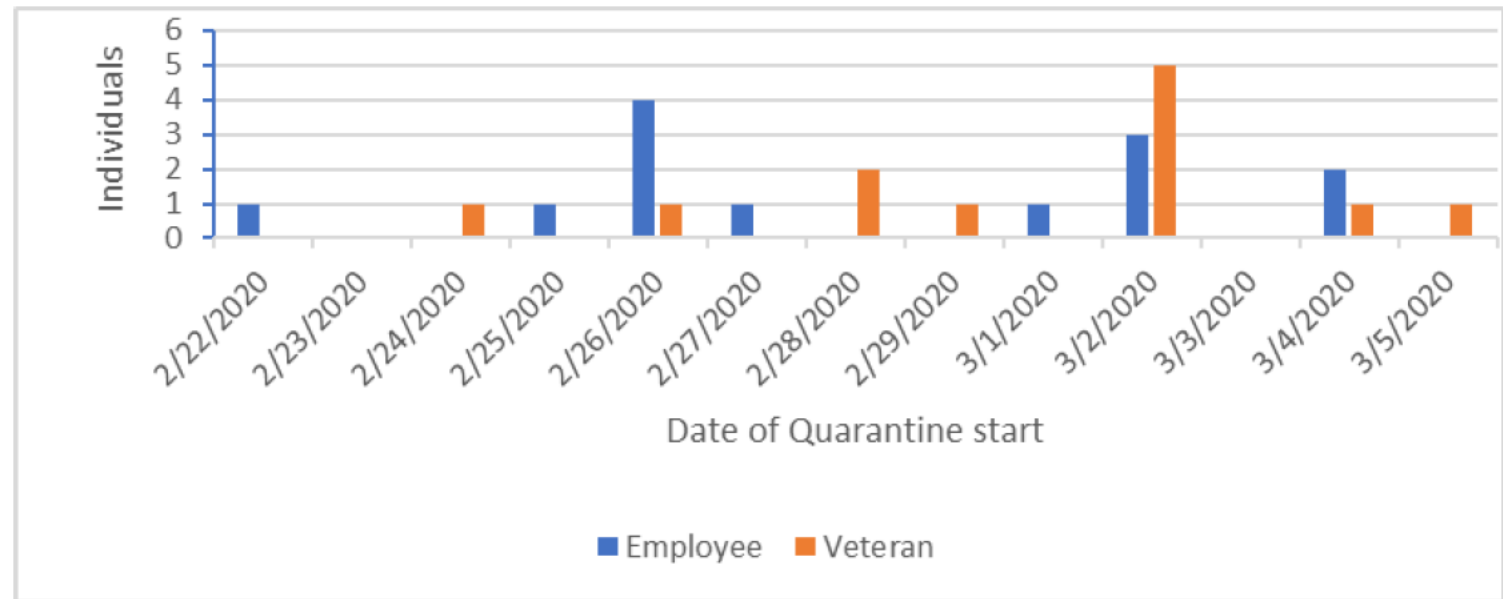
Data sources: Praedico and PraediGene Public Health and Laboratory Software (Bitscopic Inc.), Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx>; Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV) for chart review verification for Veterans.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000720

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 3/6/2020

N = 25*
(13 Employees,
12 Veteran patients)

*5 new Veteran patients and 0 new employees
added in last 24 hours.



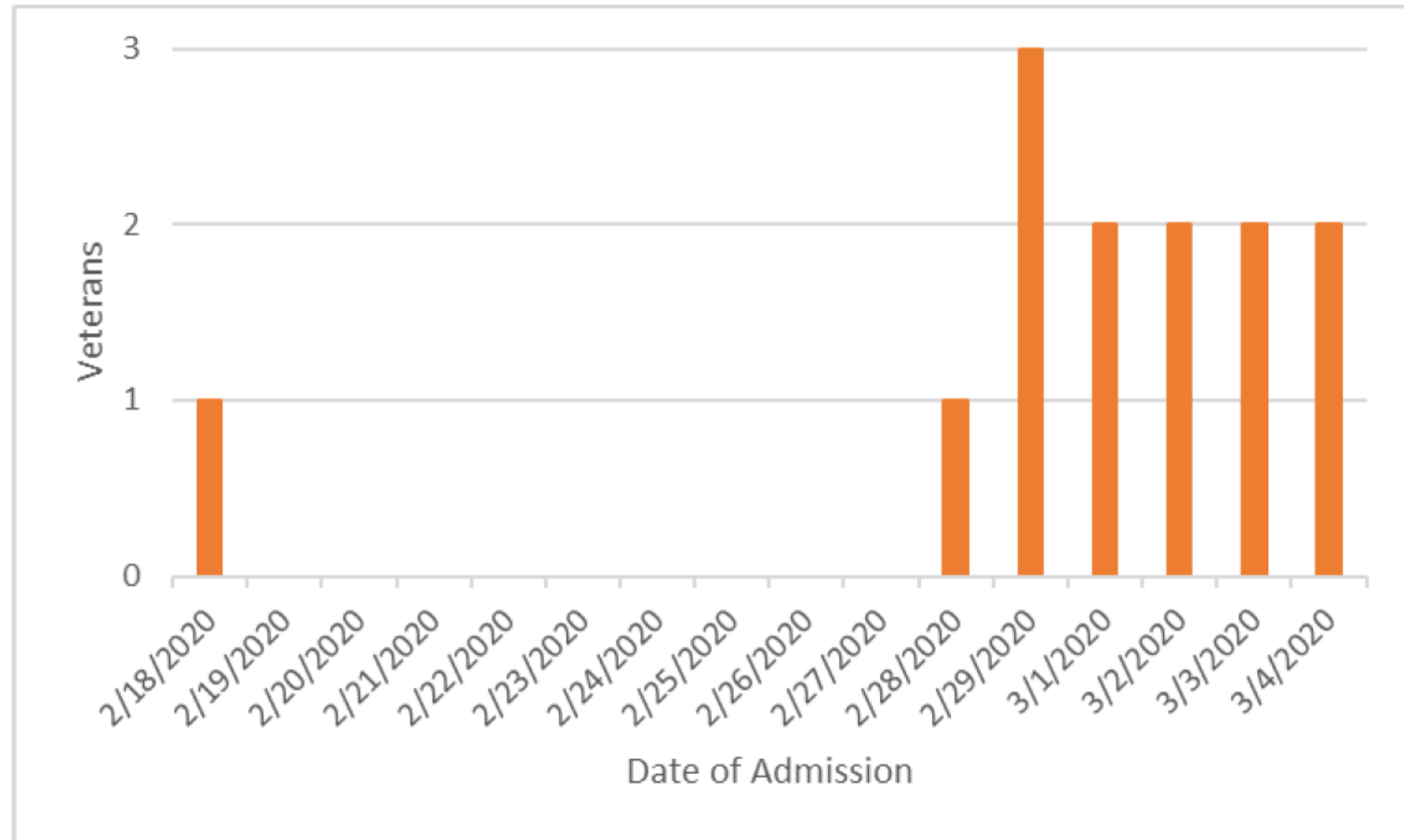
Veteran Patients PUI** Admitted to VA Medical Centers as of 3/6/2020

N = 13*

*5 new in last 24 hours

*PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>



Data sources: Praedico and PraediGene Public Health and Laboratory Software (Bitscopic Inc.), Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx>; Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV) for chart review verification for Veterans.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000722

VA Response to COVID-19
Guidance for VA Community Living Centers

Effective Date: March 6, 2020

Synopsis: The priority goal in the VA response to COVID-19 is the protection of Veterans and staff. Community Living Centers (CLCs) are facilities that may be located on VA grounds or in a separate location but are part of the Healthcare System. CLCs house high risk populations for COVID-19 including Veterans requiring long stay, short stay or hospice services. Various strategies to mitigate exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 to these populations is critical. This document provides guidance to facilities providing these services including state nursing homes (SVHs).

Admissions: Effective immediately, VA facilities will institute a national priority system for new admissions to CLCs. Groups are prioritized to limit the exposure of residents of the CLCs to new residents. The priority groups are:

1. Veterans transferring from an inpatient ward at the facility where there are NO patients with COVID-19.
2. Veteran living at home where there is NO COVID-19 in the community.

These Veterans would be admitted under quarantine restrictions (see below). Veterans with COVID-19 or suspected of COVID-19 from outside of the CLC will not be admitted to the CLC.

Staffing: Staffing, procedures and delivery models should be assessed to limit the number of staff entering CLC space. Whenever possible, dedicated CLC staff should be used. Facility staff should not have duties that require them to enter a COVID-19 area at the facility and a CLC. To minimize access to the CLC, facilities should address what duties can be performed by CLC staff (e.g., phlebotomy) and how to limit deliveries (e.g., pharmacy, supplies, linens, meals). Outpatient visits should be rare with consults addressed via telehealth.

Facility access: Access to the CLC should be limited and able to accommodate screening of all visitors and potentially staff. Appropriate signage should be in place to direct visitors to the access point. VA staff will screen all visitors each time they enter the CLC. Screening criteria may change as information about COVID-19 evolves. As of the effective date, screening should include the following information:

- Fever (100.4F or 38C)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The goal is to approve access to individuals with no fever and no symptoms. Visitors who screen positive, will not be granted access to the CLC. Visitors with additional questions about their symptoms should be referred to their medical professional.

Surveillance: Institute daily assessment of residents for fever and symptoms of COVID-19. The information collected should be entered in CPRS. Any resident that screens positive should be assessed for possible infection. Existing protocols that rule out other viral disease (e.g. influenza) should be performed prior to any COVID-19 testing.

Isolation Plan: The facility should have a plan to isolate any resident that is suspected of having COVID-19. Facilities with negative airflow rooms in the CLC should use that location. Facilities with multiple

VA Response to COVID-19
Guidance for VA Community Living Centers

suspected or confirmed cases should have plans to isolate resident to one neighborhood in the CLC or at another location at the medical center if space does not allow to isolate in the CLC.

Current residents residing in the CLC will not be relocated to other locations in the facility to accommodate potential receipt of Veterans with COVID-19.

Visitors: Visitor access will be greatly limited. Visitors providing support to Veterans in hospice, access will be determined on a case-by-case decision where the visitor is critical to the care of the Veteran. All visitors should be screened for COVID-19 as described above. Visitors without symptoms are permitted to enter the CLC as dictated by the current situation.

Social Distancing: Facilities should initiate procedures to limit social activities that bring together groups of residents. Examples include meals, activities and games. Field trips and other activities that take residents outside the CLC will be paused until further notice.

Services for Veterans waiting for CLC admission: Limited admissions to the CLC can have a negative impact on Veterans waiting for admission. Facilities should assess those Veterans for additional support and home-based care to cover the duration of the pause in admissions.

Quarantine restrictions: All Veterans that are admitted to the CLC during this period will be placed under quarantine restrictions. The Veteran will be isolated from others in the CLC, minimizing interactions with other residents. Surveillance monitoring will require three-times-a-day screening for fever and symptoms. The quarantine period will last for a total of 14 days including the time already spent in the hospital for Veterans transferring from a ward at the facility.

State Veterans Homes

State Veterans Homes (SVHs) provide three levels of care – nursing home, domiciliary and adult day health care. SVHs are owned and operated by the states.

If a SVH has a confirmed case or outbreak of COVID-19, they should immediately involve the state's public health department and follow any guidance from them to mitigate the spread. SVHs should report any confirmed cases of COVID-19 to their VAMC of jurisdiction.

VHA recommends that SVH follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recommendations for COVID-19 prevention and management. Those recommendations can be found via the following links and attached notice:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-14-nhpdf.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfo/policy-and-guidance-infection-control-and-prevention-concerning-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-faqs-and>

VA Response to COVID-19
Guidance for VA Community Living Centers



Attention Visitors
All facilities.pdf

Q&A

1. Do the VA Medical Centers of Jurisdiction have responsibility to prevent, send supplies or share information with their SVH?

The SVHs are owned and operated by the States and should be receiving advice on COVID 19 from their State, CDC or CMS. VA has no responsibility on prevention or sending supplies to the SVHs, however VA can proceed in assistance or help sharing information, advice or guidance in good partnership.

2. What about SVHs that want to send their cases to the local VAMC ER?

State Veteran Homes should follow the CDC advice to treat residents just like influenzas cases. It is recommended that only residents in respiratory distress be transfer to a higher level of care, all others should be treated on site.

3. Can we share information on what we are doing?

VA is highly encouraged to communicate, interact and share any information with their SVH of jurisdiction.



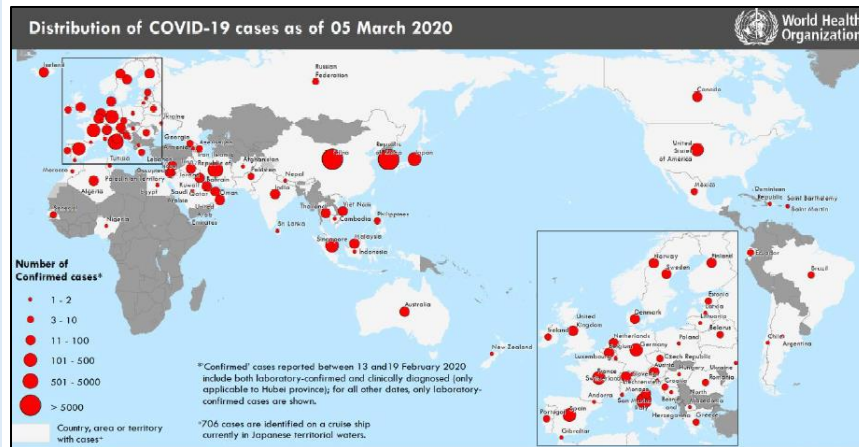
Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 5 March 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 95,333 (+2,241) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 3,015 (+31). According to the WHO, there are now 14,768 (+2,098) confirmed cases outside China in 85 countries (+5 – Bosnia & Herzegovina, Gibraltar, Hungary, Slovenia, and Palestinian Territory) with 267 (+53) deaths reported. Per open source reporting, the epidemic in Europe will probably get much worse before it is contained. On Thursday, the number of infections across the continent increased from fewer than 4,000 on Wednesday to well over 5,000, with at least 160 deaths. The death toll in Italy, the source of outbreaks in several other countries, increased from 107 to 148, the highest figure outside of China. Britain and Switzerland reported their first coronavirus deaths on Thursday, and Spain had its second.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Thursday, Mar. 5, 2020 (JHU).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Thursday, Mar. 5 at 1800, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 211 (+81) with 12 (+1) deaths reported; the latest in California.
- Washington State reported 75 confirmed coronavirus cases on Thursday, the largest number of cases in the United States. To combat the virus, some Seattle area schools have closed for at least two weeks. Facebook and Amazon reported having a worker infected with the virus and along with Microsoft, asked employees in the Seattle area to work from home.
- On Wednesday, the Vice President announced that 1.5 million coronavirus test kits will be available this week.
- House and Senate leaders agreed on a \$8.3 billion funding package to fight the coronavirus. Includes \$500 million for Medicare providers to provide telehealth services for elderly patients, who at greater risk, to avoid increased exposure from medical visits.

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Wednesday, Mar. 4: the website has been visited 35,797 (+2,127) times with 33,099 (+1,924) unique visits.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Thursday, Mar. 5: 198 (+11) Questions submitted; 105 (NC) Answered; 93 (+11) Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).
- Guidance on Requesting Government Furnished Equipment for the COVID-19 Response; Posted on SharePoint site.



The Grand Princess cruise ship passing the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. (AP) Twenty One people on the ship have shown symptoms of the coronavirus. The State of California flew test kits to the ship to test passengers before letting it dock. A prior passenger on the ship died of the coronavirus earlier in the week.

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to Level I. Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - OEM Plans' COVID-19 Response Annex distributed HCL workgroups for review and input.



Iran is stepping up measures to control the spread of the coronavirus by temporarily shutting schools, universities and other education centers, and canceling concerts, sporting events and other large public gatherings. On Thursday, Iran reported 3,513 cases of the coronavirus and 107 deaths, the most of any country in the Middle East.

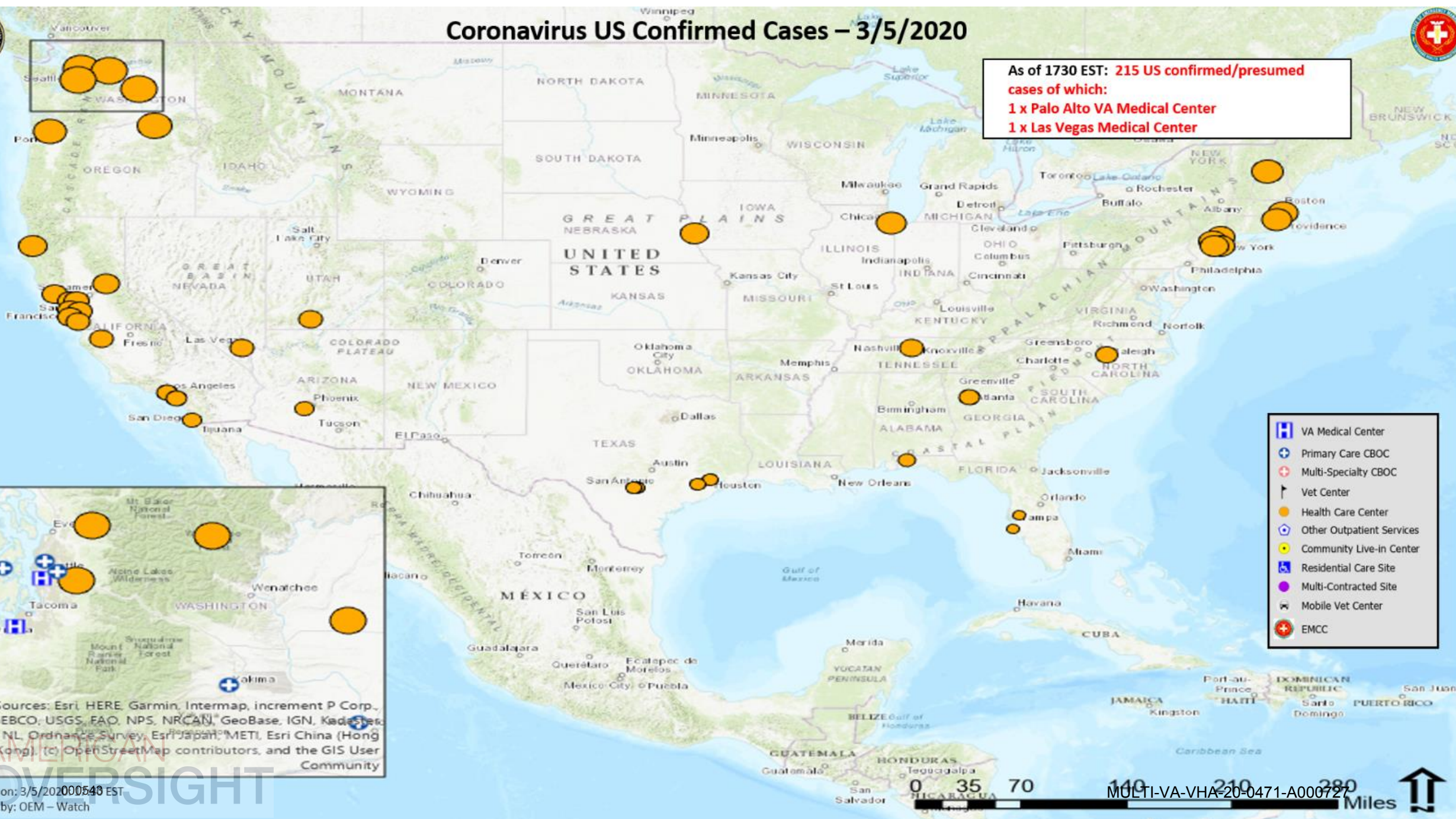
MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000726

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Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases – 3/5/2020

As of 1730 EST: **215 US confirmed/presumed cases of which:**
1 x Palo Alto VA Medical Center
1 x Las Vegas Medical Center



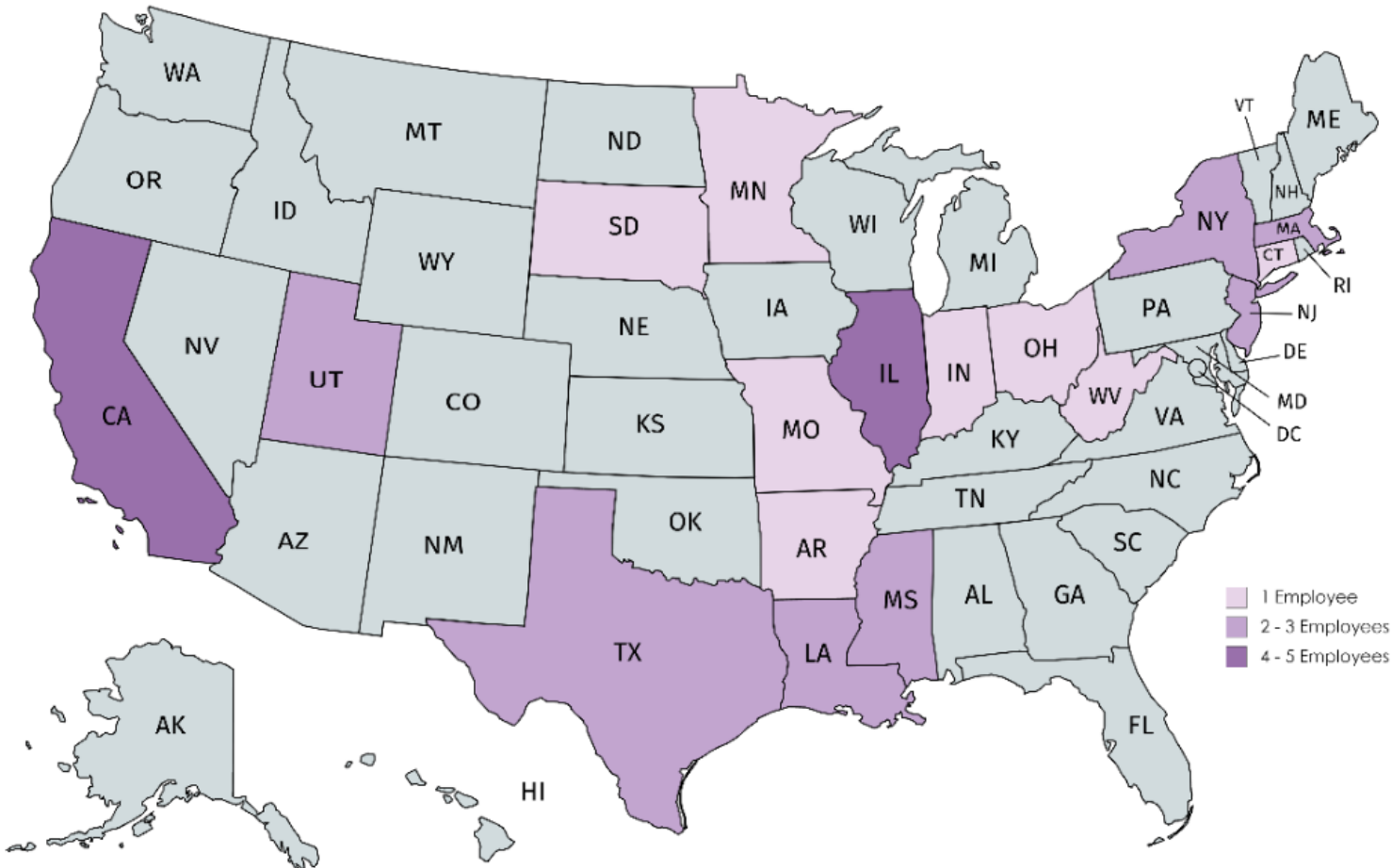
- VA Medical Center
- Primary Care CBOC
- Multi-Specialty CBOC
- Vet Center
- Health Care Center
- Other Outpatient Services
- Community Live-in Center
- Residential Care Site
- Multi-Contracted Site
- Mobile Vet Center
- EMCC

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

VHA Employees Screened
for Possible Exposure to
COVID-19 as of 3/5/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 37):*

- 2 employees tested for COVID-19:
 - 1 NEGATIVE (employee removed from isolation at home)
 - 1 still pending, in home isolation
- 13 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 20 completed home quarantine or work under supervision



1 Employee screened in Manila, Philippines

Created with mapchart.net



Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHA-Legacy-View=00728>) for chart review verification for Veterans.

VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/5/2020

Status of Veterans screened

(N =90):*

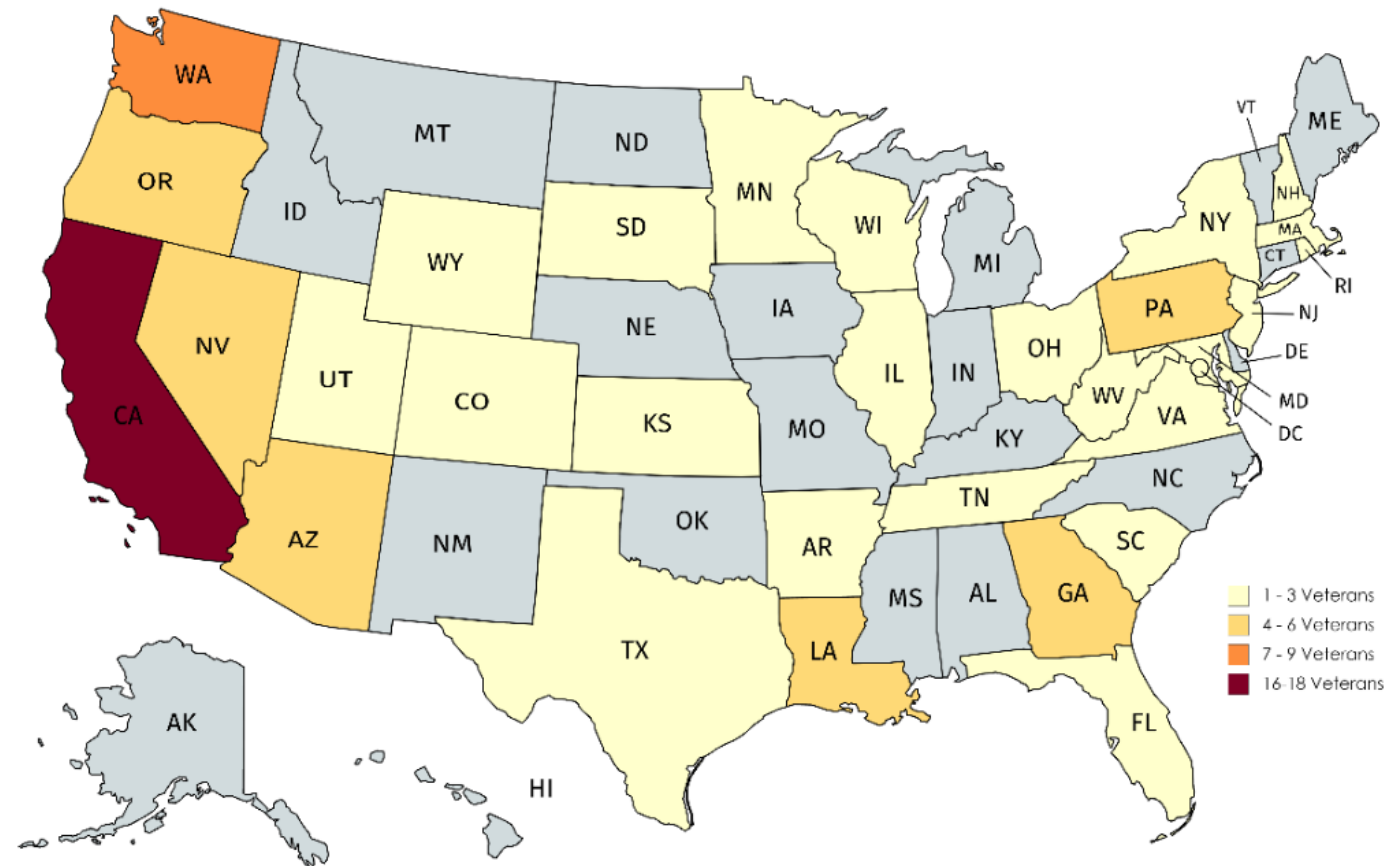
- 20 Veterans tested for COVID-19
 - 2 POSITIVE
 - 1 at 640-VA Palo Alto HCS
 - 1 at 593-Southern Nevada HCS
 - 8 NEGATIVE
 - 10 tests pending
- 70 ruled out for PUI**

*16 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

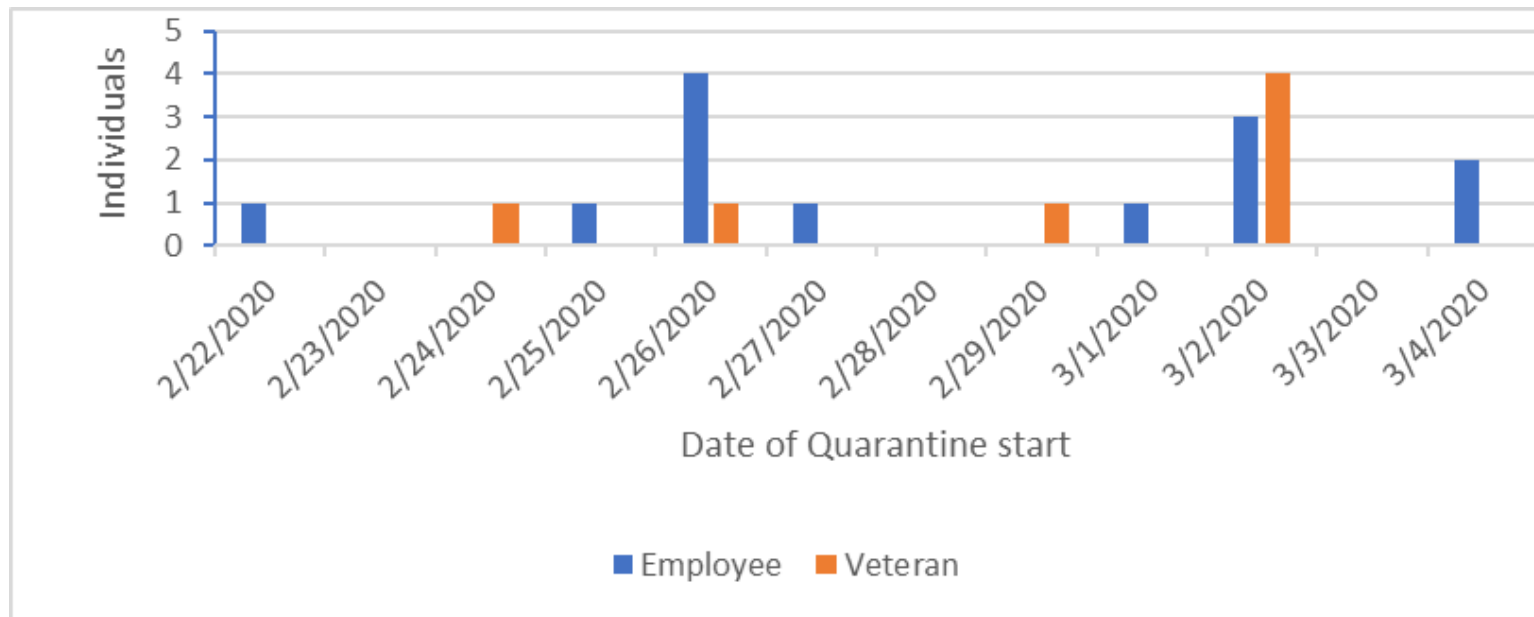
000545



Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 3/5/2020

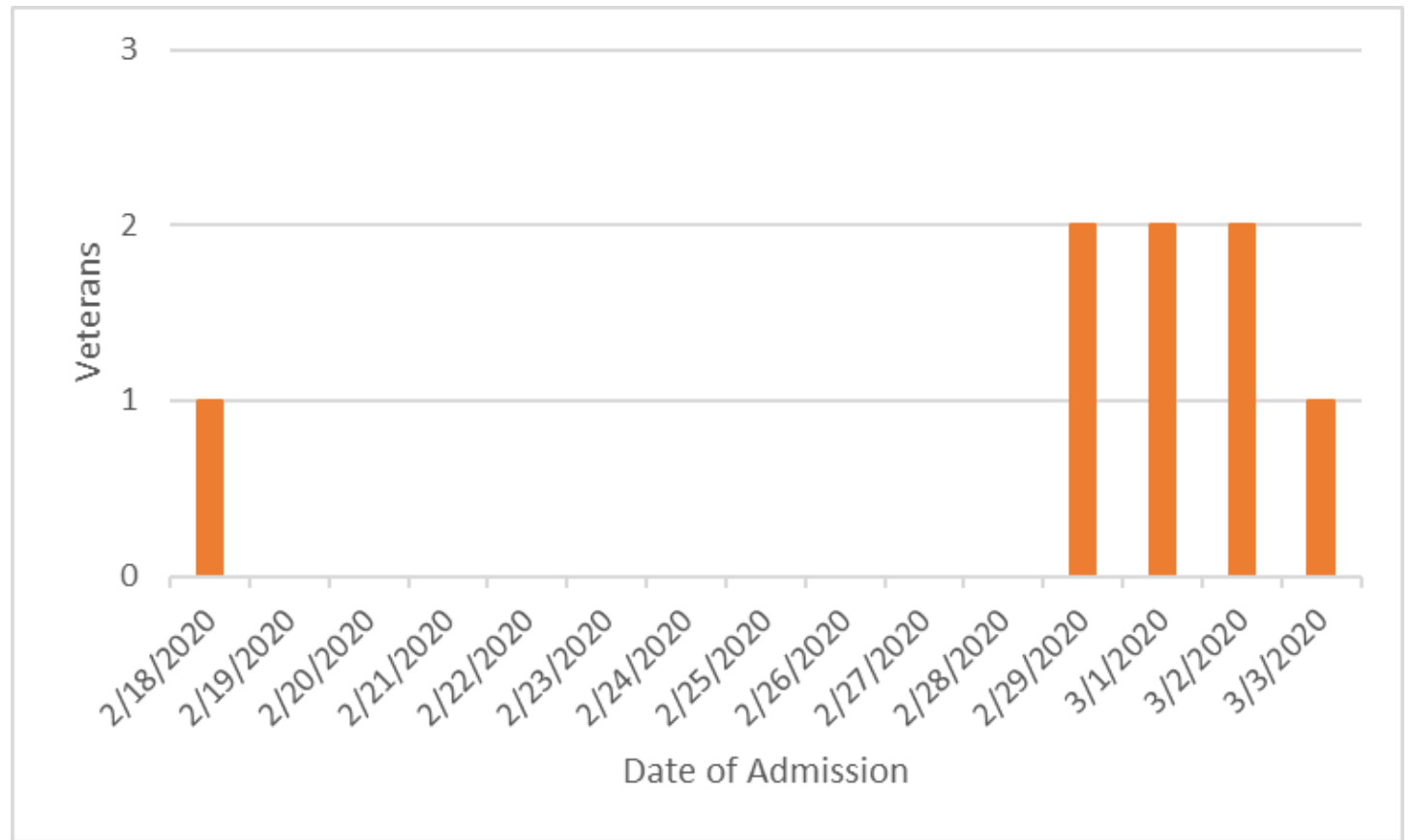
N = 20*
(13 Employees,
7 Veteran patients)

*2 new Veteran patients and 3 new employees
added in last 24 hours.



Veteran Patients PUI* Admitted to VA Medical Centers as of 3/5/2020

N = 8



*PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

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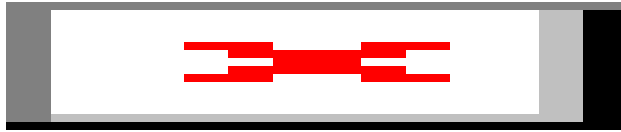
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CC:	Small, Bobby Jr., /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c61cf43438a04a69ae2024d86be4e617-Small, Bobb (B6) @va.gov>; Julaton, Nicole /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88ddb600fb454885b83567e4ec98a141-Julaton, Ni (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	SITREP (Update 43): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global
Date:	2020/03/08 12:00:38
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 8 Mar 20 / 1200 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 43:

- On 8 Mar, the WHO is reporting 105,523 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,584 deaths, throughout 101 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 436 confirmed cases across 27 states and territories; 19 total deaths.
- The NCR Watch Desk reports there are four (4) confirmed, and one (1) presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in the NCR: three in Montgomery County, MD; one on Ft. Belvoir, Fairfax County, VA; and one presumptive positive case in the District of Columbia.
 - Ft. Belvoir, Fairfax County, VA – 7 March, a US Marine tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently being treated at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The Marine recently returned from overseas where he was on official business.
 - District of Columbia – 7 March, a positive presumptive case was announced. A male DC resident in his 50's was admitted to a DC hospital on March 5. He does not appear to have travelled overseas or been in contact with overseas travelers.

- • Montgomery County, MD – 5 March, three cases were confirmed positive. The three patients contracted the virus while traveling overseas. They are in good condition and now in home quarantine. On February 28, one of the patients participated in a gathering at The Village at Rockville. Individuals who attended the gathering may be at some risk for acquiring COVID-19.
- • Grand Princess cruise ship remains underway offshore San Francisco, CA. USCG, HHS, and CA Office of Emergency Services are close to finalizing a location to berth her.

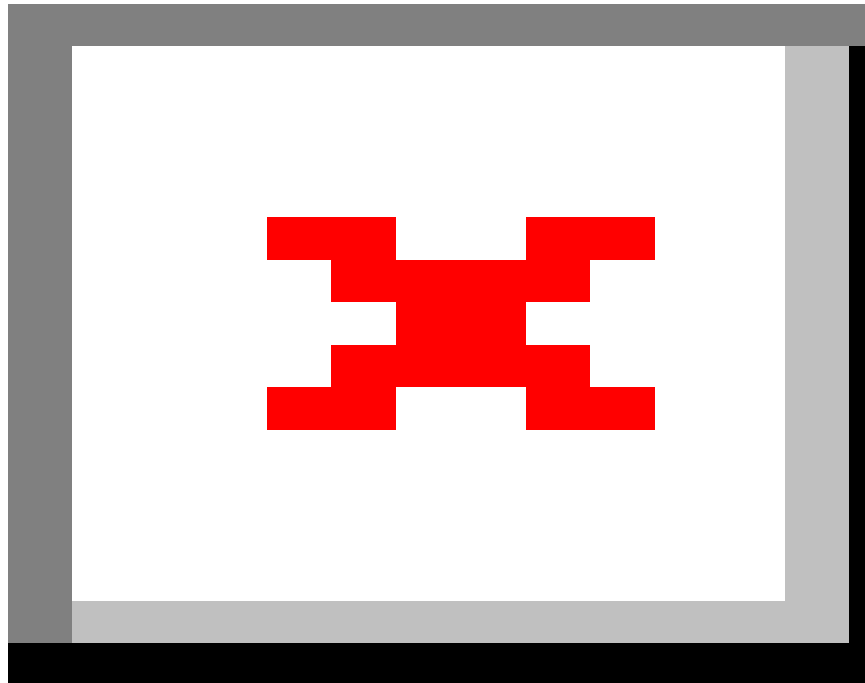
Update 42:

- • On 7 Mar, the WHO is reporting 101,828 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,486 deaths, throughout 94 countries.
- • DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 338 confirmed cases across 25 states and territories; 16 total deaths.
- • 69 public health laboratories are using CDC tests (45 states and Washington, D.C.)
- President signed into law \$8.3 billion emergency spending package Mar 6.
- • Grand Princess cruise ship with 2,422 passengers and 1,122 crew; 46 individuals tested: 21 positive COVID 19 cases, 24 negative cases, 1 inconclusive; final disposition of ship pending.

VA:

- On 7 Mar, HHS requested a VHA LNO deploy to Travis AFB, CA 8-21 March.
- • On 6 Mar, the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) updated Guidance to Agencies (attached); only mission-critical travel and training will be authorized. Conferences must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether to cancel or proceed.
- • The Jack C. Montgomery VAMC, Muskogee, OK Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Edith Nourse Rogers VAMC, Bedford, MA Incident Command Center have been activated in response to COVID-19.
- • The VA LNO (AEM) at Lackland AFB, TX has redeployed.
- • VHA screened 74 Veterans, 65 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 1 tested positive, 5 tested negative, and 3 tests pending.
- • VHA screened 34 Employees, 18 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 12 under home quarantine.
- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED], Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) Watch Officer

(B6)

VA Integrated Operations Center

Email: (B6)@va.gov

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Sender: VAIOC /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=028F129D5C2D4A4C81F95B2BA8CA56E2-VAIOC (B6)@va.gov>

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Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>;

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Manuel, Howard L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56377b3e1bfb441eb3a21c21c6bf64a1-Manuel, How (B6) @va.gov>;

Thomas, Jason (VACO) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56cae37395dc47dc99da2018294d4e2a-Thomas, Jas (B6) @va.gov>;

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Sent Date:	2020/03/08 12:00:15
Delivered Date:	2020/03/08 12:00:38

Coronavirus: Be informed and call your provider if symptoms develop

Talk of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) is everywhere. Here's what you should know and do to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy.

Know the symptoms

COVID-19 is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in humans, usually 2–14 days after exposure. Illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The virus is thought to spread mainly from close contact with an affected person. It spreads in the air, like flu, through droplets from sneezes and coughs. The droplets can stay suspended in the air for some time and can land on surfaces that are touched by others.

Understand your risk

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers COVID-19 to be a serious public health threat, but individual risk is dependent on exposure. For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk of COVID-19 is low.

Keep an eye on coronavirus, but remember the flu

Symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath also happen to be symptoms of the common cold and flu. This year, at least 29 million flu cases have been reported with 280,000 hospitalizations and 16,000 deaths from flu. Flu activity most commonly peaks between December and February and can last until May.

What's important to remember is that anyone can get the flu. But you are more likely to become infected if you:

- Have a weakened immune system
- Have frequent, close contact with young children
- Work in a health care setting where you may be exposed to flu germs
- Live or work with someone who has the flu
- Haven't received an annual flu shot

Take precautions to guard against infection

- Get a flu shot
- Keep your hands clean by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid people who are sick
- Stay home and away from others when sick

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissues or your arm/sleeve. Dispose of tissues in the trash.
- Keep surfaces clean using disinfecting wipes
- Check the [CDC advisories](#) prior to planning travel

Stay home and phone

If you have symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath, please call your local VA medical center and select the option to speak to a nurse before visiting the facility. Tell them about your symptoms and any recent travel.

In addition to calling first, consider using [VA's telehealth and virtual care options](#). VA's telehealth providers can evaluate your symptoms and provide a diagnosis and comprehensive care, so you do not have to leave your home or office.

Get VA's latest updates on COVID-19: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

From:	Jensen, Jon M. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DDEB735ACE76400DB5C3F10603188A14-JENSEN, JON (B6) @va.gov>
To:	McDonnell, Nazli /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9dde8efa1b0425aa7439017edfa968e-McDonnell, (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: Covid-19 advisory
Date:	2020/03/05 21:18:53
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Nazli, let me see what I can find out and get back to you

Jon M. Jensen
VHA Deputy Chief of Staff
(B6)
Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: McDonnell, Nazli (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Thursday, Mar 05, 2020, 6:26 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Covid-19 advisory

Thank you!

From: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>; McDonnell, Nazli <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: Re: Covid-19 advisory

Nazli
Jon jensen will work this.

Rich
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 6:18:02 PM
To: Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Covid-19 advisory

Please work this
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: McDonnell, Nazli (B6) [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:20:09 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: Covid-19 advisory

Dear Dr. Stone:

Appreciate getting the updates on the COVID-19.

(B5) [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Nazli McDonnell MD PhD
Primary Care
COS CBOC

Sender:	Jensen, Jon M. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DDEB735ACE76400DB5C3F10603188A14-JENSEN, JON (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
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Sent Date:	2020/03/05 21:18:53



Veterans Health Administration

Senior Leadership Brief: 3 March 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Significant Activities

• Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Monday, Mar. 2: the website has been visited 31,786 (+2,591) times with 29,459 (+2,411) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Tuesday, Mar. 3: 146 Questions submitted; 103 Answered; 43 Being reviewed or updated by Subject Matter Experts (SME).
- Guidance on Requesting Government Furnished Equipment for the COVID-19 Response; Posted on SharePoint site.

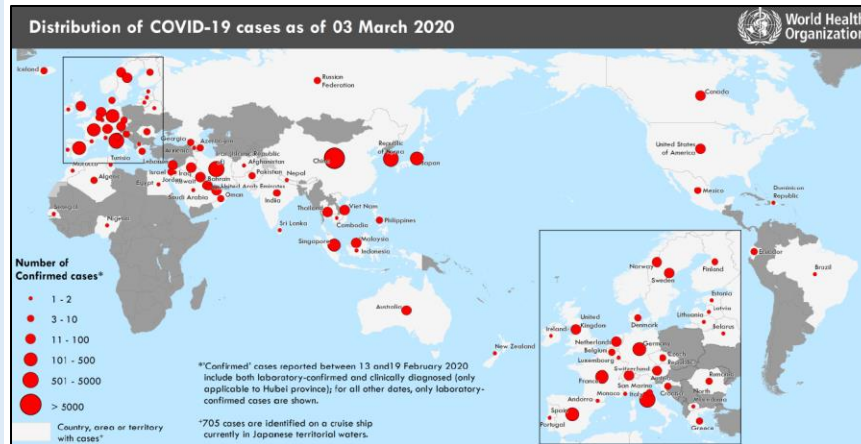


India on Tuesday curbed the export of 26 drugs and drug ingredients, including a wide range of antibiotics and certain vitamins that depend on key ingredients made in Chinese factories that have closed or had production significantly impacted by the coronavirus. India's vast pharmaceutical industry produces a significant amount of the world's generic drugs.

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Current Situation: Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 90,870 (+1,922) and the total number of confirmed deaths in China is now 2,946 (+31). According to the WHO, there are now 10,566 (+1,792) confirmed cases outside China in 72 countries (+8 – Andorra, Jordan, Latvia, Morocco, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and Tunisia) with 166 (+38) deaths reported. The number of people in Iran infected by the coronavirus has surged past 2,300 and the death toll rose to 77. To combat the outbreak, 54,00 prisoners were temporarily released to prevent the spread of the virus in the country's penal system. The World Health Organization announced on Tuesday that COVID-19 has killed about 3.4 percent of those diagnosed with the illness globally, a rate higher than what has previously been estimated.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Tuesday, Mar. 3 at 1800, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States is 108 (+8) with 9 (+3) deaths all reported in Washington state.
- Washington State and the CDC are tracking an outbreak of the coronavirus at a long-term care nursing facility where four residents have died to date. As a result, Washington State has declared a state of emergency and intend to open isolation centers to combat the outbreak.
- On Monday, Mar. 3, Texas Governor requested the delayed release of more than 120 people scheduled to complete their 14-day quarantine at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX after an infected person who had been isolated, then tested negative twice after treatment, was released in the San Antonio area and later tested positive.
 - On Monday, Mar. 2 at 2120, the CDC released 12 people from the subject quarantine (Diamond Princess cruise ship cohort); the remaining 117 people were released on Tuesday morning, Mar. 3 and departed, including 14 Veterans.
- New York officials warned on Monday that the coronavirus was likely to spread in New York City, a day after confirming that a Manhattan woman had contracted the virus while traveling in Iran. On Tuesday, a second case was confirmed in New York City.

- VHA OEM**
- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to Level I. Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (1) AEM deployed to Lackland AFB, TX.
 - DEMPS request for (4) Police Officers to support Palo Alto to VAMC withdrawn.



New York State's Stockpile of Medical Counter Measures, Durable Medical Equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment. The New York State Department of Health has supplied hospitals across the state with N-95 respirators and other PPE to help mitigate any supply shortages currently being realized due to COVID-19.

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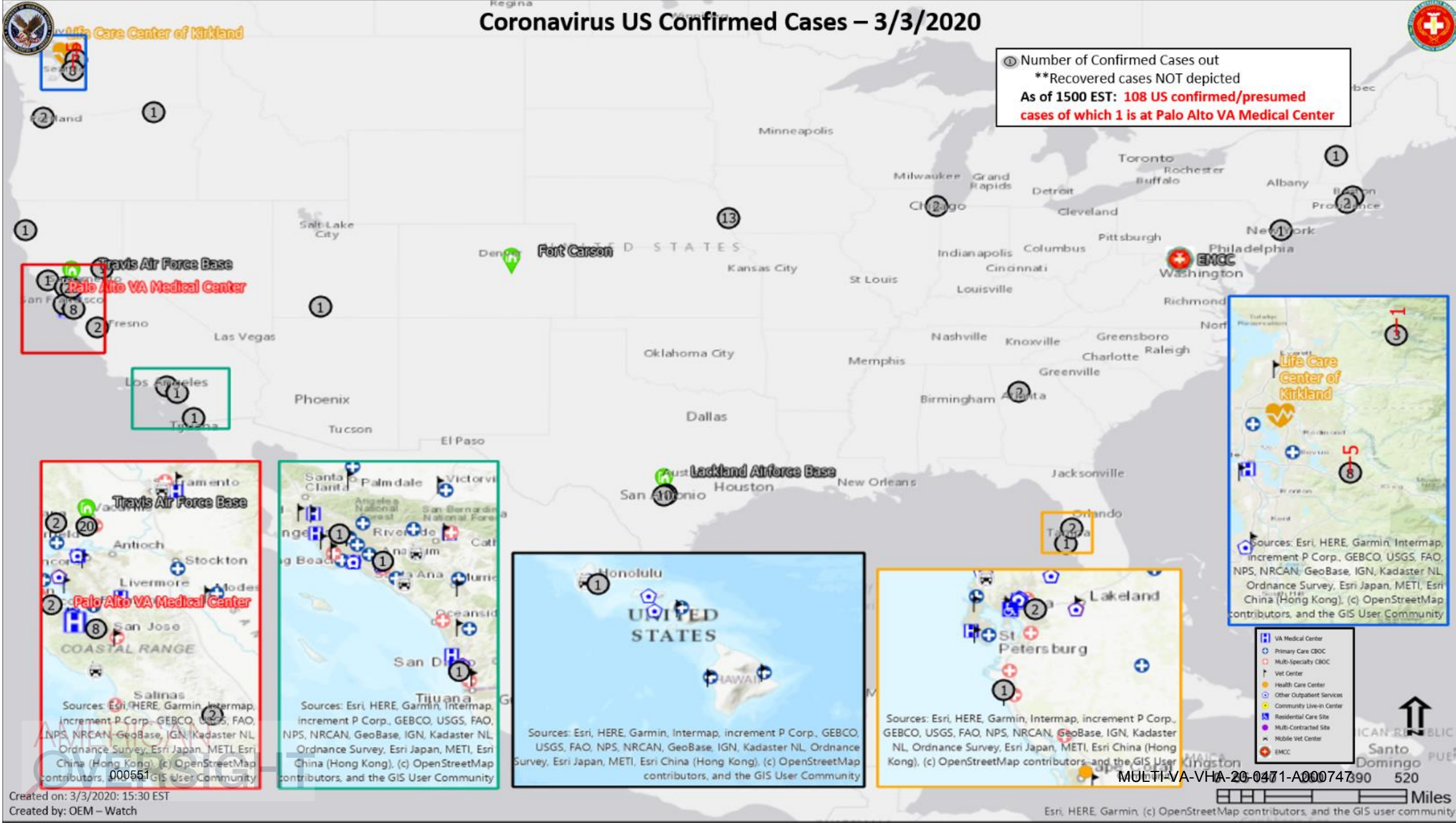
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Coronavirus US Confirmed Cases – 3/3/2020



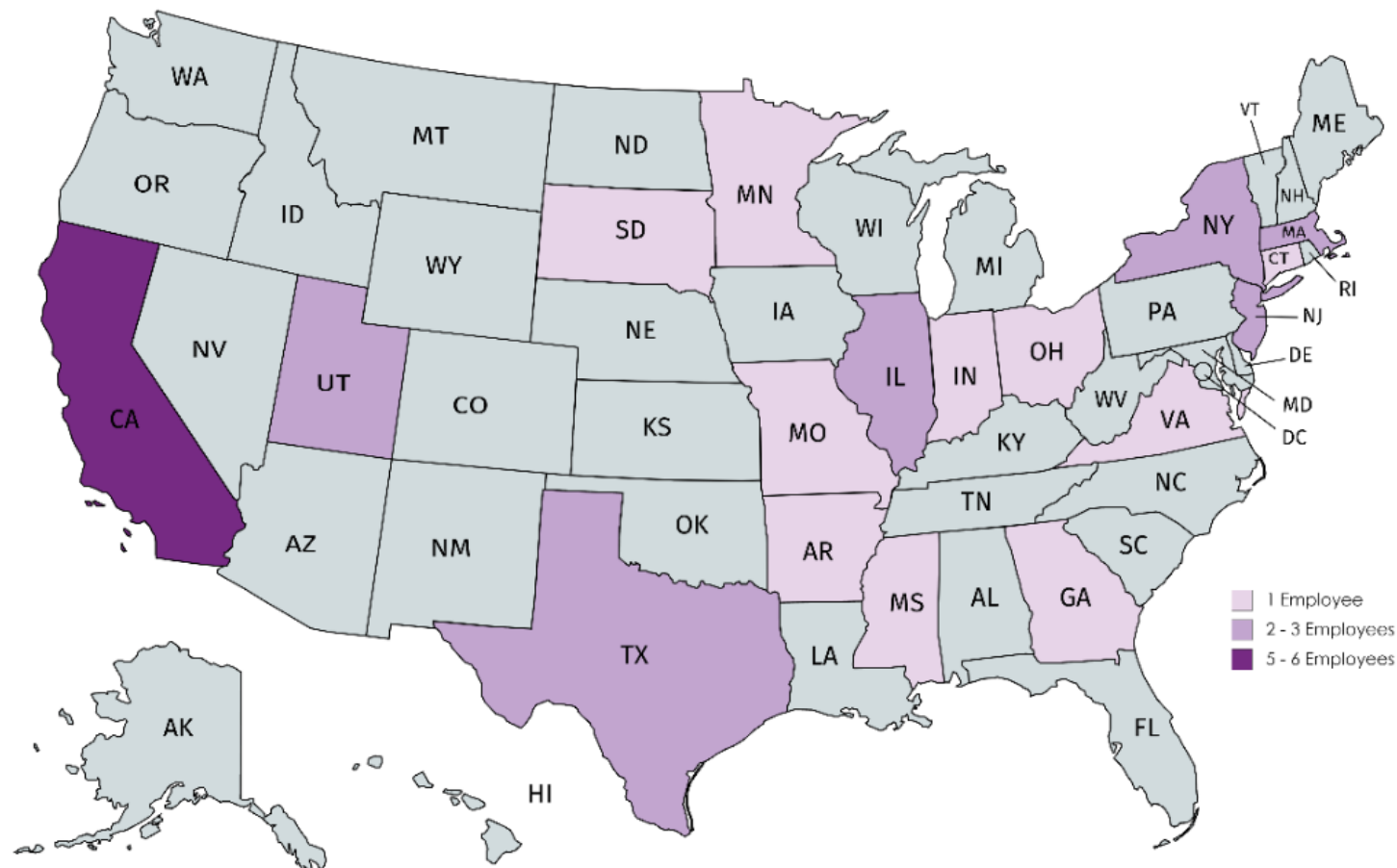
① Number of Confirmed Cases out
 **Recovered cases NOT depicted
 As of 1500 EST: **108 US confirmed/presumed cases of which 1 is at Palo Alto VA Medical Center**



VHA Employees Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/3/2020

Status of employees screened (N = 32):*

- 2 employees tested for COVID-19:
 - 1 NEGATIVE (employee removed from isolation at home)
 - 1 still pending, in home isolation
- 11 in home quarantine/self-isolation
- 17 completed home quarantine or work under supervision



VHA Veterans Screened for Possible Exposure to COVID-19 as of 3/3/2020

Status of Veterans screened

(N =69):*

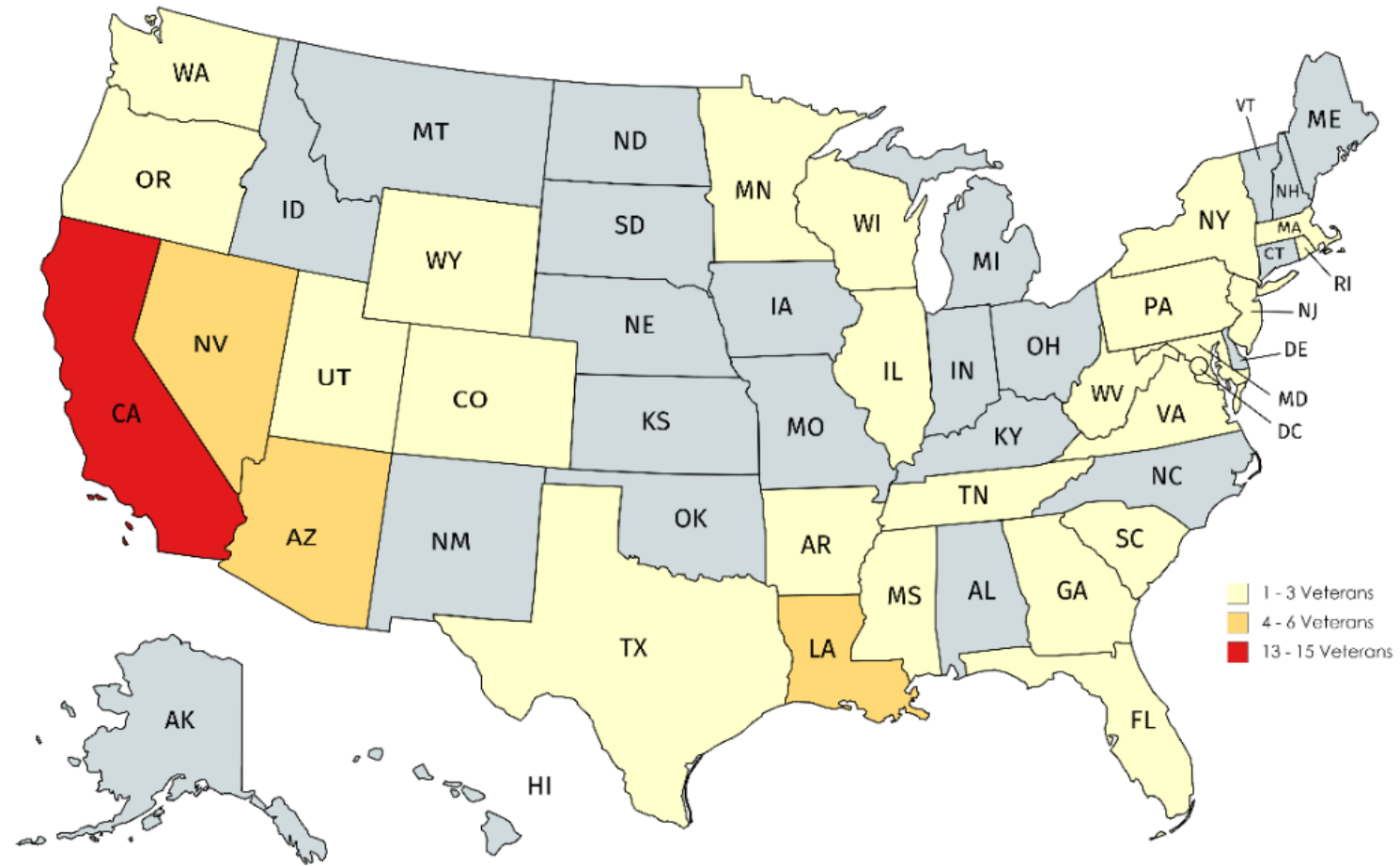
- 9 Veterans tested for COVID-19
 - 1 POSITIVE (Diamond Princess repatriation Veteran, now being housed at VA Palo Alto HCS)
 - 5 NEGATIVE
 - 3 tests pending
- 60 ruled out for PUI** (1 case still being determined)

*8 new in last 24 hours

**PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

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Created with mapchart.net ©

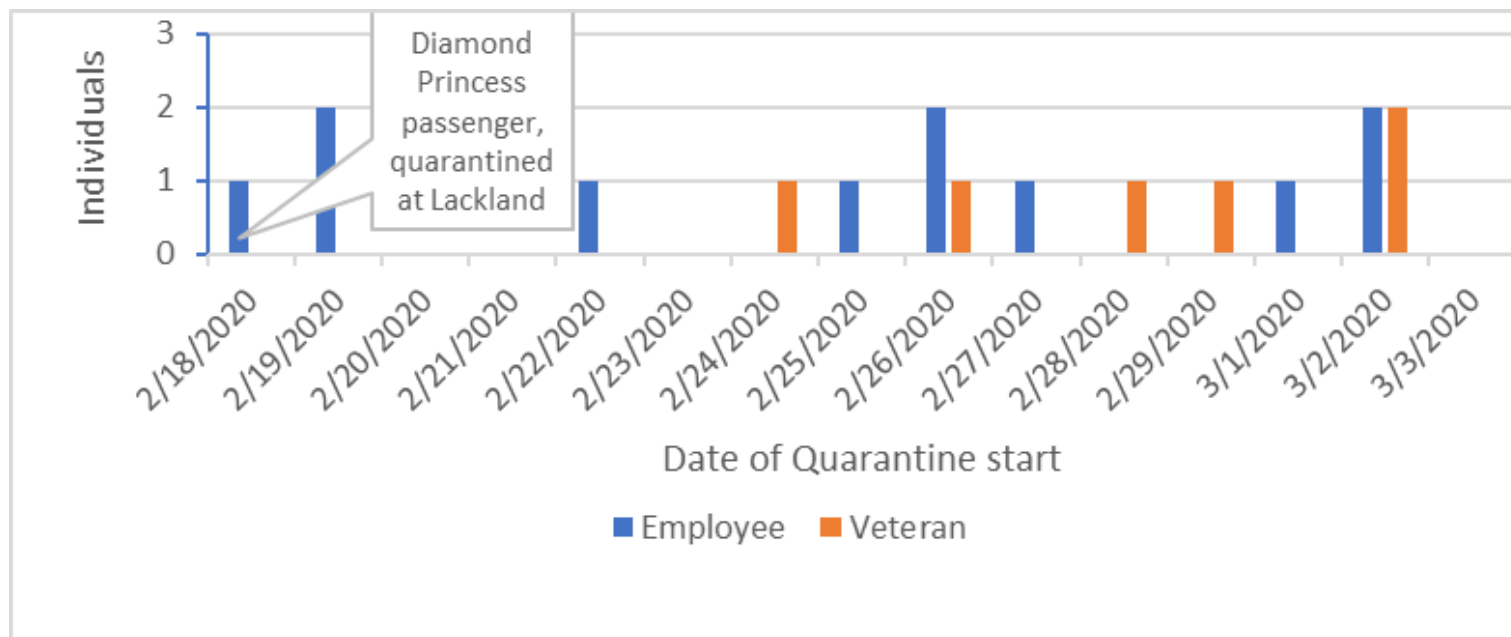
Data sources: Emergency Department Information Systems (EDIS) data query within Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW); VHA Issue Brief Tracker: <http://oitlitappide02.r02.med.va.gov/ibtracker/default.aspx?VHAID=4714000749> for chart review verification for Veterans.

Employees and Veterans under 14 day Quarantine/Self-Isolation as of 3/3/2020

N = 17*

11 Employees,
6 Veteran patients)

*3 new Veteran patients and 4 new employees
added in last 24 hours.



From:	Hutton, James /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A7DA07A304D245CCA9FCA81FBC0DA800-HUTTON, JAM <(B6)@va.gov>
To:	Powers, Pamela /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f6021d9c02594b52bc57194848ca7ef6-Powers, Pam (B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich <(B6)2@va.gov>; Michaud, Gerald (Jerry) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6a5d7aaa9084073a5f7e43b81bb16a4-Michaud, Ge (B6)@va.gov>; Greilsamer, Alan /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fc02807af08443fbb5c68c590d58fa4b-Greilsamer, (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dba510634baa46a085e28c62c254093f-Cashour, Cu (B6)@va.gov>
Subject:	FW: [EXTERNAL] NICCL Advisory - CDC Media Statement: Additional COVID-19 Infections
Date:	2020/03/04 08:56:47
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: NATIONAL JIC (B6)@hq.dhs.gov>
Date: Wednesday, Mar 04, 2020, 8:50 AM
To: NATIONAL JIC (B6)@hq.dhs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NICCL Advisory - CDC Media Statement: Additional COVID-19 Infections

From yesterday:

Media Statement

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Contact: [CDC Media Relations](#)
(404) 639-3286

CDC Announces Additional COVID-19 Infections

At noon on Tuesday, March 3 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 60 cases of COVID-19 from 12 states. Twenty-two of these cases are travel-related; 11 are believed to be person-to-person spread; and for the remaining 27 the source of exposure is still under investigation. Noteworthy developments in recent days include:

- [Florida](#) announced its first and second presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, one in a person with recent travel history ([to Italy](#)), the other with no currently known travel or contact history.
- [Georgia](#) announced its first and second confirmed cases of COVID-19, one is a person with recent travel history ([to Italy](#)), the other in a close contact of the first patient.
- [New Hampshire](#) also reported its first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in a person with recent travel history ([to Italy](#)).
- [New York state](#) announced its first case of COVID-19 in a person with recent travel history ([to Iran](#)).
- [Rhode Island](#) announced its first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in a person with recent travel history ([to Italy](#)).
- [Washington state](#) announced more cases of COVID-19 associated with an outbreak in a long-term care facility. Washington has announced it now has 14 cases of COVID-19, including 6 COVID-19 deaths.

The 12 states that have reported cases include: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin.

As the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to expand and as testing capacity in the U.S. increases, CDC expects more cases to be detected across the country, including more instances of person-to-person spread in more states. While information so far suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, [a report](#) out of China suggests serious illness occurs in 16% of cases. Older people and people with certain underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example, seem to be at greater risk of serious illness.

The federal government has been working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to prepare for and respond to this public health emergency. CDC expects additional instances of person-to-person spread in the coming days and weeks.

Cases reported to CDC include those confirmed by CDC as well as presumptive positive cases reported by states. A presumptive positive result is when a patient has tested positive by a public health laboratory, but results are pending confirmation at CDC. For public health purposes, a presumptive positive result using the CDC test is treated as a positive.

[CDC will report total presumptive and confirmed cases weekdays at noon.](#) This number is based on all state reports received by 4 p.m. the previous day. CDC is no longer reporting number of persons-under-investigation (PUIs) nor those PUIs that test negative because now that states are testing and reporting their own results, these numbers would not be representative of the testing being done nationally. States are reporting results quickly and in the event of a discrepancy between CDC and state case counts, the state case counts should always be considered more up-to-date.

For more information about COVID-19 visit www.cdc.gov/covid19.

###

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CDC works 24/7 protecting America's health, safety and security. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are curable or preventable, chronic or acute, or from human activity or deliberate attack, CDC responds to America's most pressing health threats. CDC is headquartered in Atlanta and has experts located throughout the United States and the world.

Sender:	Hutton, James /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A7DA07A304D245CCA9FCA81FBC0DA800-HUTTON, JAM (B6) @va.gov>
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Sent Date:	2020/03/04 08:56:46
Delivered Date:	2020/03/04 08:56:47



Veterans Health Administration

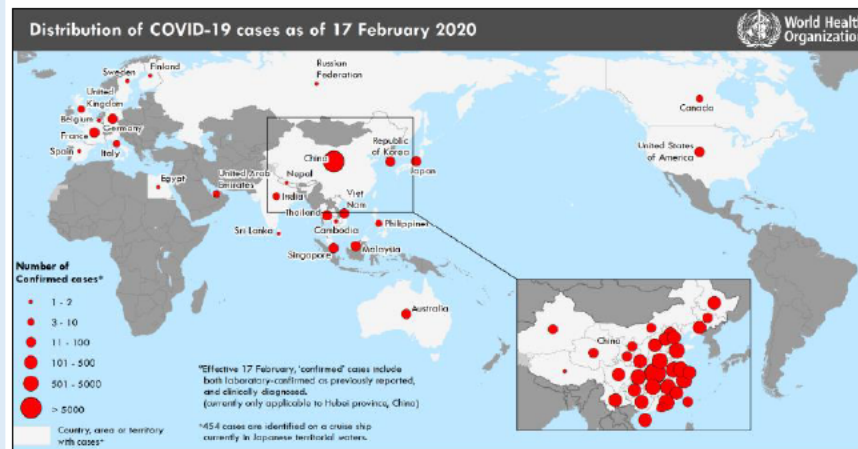
Senior Leadership Brief: 17 February 2020

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

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Current Situation: Per open source, the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 73,259 (+4,001) and the total number of confirmed deaths is now 1,772 (+102). The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that there are now 794 (+111) laboratory confirmed cases outside China in 25 countries with 3 deaths reported. An 89-year-old American woman who disembarked from Holland America's MS Westerdam cruise ship in Cambodia on Friday, Feb. 14 tested positive for the coronavirus per the Malaysian Ministry of Health. Nearly 1,000 passengers and crew members aboard the cruise ship in Cambodia, were tested on Monday, Feb. 17 to identify any additional cases. No passengers/crew reportedly infected with the virus to date. An additional 99 passengers onboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama, Japan were confirmed with the coronavirus on Monday, Feb. 17 bringing the total number of infected people on the ship to 454.

The below map provides the world distribution of confirmed novel coronavirus cases for Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 (WHO).



Current Situation (U.S.):

- As of Monday, Feb. 17 at 1800, the number of U.S. citizens with confirmed cases of the coronavirus grew to 29 with the 14 confirmed cases repatriated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama, Japan.
- As of Monday, Feb. 17, a total of 467 (+24) U.S. citizens have been tested with 392 (+45) testing negative and 60 (-21) people with tests pending (CDC).

VHA OEM

- Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) activated to **Level I**; Fully staffed to support a major event that requires national level resources and coordination.
 - (1) Area Emergency Managers (AEM) deployed to support Population Health Services.
 - (2) AEM deployed to Travis AFB, CA.
 - DEMPS: Supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - (6) Nursing Assistants onsite at Travis AFB.
 - Multi-Use Vehicle (MUV) will continue to support repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.



Diamond Cruise ship repatriation flight arriving at Travis AFB, CA on Monday, Feb. 17. (OEM Area Emergency Manager). 14 American citizens were determined to be infected with the coronavirus prior to repatriation. The citizens were allowed to board the plane and fly to the U.S. All passengers immediately began a 14 day quarantine.

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000754

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VHA Watch Office: 202-461-0268

Veterans Health Administration

- Office of Emergency Management and Population Health Services.
 - VA Public Health, Coronavirus website to provide Veterans & Staff guidance and information now active. (Below Link).
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - As of Thursday, Feb. 13: Website has been visited 19,490 (+572) times with 18,141 (+523) unique visits.
 - Intranet/SharePoint to provide VHA Staff central repository of coronavirus information and guidance now active.
 - Work Groups established to coordinate actions/information.
 - Topic specific and technical Work Groups are gathering questions and information from the field and providing support as required.
 - As of Friday, Feb. 14: 93 Questions submitted; 62 Answered; 31 Being reviewed by Subject Matter Experts (SME).

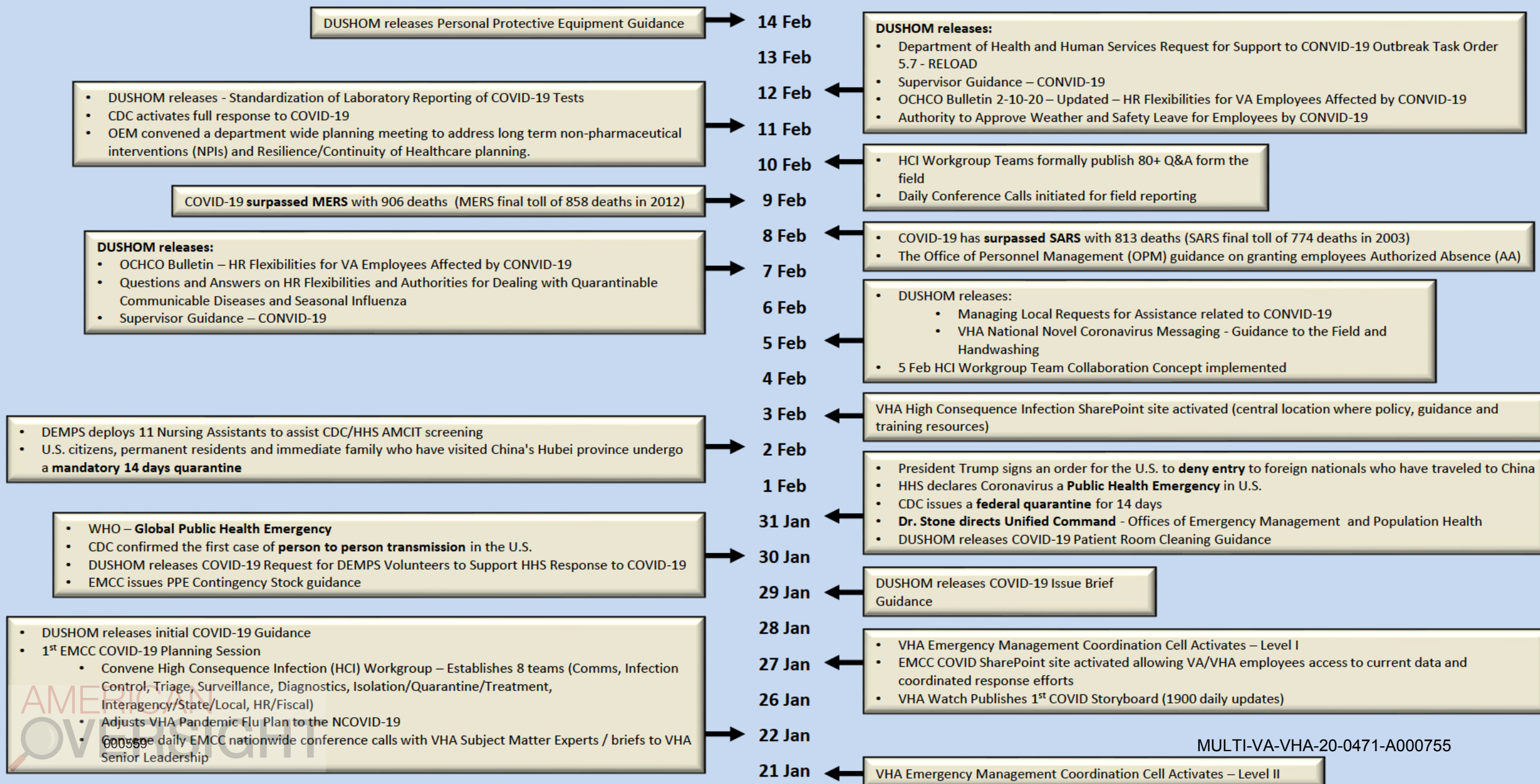


A normally busy Apple store in Shanghai, China desolate due to the coronavirus outbreak. (New York Times) Apple announced on Monday, Feb. 17 that it was cutting its first quarter sales forecast due to the coronavirus. Apple stated that the production of the flagship iPhone in China was adversely impacted as well as customer demand in China

000538

Significant Activities

Timeline— A Rapidly Evolving Situation



From:	Boyd, Teresa D. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6886A7D555A43E0BEE23C1E40E1C234-BOYD, TERES (B6) @va.gov>
To:	Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6) @va.gov>
CC:	Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d5f313752ef4b28936ee61c33ea6bb7-Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7f4eed603a543398e4e0b0bbe52cf41-Mole, Larry (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dbe2bc1d8e84ef189c6573d4cf9283c-Ratchford, (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1ec9a77e7c2b42c5ad963c925602c198-Newell, Kar (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0baebb6f4c4a4e38b4351b2477fe9246-Bader, Chri (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi (B6) @va.gov>
Subject:	RE: VHA Mission
Date:	2020/02/21 07:02:38
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Agree!

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>

Date: Thursday, Feb 20, 2020, 8:13 PM

To: Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6)@va.gov>, Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>, Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6)@va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>, Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>, Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6)@va.gov>, Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>, Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>, Carroll, William D. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Thanks. glad no merit to Tampa allegation.

Do we have any more details about China's plans for "genetic testing" for Coronavirus confirmation?

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:42 PM

To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6)@va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- On February 14, 2020 a report was filed with OSHA claiming "At the emergency room of the hospital, employees attending sick patients whom recently came from China with flu like symptoms are not being provided with respiratory protection, potentially exposing employees to the 2019 novel coronavirus." The facility in question was the Tampa VAMC. On follow-up this morning the unofficial reports are the claims are unfounded. A complete report will be provided once the investigation has been completed.
- The two evacuees from Travis are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic and are being transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.
- OEM Area Emergency Manager is on the ground as part of the HHS IMT at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will be setup in the out-processing tent beside HHS to identify any veterans that may be in the group and provide information and assistance as needed.

EMCC Actions

- 21,538 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- Veteran who tested positive but remained asymptomatic and his wife were transported to Kaiser Vallejo.
- The 2006 Pandemic Plan was distributed for review and update by the workgroups.

- A draft document is under development concerning “stay home” messaging for patients, with the end goal to minimize physical visits and ER traffic to assist with infection control and surge capacity.
- Continue to reinforce messaging concerning the need to maintain expired PPE stocks until national level guidance (government as a whole) is provided.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. <(B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- State of CA reached out to Palo Alto regarding the Veteran testing positive (asymptomatic), due to Travis policy that no PUIs or those testing positive will remain on base. State of CA Health Department inquired on VHA’s ability to house and care for the Veteran. The Veteran has asked to be placed in a Kaiser facility so that he can remain with his spouse. CA has said that due to the lack of beds they will have to move this Veteran out of state as they have done with many others and there is no guarantee the couple can stay together.
- I advise Palo Alto of VHA’s current desire to keep families together and if the Veteran chooses to be in a VA facility we can accommodate him but not his spouse.
- The Veteran lives in the Travis area and we recommended home isolation per CDC guidance and NPIs and the state advised such an arrangement is “not enforceable”.
- We will continue to follow this situation

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. <(B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Carroll, William D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Diamond Princess Cruise (Japan)

- Japan - Forty-Five AMCITS Voluntarily on board; Fifty-Four AMCITS currently hospitalized in Japan; additional eight AMCITS awaiting transfer to hospital
- Lakeland AFB – Four positive cases COVID-19 and two PUIs
- Travis AFB – Seven positive cases COVID-19 and three PUIs
- Camp Ashland/UNMC – Eleven positive cases COVID-19
- DOD continues to ban any positive evacuees on any of the DOD bases
- HHS continues to ask the EMCC for available space within VA to house additional evacuees.
- Additional repatriation flight will take place however when is up in the air due to the lack of housing for future evacuees

EMCC Actions

- **1 Veteran and spouse currently at Travis are asymptomatic but have tested positive – Travis policy is anyone testing positive cannot stay on the base, transport to a civilian hospital is pending. The names were not released however this is the Veteran we arranged a Telehealth consult and provided medications.**
- One DEMPS volunteer utilized the CDC follow up text instant messaging system (TIM) to text a YES to symptoms - per protocol. Volunteer received a call from HHS Physician and VA Occupational Health Medical Advisor. **NEGATIVE**- validation for Corona virus symptoms. Volunteer was seen in community ED, Community Urgent care and in Occupational Health.
- DEMPS volunteer had cold symptoms - hotel room was cold, he was moved to another one, had overnight delay in airport on return trip home. Volunteer visited the ED and Urgent care X2 with cold like symptoms, temp 100, negative for rapid flu, all symptoms were investigated in ED/Urgent Care. It was decided this was not the result of the coronavirus
- Volunteer is being provided reassurances through talking and supportive care. Call placed from DEMPS Program Officer to debrief deployment and to give volunteer Employee Assistance Number for additional follow up as desired. Volunteer feels supported with all information. He has all necessary numbers to use as needed.
- 21051 unique visits to the outward facing VHA Public Health Website
- EMCC received a Task Order for an AEM to be embedded in the IMT at Lackland AFB. An AEM has been identified and will deploy this evening.
- It was discovered that 1 Veteran and his wife currently at Travis only were able to keep the clothes they were wearing, it is unknown where their luggage is
- The AEM on the ground inquired on what the Veteran and his wife needed and obtained a list of clothing to include pants, shirts, socks and underwear.
- The EMCC coordinated with VCS and a delivery of appropriate clothing was completed to the Veteran and spouse. (B6) wanted the EMCC to pass on "God Bless the VA"
- The EMCC has discovered there are/were many more Veterans then we have been able to identify in the first repatriation flights. The EMCC is working closely with HHS to track down these Veterans to make sure: 1) they do not have any unmet needs, 2) if they do seek care at any time at a VAMC they will not be subjected to any additional quarantine should they be asymptomatic and reveal their recent trip to China. It is important to not unnecessarily burden these Veterans.
- San Antonio VAMC has put together a team to be at Lackland AFB tomorrow morning as Cohort 1 is released from quarantine. They will meet (B6) with HHS Public Health

Service and setup in the out processing tent beside HHS. Quarantine officially lifts at 0900 tomorrow but the out processing activities will begin at 0800.

- VAMC personnel will be interacting with those released after they have gone through all screening, they will not need to be in PPE. The assessment team will identify any veterans that may be in the group, gather information and have packets of information to provide to any veterans identified as well as verify benefits.
- (B6) presented to all VHA PAOs on where we have come from, where we are and where we are going.
- (B6) presented to the Governance Board
- I attended the HHS Healthcare System Leader Listening Session-Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 1:00-5:00pm Eastern Time – The Secretary of HHS welcomed the group and thanked the group for being partners in this response. The sessions provided a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation.
- The major takeaway from this session – VHA is head and shoulders above our colleagues in the community healthcare coalitions when it comes to Emergency Management, Telehealth, response capabilities and the ability to act quickly, etc.. Compared to the rest of the healthcare providers in the US we are in great shape (my opinion).
- Individual from Illinois Department of Health did bring up on the HHS call a request for surgical masks was made to VA and others and they have run out of options. Did not feel it necessary to respond.
- The EMCC rolled out the COVID-19 Table top exercise to all VHA Emergency Managers at 4:00pm – 129 participants
- The Communications Workgroup rolled out VetLink and Kiosks forward facing information – 102 participants
- Signage should be 508 compliant and posted by the end of the week on the Sharepoint site.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:44 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci (U.S. NIH) said the outbreak of COVID-19 is on the brink of becoming a pandemic. "It certainly is on the verge of that happening reasonably soon unless containment is more successful than it is right now," Fauci told CBS News, adding that two dozen countries

outside of mainland

China have approximately 500 cases of the virus. "Several of them," he added, "are starting to get to the second and third transmission." A pandemic officially means that there are several countries with sustained transmission from "person to person to person," Fauci explained.

[02/18/20]

- • HHS reiterated on their call that "we will be in this for several months to come"
- • HHS and the NSC expressed frustrations with the lack of space to place any future evacuees, there is a possibility that AMCITS from Japan and all other countries that are experiencing this outbreak will need to be repatriated.
- • HHS has indicated to the EMCC a request for capabilities and space may be coming to VHA.
- • HHS inquired through the OEM HHS LNO if there are any spaces/building available from the Appendix D-Disposal and Reuse Reports – referencing the FY2019 submission. I assured HHS these spaces/buildings are NOT inhabitable.
- • I reiterated the SecVA's position and his request for a Sec-Sec or a COVID-19 White House Task Force direct request for VA assistance.
- • Notified today of the Whole of Government Logistics Supply Chain meeting for Thursday, January 20, 2020. Director of HHS Resource Management wanted to ensure the right VHA representative would be in attendance and be able to speak to VHA PPE issues related to this response. I assured the Director both myself and the PL&O representatives would be in attendance.
- • NSC stated at the 1230 conference call this is a "federal response under a federal order in the absence of a Stafford Act declaration" and all departments and agencies are expected to step up.
- • HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting a listening session (invitation only) with healthcare system leaders on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET. This session is part of the ASPR Health Care System Resilience Task Force and is designed to provide a current overview of the novel coronavirus outbreak; discuss the healthcare system's preparedness and anticipated challenges related to surge, workforce protection, supply chain, and communication; and receive feedback on the federal government's activities to assist healthcare leaders' efforts to protect the nation. I have RSVP'd and will be attending.

EMCC Actions:

- • Medical Center COVID-19 signage should be approved for distribution 2/19/20
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise was briefed on the 2:00pm call and again at 3:00pm. The exercise will be briefed in more detail to all Emergency Managers at 4:00pm on 2/19/20. DUSHOM memo was released today @ 5:30pm 2/18/20.
- • The EMCC received a request from the Illinois Department of Public Health SNS Coordinator on behalf of DuPage County for surgical masks to support their current and future operations. Request was denied and passed on to the Hines VAMC.
- • On 2/17/20 a Veteran was identified as part of the evacuees from the Diamond Princess (not on the list provided to VHA OEM). The Veteran indicated he has an enrollee card and was in the process of transferring his care to VHA from Kaiser. Due to his quarantine he missed his February 6th appointment at the Fremont, CA CBOC. His current prescription from Kaiser has expired and he is down to 2 pills.
- • As of 1:00pm ET the VISN 21 CMO has been briefed and he has asked a Palo Alto VAMC Nurse Practitioner to make contact with the Veteran.

- The AEM on site is assisting with the coordination and will brief the Veterans on how to participate in a Telehealth appointment
- Telehealth consult was arranged and completed at 1:30pm ET
- ALL Veteran's unmet needs have been fulfilled.

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. <(B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Thirteen (13) AMCITS were taken to Omaha for further care
 - Six (6) that were on Flight #1 (Travis)
 - Seven (7) that were on Flight #2 (Lackland)
- Seven (7) from Travis were transported to local hospitals
 - **Five (5) were asymptomatic and tested positive**
 - Two (2) are PUIs
- One (1) from Lackland has been identified as a PUI and transported to a local hospital

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis <(B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- During the secondary screening process the AEM on the ground saw one of the passengers with a USMC hat on and approached the Veteran, AEM had proper PPE on and maintained the 6 feet of distance.
- Passenger indicated he was a Veteran and enrolled in My Healthy Vet and would need prescription refills.

- • AEM is working with the HHS team to ensure he receives his refills and to identify any other Veteran's needs.
- • This is a great example of how important it is to have OEM/VHA on the ground during these events.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 7:13 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Flight #1 landed at Travis with 167 PAX at 0229ET see photo
- • Flight #2 landed at Lackland with 151 PAX at 0456ET
- • Travis has reported several testing positive during the flight, those PAX were moved to the bio-containment unit onboard, we are awaiting the exact number once officials on the ground have sorted through the details.
- • Member Services did an amazing job scrubbing the ship manifest and provided 29 confirmed/possible Veterans and their families that maybe onboard the flights at Travis and Lackland. The list has been provided to the HHS SOC and the AEM at Travis.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) 2@va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) e@va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Two aircraft are in Japan to return AMCITS from the Diamond Princess cruise ship
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Travis AFB at approximately 2045ET on February 16, 2020 with approximately 166 AMCITS
- • One aircraft is due to arrive at Lackland AFB at approximately 0010ET on February 17, 2020 with approximately 148 AMCITS

- Both aircraft have been outfitted with bio-containment sections for the medical staff to safely travel while attending to the passengers.
- The ship manifest had 417 AMCITS and it is unknown if all will make the trip, the final tally will only be known once the aircraft are inbound.
- The list of 417 AMCITS has been provided to Member Services, this is a very close hold list and the list was password protected. I was the only one that was provided the password. The list was sent to one person in Member Services by encrypted email. The password was sent to the same individual under separate copy, also encrypted. The emails were also protected so they could not be shared further.
- As of this email two (2) Veterans have been identified and as suspected they are both accompanied by their spouses. One (1) Veteran is (B6) and the other is (B6). Both are (B6) Veterans
- One American couple was not allowed to depart due to the wife testing positive.
- Many of the AMCITS being evacuated have expressed anger at the US Govt. due to the requirement to be quarantined for an additional 14 days upon their arrival on US soil.
- The search of the 417 names to verify Veteran status continues and the EMCC will have a complete list as soon as possible.
- In the event any of the evacuated AMCITS require hospitalization HHS/CDC teams will closely follow these individuals daily.
- In order to free up quarters at Travis the DEMPS personnel have been moved to a local hotel and HHS has provided the transportation assets for any local travel needed.
- 19,490 unique visits to the forward facing VA Public Health website <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Several additional documents have been added to the HCI Sharepoint site [HCI SharePoint](#)
- The VHA Medical facility and Staff Office Table Top exercises are complete – the DUSHOM memo has been drafted for signature to include a set of instructions that will accompany the memo.
- A Nationwide Adobe Connect will take place on Wednesday to introduce the exercise, set the timeline for completion and answer any questions that the audience may have.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- HHS is fine tuning the repatriation plans for the AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship. There are many moving parts and a great many obstacles. HHS hopes to begin moving people on Sunday

at the earliest. There is a high likelihood there will be Veterans on the evacuee manifest and the EMCC is working with HHS to identify any Veterans.

- • Updating 2006 VA Pan Flu Plan to 2020 COVID-19 Plan to provide Department-wide guidance
- • Continue to develop and design implementation of NPIs
- • The foundational document for the VHA COVID-19 Contingency/Supportive Care Plan has been developed. The plan will now be shared with the workgroup SMEs and AEMs to fine tune and finalize the plan.
- • Researching information on community recovery from epidemics to build out a recovery and reconstitution plan
- • Continuity of Healthcare planning – two additional areas we are focusing on should we experience a worst case scenario and there is a need to increase the COGCON level for the NCR:
 - • PPE to cover VHA COOP personnel – protection for all VHA senior leadership – we do not want to draw down Martinsburg's supply
 - • Point of Dispensing – POD – should a vaccine be developed and/or antivirals prove to be effective there is a high probability that VA medical facilities will be asked to serve as PODs for all local federal employees. Martinsburg has a robust plan and we are checking on other facilities.

Note: A result from the interagency Crimson Contagion - Pan Flu exercise – The supplies, syringes needed to accomplish a mass vaccination would be in short supply due to NO manufacturing capability in the US.

- • OEM has stockpiled enough food (25 year shelf life) to sustain and support the Martinsburg VAMC and any influx of ERG members for 30 days in the event of a COOP activation
- • COVID-19 Tabletop exercise has been finalized and will be rolled out on the national Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) call on Wednesday. This call is attended by all Emergency Management professionals across the VHA enterprise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:17 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD <(B6)@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6)@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick <(B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • HHS is preparing for additional repatriation missions from Japan. No details at this time – once I type any details they will change as soon as I hit send.
- • HHS has turned off the Task Order for Telehealth at this time, however we were asked to continue to gather details of capabilities. There are currently enough providers on the ground for the current mission. We continue to work with TEM to ensure all preparedness information on capabilities are ready to launch should the request become a reality.

- • TEM has built a 2 week roster, identified a hub and 2 dedicated physicians to support any future mission. OEM logistics is prepared to support as needed. In the event TEM is deployed, TEM leadership will provide a representative to the EMCC.
- • HHS was able to research and resolve the delay in testing kits ordered by VHA the first kits should be arriving as early as this weekend.
- • DUSHOM memo – Inclusion of Virtual Care in Outpatient Care Contingency Planning for Disasters - detailing the use of Telehealth in response to disasters and emergencies transmitted to the field.
- • A DUSHOM memo providing additional guidance on PPE tracking and notification should facilities require immediate resupply was transmitted today to the field.
- • I also had a long conversation with the SES over the HHS Supply Chain and Director Resource Management. I discussed the desire of VHA to order additional PPE and he provided me with guidance on how not to disrupted the supply chain. He also reviewed our list and requirements. OEM now has a plan and is working with contracting to ensure VHA can continue to resupply as needed.
- • OEM reviewed the PPE contents of the Pharm Caches – the PPE contained within is not counted in the medical center totals. Any activation of the cache requires immediate notification of OEM/Pop Health, the actual contents of the caches are not common knowledge in the facilities so this store of PPE will remain for emergencies only. Without providing details – 500 additional patients can be treated for 14 days with the PPE contained in the caches.
- • Industrial Hygiene provide 3 Courses of Action on alternatives to the N95 which we have added to the PPE tool box
- • 19,490 unique visits to the VHA Public Health Website
- • The 3 additional DEMPS screeners are due to arrive at Travis this evening and an AEM will coordinate their in processing and orientation
- • Communications workgroup has finalized COVID-19 signage for all facilities, final approval expected on Tuesday
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink SOP developed for approval – Provides high-level information regarding the process patients will experience and what staff should expect to see and do if a positive screening originates from the VetLink questionnaire. Includes information regarding implementation support and kiosk sanitizing guidelines. Specific review/concurrence in order to ensure congruence with other teams/processes being developed within EMCC.
- • COVID-19 Screening on VetLink Screenshots developed for approval – Shows VetLink application screenshots of the 3 possible scenarios, Notifications staff will see on the VetLink Patient Queue (staff-facing application), and the available VetLink reports that can be run
- • Kiosk Questionnaire Training for Facility Staff developed for approval – Template training offering for local sites to use for pre-implementation activities which allows sites to customize the training based on their local processes
- • First draft of the Governance Board COVID-19 exercise presentation developed and being fine-tuned.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed <(B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6)@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. <(B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- US confirmed cases 15
- AMCITs who have tested positive (33) (Princess Cruise) have been transferred to hospitals across nine Japanese provinces. Government of Japan will not give reciprocity to U.S. to practice medicine in hospitals, only on the cruise ship.
- HHS interagency Emergency Support Function call – HHS ASPR briefed this is an “all hands on deck response and we are one team focused on ensuring we protect the public health, economy and security of the US.”
- HHS has the authority through the Economy Act to request assistance from the interagency in the absence of a Stafford Act. Attached is a summary of the Economy Act.
- HHS indicated they are prepared to execute Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with each Department and Agency – As the primary medical support to ESF8 VA should expect additional requests.
- HHS expects additional repatriation missions, planning is ongoing.
- HHS has formed the Health Care System Resilience Task Force and asked for OEM representation. The VHA planning is about 3 weeks ahead of HHS so they are looking for some insight from how we are accomplishing our tasks.
- HHS reiterated during a PPE call the need to coordinate any PPE purchases and avoid large bulk orders. The world supply chain is very fragile and any large bulk orders will disrupt all supplies. HHS also warned it is very unlikely any such orders will be honored and will further lengthen the time between the order and fulfillment of any kind.

EMCC Actions:

- The EMCC received an RFI on Telehealth capabilities from HHS. HHS is looking to provide support to Behavioral Health needs at Observation Support Bases in Newark, Chicago, JFK, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Hawaii. I have a meeting later tonight with (B6) to gather more details.
- Safety/Industrial Hygiene has completed a great deal of research on alternatives for N95s and OEM will convene a conference call on Friday, February 14, 2020 with Safety/Industrial Hygiene, Infectious Diseases and PL&O to develop strong recommendations moving forward and a plan for procurement.
- Current number of isolation rooms in VHA are 726 up from 249, we still have some gaps to fill and will have another update.
- OEM logistics is working with HHS to identify/resolve the hold up in VHA’s order of COVID-19 test kits.
- OEM has completed the development of two (2) discussion based exercises (Tabletop exercises – TTXs) that will focus on preparedness and response to COVID-19. Upon completion of the exercise each facility should have an understanding of how to implement COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.
The TTXs are designed for:

- • VAMCs to include ancillary facilities,
- • VA Administrations and staff offices (non-healthcare),
- • The exercises are generic by design and can be modified by each facility,
- • Facilities will be required to complete the exercise within two (2) weeks of launching via webinar (Wednesday, February 19, 2020),
- • Completion results will be entered into the Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS),
- • Each facility will conduct their internal AAR – any items that require OEM or VHACO intervention to resolve will be submitted to OEM for action/recommendations

From: Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) @va.gov>; Bader, Christine E. (B6) @va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • Another evacuee at Miramar has tested positive and is being treated at a local hospital. This is the second confirmed case at Miramar.
- • Planning continues for repatriation AMCITS on the Princess Cruise Ship.
 - • Thirty-three individuals on the ship that tested positive for COVID-19 have been transported to local hospitals in Japan.
 - • Planning factor of 256 used for repatriation
 - • Individuals must be asymptomatic to board the aircraft
- • HHS Task Order for 6 DEMPS personnel to support screening operations at Travis AFB
 - • DUSHOM memorandum distributed
 - • Travel booked for 3 and 3 are going through the facility approval process
- • Occupational Health post-deployment guidance has been released to the field
- • 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on the lab testing protocols using CDC test kits
- • 3pm HCI Workgroup call, the Veteran/Employee Triage workgroup provided updates on ED UCC triage, occupational health, and scripting for kiosks

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 6:43 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>; Newell, Karen L.

(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jaastad, Derrick (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Bader, Christine E.
(B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- The novel coronavirus has been renamed it is now referred to as **COVID-19**
- HHS is finalizing a DEMPS Task Order for 6 Nursing Assistants to support screening operations at Travis Air Force Base. This will cover the repatriation of those AMCITS currently on the Princess Cruise Ship. DUSHOM memo is prepared and will be submitted once the TO has been received
- Completed a draft letter to the Medical Centers Directors of the facilities where the 11 DEMPS volunteers will be returning to ensure MC leadership they have all been cleared to return to work. The letters will be out tomorrow in time for their return to work.
- CDC launched an effort called "Health Pulse" and will be partnering with VHA as a sentinel group of healthcare systems. The goal is the sharing of information that hospital EDs routinely collect. This request has been reviewed by VHA subject matter experts and (B6) [REDACTED] will be the POC and work directly with the CDC on this request.
- Lab tests and collection procedures were finalized and transmitted to the field through a DUSHOM memo. Guidance has also been uploaded on the HCI site.
- Additional leave guidance and clarification was transmitted to the field by WMC
- OEM convened a 12:00pm conference call and began the Department wide long term planning to address two fold planning – Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and Resilience/Continuity of Healthcare. The focus - to provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the COVID-19.
- The 12:00pm call will be merged into the standing 3:00pm Workgroup call and will cover the 4 Phases (Phase 1 - Contingency Planning/Training, Phase 2 - Breakout/Triggers, Phase 3 – Establish alternate sites of care, Phase 4 – Operations) of the Healthcare Continuity Planning – the initial meeting will establish clear objectives, clear deliverables, establish a timeline/milestones

Preliminary results

1. • Exercise plan has been drafted, team will refine and complete – plan is for a nationwide tabletop webinar next week – focus will be on safety – "follow the plan and you will be safe"
2. • 650 Safety personnel and Industrial Hygienists – will clarify CBOC coverage.
3. • 15-20 OEM personnel are train-the-trainers in PPE donning.
4. • 249 negative pressure rooms – HOC will verify the data to ensure accuracy.
5. • Isolation rooms – facilities have the ability to create negative pressure rooms (see attached) provided the supplies are available
6. • 250 bed mobile hospital – the system is separated among 6 facilities (Prescott/Amarillo/Big Springs/Phoenix/Albuquerque/Tucson – 30 isolation/negative pressure beds, portable dining/food prep, HVAC, power generation – set up 10-12 hours by 30 trained personnel. The footprint requires 1 acre. See second attachment
7. • Several CFORT assets and numerous Western Shelters, Zumbro Shelters, Alaskan Shelters are available

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- Possible repatriation from the Princess Cruise Ship, ongoing discussions on where and when this will occur.
- 1 evacuee at Miramar tested positive for the coronavirus and has been transported to a local hospital.

EMCC Actions:

- Occupational Health, Infectious Disease, DEMPS National Coordinator, (B6) and HHS discussed the return of all DEMPS personnel. Special instructions have been prepared for each and monitored by HHS Chief Medical Officer. **The Chief Medical Officer for the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at HHS has deemed that at this time, the team deployed, including our VHA volunteers, has remained safe and protected with zero breaches in the respective PPE gear during the deployment. Therefore, the deployed volunteers may safely return to their regular duties.** All VHA experts agree that they do not foresee any concerns and/or risks of these individuals returning to their normal duties.
- We are crafting a message to go out prior to these individuals returning home that will be sent to each Medical Center Director to reassure these facility Directors there are no risks. We also want to ensure these individuals are not subjected to the uninformed regarding their mission, they are not targets of mis-information and are treated well on their return.
- Coronavirus and Highly Contagious Screening Guidance was developed, cleared and will be posted on the HCI Sharepoint Site.
- DUSHOM Laboratory Instructions and guidance drafted and prepared for DUSHOM signature, will be forwarded tomorrow
- Awaiting formal request from the CDC to collaborate with Emergency Medicine on ED monitoring.
- Presented to the Infectious Disease forum (over 500 VA participants) on current VHA actions
- 2pm VHA VISN leadership call provided up to date guidance on PPE
- Tomorrow will be a big day for Sharepoint activity, a great deal of information will be uploaded.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell,

Lawrence B. <(B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6)@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6)@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6)@va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6)@va.gov>; Newell, Karen L. (B6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- • 812 evacuees are quarantined at 5 facilities
- • There are a total of 10 Person's Under Investigation (PUI) across the 5 locations.
- • Total persons quarantined: 809
- • Princess Cruise Ship – total PAX 3,711 – 428 AMCITs – Lab confirmed 13, Total confirmed cases onboard 64
- • Japan has identified their primary challenge is supplies of medications for quarantined passengers are running low.
- • Japan Ministry of Health has request USG assistance in ensuring proper medication dispensing
- • 3 AMCITS disembarked in Taiwan – CDC/CBP have the lead in tracking
- • Westerdam Cruise Ship – Current location off the coast of Keelung, Taiwan – Total PAX 2000+, 701 AMCITs, confirmed cases – 0: Cruise Ship departed Hong Kong on February 1, 2020, 4 countries (Japan, Taiwan, Guam and Philippines) have denied docking.
- • Additional Wuhan flights are still under discussion, several additional sites have been identified, however NORTHCOM approval is pending. At this time Travis appears to be the ongoing base of flight operations. Several communities are rejecting repatriation assistance due to fears of exposure and infection.

EMCC Actions

- • AEM on the ground at March AFB has identified 4 Veterans in the quarantined population and they do not have any unmet needs and are happy to be home.
- • AEM on the ground at Travis has confirmed there are no Veterans in the quarantined population.
- • Discussed with HHS my dismay for listing every other Department assisting with this response and no mention of VA/VHA. I was assured this would be fixed immediately.
- • The EMCC is developing predictive analysis tools for addition to the Storyboard (Epidemiology/Statistics, VHA PUIs mapping -Veterans/Employees, VHA PUI Histogram Veteran/Employee quarantine timeline, and Weekly Priorities)
- • EMCC produced a Pre-decisional draft/FOUO planning document - **nCoV2019 Planning Potential Considerations** - To provide an enterprise-wide VHA response to ensure workforce viability, critical infrastructure protection, economic impact mitigation, appropriate social distancing, scarce resource allocations, prioritization of treatment/countermeasures, and medical surge operations in response to the nCoV2019. The intent is to begin discussions and planning should multiple Veteran cases materialize. Document has been share with the DUSHOM and ADUSH A/O

- Up to date Tic Toc has been shared with DUSHOM, ADUSH A/O and VHA Office of Communications. The Tic Toc tracks the VHA, EMCC and Pop Health actions to date.

I will be releasing the team early tonight, Monday is shaping up to be a very challenging day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- All scheduled repatriation flights have landed and all passenger have been screened and are either in quarters or have been transferred to treatment facilities
- The screening mission has ended for these flights, CDC will be debriefing all screeners and presenting the plan for them moving forward.
- It is unclear if there will be additional flights, this remains a fluid situation
- The Diamond Princess (cruise ship) currently quarantined near Tokyo has 3,200 passengers
- 237 passenger (picked randomly) have been tested for the virus – 89 have tested positive for nCoV
- CDC has recommended to the Japanese State Department that the 430 AMCITS currently on board remain quarantined on the ship.
- Japanese govt. wants the AMCITS removed and repatriated like those from Wuhan
- US State Department/CDC responded that all those repatriated from Wuhan were tested and screened 6 times and no one testing positive was allowed to board the aircraft and leave Wuhan
- CDC stressed they have not tested the AMCITS on the ship and would be willing to send a team to do so.
- Japanese Consulate will meet with Japanese Health officials to determine what assistance Japan will offer.

EMCC actions

- Latest WMC Authorized Absence (AA) guidance transmitted to all field entities at 8:00am this morning
- Provided the OPM link for the source information on the AA guidance to the field.
- Questions generated by the new AA are being gathered and will be submitted to WMC for the appropriate guidance
- Addressed questions from VISNs regarding the support of local consortiums on supplies and PPE support and reiterated the DUSHOM guidance.
- All Workgroup Sharepoint Sites have been launched and are live

- • Coordinating with (B6) to add a “clinical” section to the daily storyboard to ensure the most accurate/timely information is being shared with one “voice”
- • Continue to address many concerns regarding PPE burn rates, supply chain availability and expiration extensions.
- • Reached out to CDC/HHS on the “one and done” usage of N95s for clarification and guidance.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. <(B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. <(B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Today was primarily a day to coordinate all the moving pieces. I attended the ASPR PPE Supply chain call and here are some of the highlights. I have shared these with PL&O

- • (B6) reminded everyone of the highly sensitive nature of the discussions and the importance of messaging to prevent hoarding and taxing an already taxed supply chain
- • PPE suppliers are preparing for amounts estimated in the billions
- • CDC is looking beyond the healthcare industry
- • No major problems in distribution at this point but there is a draw down in inventories
- • 70% of distributors are seeing 2-8 times the normal orders
- • Distributors are currently filling 80-100% of orders, many on allocations
- • 24 facilities and 6 manufactures in the US are able to ramp up production
- • Manufacturers have planned during previous outbreaks and have designated certain lines to serve China and the rest are focused on the US
- • Not sure what the impact would be if there are shortages in raw materials and packaging
- • Global draw down will continue
- • Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) will be key to managing the outbreak

Break

- • The workgroups are doing extraordinary work and we have hit a good rhythm. We should be seeing comprehensive products next week
- • The 2pm daily nationwide call will focus on gathering questions from the field and the workgroups will provide an answer within 24 hours.
- • The 3pm Workgroup call will focus on presentations, future planning and coordination with each Workgroup facilitator.
- • The Public Health website reported 14,099 unique visits as of 3pm Friday, February 6, 2020
- • The EMCC will be split this weekend to give people a day off. We are still supporting DEMPS employees in the field and we will be concentrating on the Battle Rhythm for the coming week.

- Team is tired but spirits are high.
- VCS will be supporting the EMCC all weekend to keep everyone fueled.

This has been a unique response and I continue to marvel at what this family can do when there is an unprecedented challenge in front of them. Nothing is too hard and the support we have received from all parts of VHA has been spectacular!

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update: Please do not forward the attached documents so we can maintain OPSEC.

- OEM did verify with HHS: ALL evacuees that convert and test positive for nCoV2019 will be added to the overall cases in the US. Currently there are 5 individuals who are under hospital care and awaiting test results.
- HHS Senior Leadership Supply Chain Task Force will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, time TDB and no location or call in number has been provided. OEM was instructed the information is forth coming.
- At 10:26am OEM received a Request for Information from the VA IOC. The HHS request submitted through the ExecSec and in preparation for the Supply Chain Task Force. In short the request was seeking information on: 1) government stockpiles and 2) purchasing plans
- At 2:29pm after being cleared by the ADUSH A/O the attached information was transmitted to the VA IOC with the following instructions: This is not classified however all the information attached in the entirety is extremely **CLOSE HOLD**. The aggregate of this information will provide VHA's operational capabilities when responding to an all Hazards emergency and must be protected. I have indicated that I am the POC for the information contained in the attached documents
- The information will be transmitted via classified channels (JWICS) to HHS.
- The first of the workgroup Sharepoint sites (nCov-19 Isolation, Quarantine and Treatment) was launched. These Sharepoint sites will make it easier for each workgroup to share information and consolidate final products.
- Workgroups are fully functioning and addressing multiple questions from the field. The answers will be published widely on the Sharepoint site.
- Provided an up to date Tic Toc to VHA Communications.
- Awaiting confirmation of the arrival of the next aircraft with 390 evacuees. Attached is a photo of the MUV and LSV positioned to support the IMT receiving the aircraft.
- Deployed an additional AEM to Travis due to the extended operations.
- DOD approved 11 DOD facilities near airports as third line options for housing patients with nCoV.

- CDC distributed test kits to about 200 qualified labs nationwide, and another 200 test kits to international labs. Each kit can perform diagnostics on 700-800 patient samples. The agency advises that the distribution of the tests will improve the global capacity to detect and respond to the virus.
- China has applied for a new patent on an experimental Gilead Sciences Inc. drug that its scientists believe might fight the coronavirus. The company is shipping enough doses of Remdesivir to treat 500 patients as two clinical trials begin in China.

Break

- We are closely monitoring the tornado outbreak in the south and the line of severe thunderstorms heading north and east.

Break

- We are also following up on news reports from Puerto Rico of "Veterans living in tents in that area. They are homeless at this moment and I don't believe VBA and/or VHA have any knowledge of the presence of these Veterans living in awful conditions."

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

Outward facing Public Health Website has launched:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 5:25 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov; Newell, Karen L. (B6) @va.gov

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

On today's National Incident Communications Conference Line (NICCL) the CDC announced the following:

-
CDC: Be careful **NOT** to describe evacuees as "US citizens." There may be some foreign nationals (not China) on these flights. In that light please don't describe everyone as "repatriated." Use **passengers** or **evacuees**. (B6) reminded the group that evacuees in quarantine are not free to leave so they are technically NOT "repatriated."

We are running this to ground with HHS, HHS was also surprised. The mission was described as "repatriation of American Citizens, we have Americans in danger and we need to get them home".

This statement is very concerning and I had direct conversations with HHS that if this statement is true we will be pulling our DEMPS Personnel. HHS was in agreement and supported this position. I hope to have a definitive answer by tomorrow morning when HHS has access to the flight manifest.

If this is not the correct plan of action please advise.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:49 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 11 of the 12 DEMPS personnel arrived yesterday
- 1 (one) had their flight cancelled and is expected to arrive today. The HHS IMT is aware and will adjust training and fit testing to meet their arrival
- I spoke directly with the City of Chicago Deputy Emergency Manager and explained the cancelling of the agreement to house evacuees. I was informed that the cancellation would be raised up their chain and to HHS by the Chicago representatives. I apologized and assured them this should not jeopardize the great relationship between VA and the City and I was assured it would not, however the city is out of options.
- At approximately, 8:30pm I received a call from the PDAS ASPR wanting to know how he could help with the "issues" in Chicago. I explained the circumstances in detail. (B6) asked me to send the language for a Task Order (TO) that would protect VA and accomplish the mission. He indicated he would run it up the chain and have the ASPR move it forward.

- At approximately 8:35pm I shared the details of my conversation with (B6) and the proposed language in the draft TO. (B6) and I had several conversations and he in turn briefed the VA COS.
- At approximately 9:15pm (B6) relayed a request from the VA COS: the SecVA would like S1 HHS to call him to discuss the issue.
- At approximately 9:20pm I spoke directly with the PDAS ASPR and indicated he would pass the request up the chain and thanked VA for being a good partner, "we are in this together"
- Immediately after my conversation with the PDAS ASPR I spoke with the Chicago AEM and verified that the mission to assist the City of Chicago was not approved and if anything changed I would relay the latest information.
- At approximately 9:51pm I briefed (B6) of the latest developments.

3 additional cases have been confirmed in CA

China has complete construction of the 1000 bed hospital and will start staffing today

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:07 PM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) @va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) @va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>

Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) @va.gov>; Ratchford Jr, Lewis (B6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Update:

- 2 of the 12 DEMPS screeners have arrived, all should be on the ground by 3:30 West coast time.
- The OEM AEM embedded in the IMT will ensure all arrivals are processed in and any needs addressed.
- OEM Logistics is in direct contact with HHS Logistics to ensure there are no glitches in pickups at the airport.
- Due to the fact that the DEMPS mission ends on the 14th and the quarantine for the evacuees ends on the 18th, HHS has asked that we extend the customary 14 day deployment to accommodate the 14 day quarantine. The DEMPS deployment section will address this issue with each MC and supervisor. We are confident we can have the extension granted for each individual. If we have any shortfalls we will recruit for a replacement and have them on the ground in time for fit testing, training and insertion into the rotation.
- Each evacuee will be screened 5 times a day.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>;

Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Updates:

- The first DEMPS personnel will begin arriving today all should be on the ground by this evening and ready to train in the morning.
- The AEM on the ground has all the flight information and will ensure everyone is well taken care of
- HHS revealed last night they were having difficulty with securing a contract for feeding the evacuees and inquired if VHA could assist. I initially said no, however after speaking with Tammy and Ray they both agreed they could assist. We are awaiting a “go, no go” order from HHS this morning. If this is a real mission the feeding will occur at Travis and HHS will pay all costs associated with the mission through an IAA. – more to come
- AEM in Chicago revealed that the city has up to 50 suspected cases and asked if VHA could help house during the quarantine period. The ask for VHA would be 4-5 individuals. Local leadership at the MC level was considering assisting. I conducted a conference call with our AEM and detailed what we would need should we provide this assistance. All costs associated with housing each individual must be tracked and a bill generated. I also advised our AEM that the City of Chicago must have a contingency plan should we need this space for Veterans care. This will all be memorialized in an email to local leadership so they have the information at hand, we will also provide additional guidance as needed. Although this is a declared Public Health Emergency there is not a Stafford declaration.

8th case confirmed in Boston

1st death outside of China – in the Philippines

2000 additional cases reported in China in the last 24 hours

From: Kim, Paul D., MD
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Lieberman, Steven (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>; Mole, Larry A. (B6) [REDACTED]@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VHA Mission

Close Hold

The 4 repatriation sites are:

Omaha, Nebraska – HHS has a standing relationship with the State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center – 75 evacuees
Lackland Air Force Base – 250 evacuees
Travis Air Force Base – 350 evacuees
Miramar – 250 evacuees

90 children under 2
128 minors over 2
20 Adults over 70

Active duty who are housed at the 3 DoD sites will be moved to community hotels. There is great concern that word will get out prior to the plan being solidified, with aircraft in the air and all entities are preparing for possible protests.

From: Kim, Paul D., MD (B6) @va.gov>
Date: Saturday, Feb 01, 2020, 7:24 AM
To: Stone, Richard A., MD (B6) @va.gov>, Lieberman, Steven (B6) @va.gov>, Boyd, Teresa D. (B6) @va.gov>, Oshinski, Renee <(B6) @va.gov>, Czarnecki, Tammy <(B6) @va.gov>, Connell, Lawrence B. (B6) @va.gov>, Jensen, Jon M. (B6) @va.gov>
Cc: Litvin, Ed (B6) @va.gov>, Hinkle, Michael C. (B6) @va.gov>
Subject: VHA Mission

Good morning,

As of this morning the plan for the second wave of repatriation involving VHA DEMPS personnel is as follows: this plan is not expected to change however this entire event changes rapidly so we remain flexible.

- We will roster 12 (currently have 11) and provide those names to HHS. The original ask was for 14. We will continue to reach out and try and fill the remaining slots however being a weekend and the short time frame to get these people on the ground we will go with 12.
- OEM will travel all – we are working with FCS and the arriving airport is Sacramento, Sunday, February 2, 2020
- Due to the late and ever changing playing field it would be too late to enter all our folks into the HHS travel system so it is easier for OEM to travel these individuals
- HHS will provide the lodging and all ground transportation and support
- The DEMPS team will be located on Travis AFB in a secure location
- The team is due to arrive Sunday afternoon and spend Monday receiving fit testing and PPE training
- CDC is flying in a specialized team (arriving Sunday) to conduct all the training and education for the DEMPS team
- The AEM in the area will be embedded in the HHS IMT for the duration of the mission. He is due to receive his deployment physical (new OEM process) on Monday morning and will report to the IMT Monday afternoon
- While on ground the DEMPS team will be constantly monitored. While screening and throughout the deployment they will be monitored by CDC and HHS physicians

- CDC and HHS has assured us that as long as PPE protocols are strictly followed, there are no breaks in the integrity of PPE the chance of virus transmission to a screener is 0. There is no reported case of this type of transmission
- Once the DEMPS mission is over the team will be instructed on proper surveillance, they will self-monitor, take their temperature 2 times a day, report to CDC and will be advised in the event there are any concerns and the next steps
- We are awaiting the final details and instructions on how the DEMPS team should brief and inform their families.

I have pressed the issue and my concern for these VHA employees and I have been assured at each step there is little to no risk for infection. HHS and CDC are very grateful for VHA stepping up to assist with this response and have made this fact known to the White House.

The OEM team is in good spirits, we have split the team up this weekend and we have brought in AEMs to support us here in Martinsburg and to support (B6). I have also checked and all marriages are still intact.

I will provide any updates today and throughout the rest of the weekend. If there are any concerns with this plan I am available for any discussions.

Paul D. Kim, MD

Director

VHA Office of Emergency Management

(B6) Office
(B6) Cell

Sender:	Boyd, Teresa D. /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F6886A7D555A43E0BEE23C1E40E1C234-BOYD, TERES (B6)@va.gov>
Recipient:	Lieberman, Steven /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25138f5d2e734afa81397f0b357cbcc1-Lieberman, (B6)@va.gov>; Hinkle, Michael C. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e12527424e784789aac61491744b0280-Hinkle, Mic (B6)@va.gov>; Kim, Paul D., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5941bf8631a4bd4aa63aa8732c5fd05-Kim, Paul_3 (B6)a.gov>; Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6)@va.gov>; Oshinski, Renee /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56925a4f59df47d19fceb5e7c270bc0-Oshinski, R (B6)i@va.gov>; Czarnecki, Tammy /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f4012e074ac4891979c9cd6bc08dfa9-Czarnecki, (B6)@va.gov>; Connell, Lawrence B. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3e723376344045980ad214122389f4-Connell, La (B6)@va.gov>; Jensen, Jon M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ddeb735ace76400db5c3f10603188a14-Jensen, Jon (B6)@va.gov>; Litvin, Ed /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

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Newell, Karen L. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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(B6)@va.gov>;
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(B6)@va.gov>;
Carroll, William D. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a28065b20514e7dac8b911a1300a9b7-Carroll, Wi
(B6)@va.gov>

Sent Date: 2020/02/21 07:02:37

Delivered Date: 2020/02/21 07:02:38

Message Flags: Unread



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness

Coronavirus COVID-19

10 March 1500 ET

DisasterAssistance.gov



AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

000735

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000782



Agenda

- Roll CallOpening
RemarksCurrent
StateCDC Travel
AdvisoriesCIRsCurre
nt Priorities
- Active ESFsNew
GuidanceNew
Initiatives Ops
RhythmClosing
Remarks



Roll Call

OSP HRA

VHAVBA

NCA

OCLA OIT

OGC

OPIA OM

OSLE

OS OALC

OAWP

VEOOIG

BVA



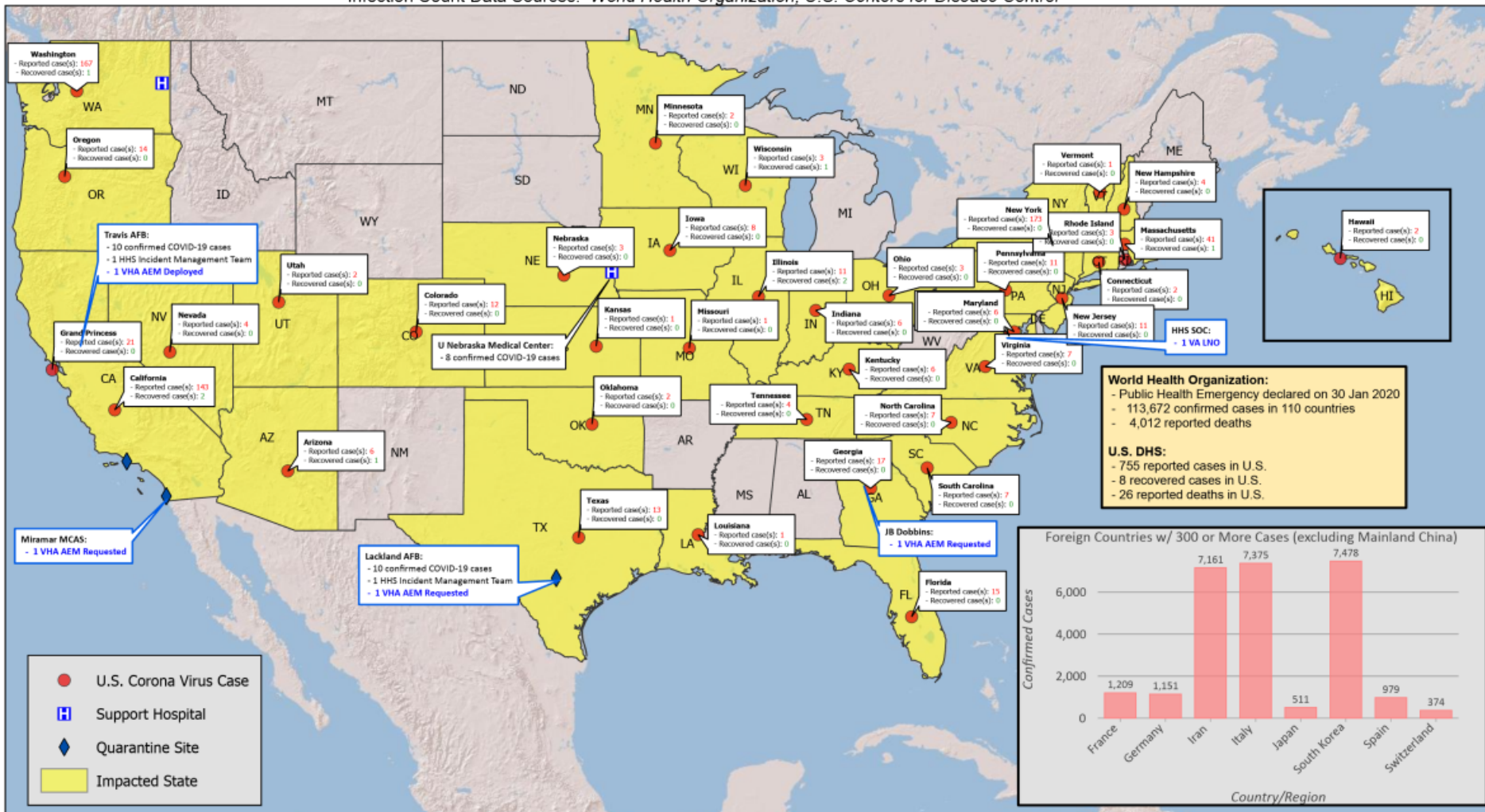
Current State

- The WHO is reporting 113,672 confirmed cases globally and 4,012 deaths. DHS reports the total U.S. cases is 755 and 26 deaths. The GRAND PRINCESS cruise ship docked in Oakland yesterday. Today, evacuees continue to be transported to DoD installations for quarantine and testing. ~962 CA residents to Travis/Miramar; 170 CA residents arrived at Travis yesterday. ~1,078 non-CA residents to Lackland/Dobbins as early as today.



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impacts - 3/10/2020 as of 1300

Infection Count Data Sources: World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control



Created on: 3/10/2020 at 1:42 PM
Created by: VAIOC

Unclassified - VA Sensitive

Document: Coronavirus
Data Sources: WHO, CDC, VA

000739

MULTI-VA-VHA-20-0471-A000786



CDC Travel Advisories

- Warning Level 3 Avoid Nonessential Travel: China, South Korea, Italy, Iran If you spent time in Level 3 areas during the past 14 days, stay home for 14 days from the time you left the area and practice social distancing. Alert Level 2 Practice Enhanced Precautions: Japan Watch Level 1 Practice Usual Precautions: Hong Kong If you spent time in Japan during the past 14 days, limit contact with others and monitor your health for 14 days after returning to the U.S. CDC recommends travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, defer all cruise ship travel worldwide. If you were on a cruise in the past 14 days, monitor your health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the U.S. If a case of COVID-19 was reported on your ship during the cruise, stay home 14 days and practice social distancing.



Critical Information Requirement

- Employees, Veterans Access/non-Veterans Positive COVID-19 in Veterans Affairs Health Care System Self-Quarantined Due to Possible COVID-19 Exposure CDC Quarantine Tested Presumptive Positive for COVID-19 Operational Disruptions Due to COVID-19 Challenges Logistical Challenges Due to COVID-19

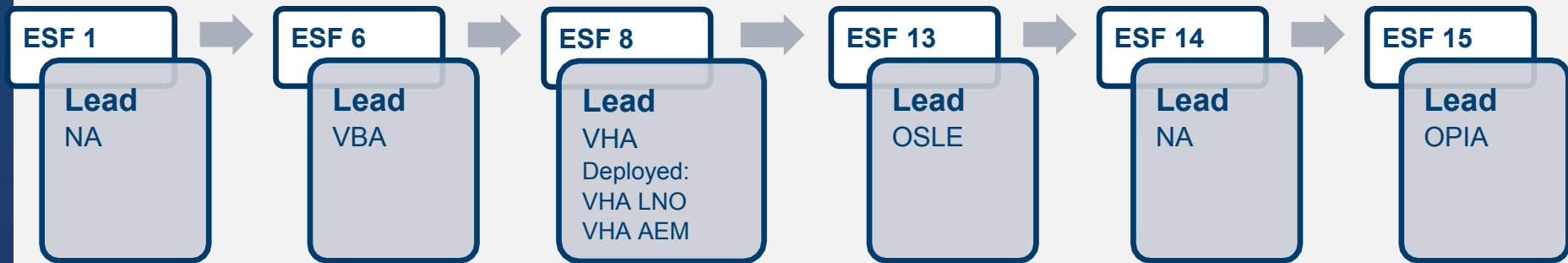


Current Priorities

- Work Force Readiness Administrative Readiness Network
Readiness Facilities Readiness Messaging Veteran Outreach Fourth
Mission



Active Emergency Support Functions (ESF)





New Guidance

- VA COVID-19 IT Contingency Planning/Testing



New Initiatives

- VHAVBANCAOITOSLEOGCOA
LCOCLAOMOPIAOAWPBVAOI
GVEOCHCOC SOHRA/OSPOS

Unmet Needs?



Ops Rhythm

TIME	EVENT	OPR
0700	VAIOC Shift Turnover	OSP
0815	HHS SOC Operations Coord Call	HHS
~1000	VA SITREP Published	OSP
1230	NICCL Call	National JIC
1100 (Th)	ESF8 Conference Call	VHA
1230 (Tu)	HHS Interagency VTC	OSP
1300	A/SO updates due	All
1430 (Wed)	Domestic Resilience Group SVTC (Restricted)	OSP
1500	Crisis Action Team (CAT) Meeting	OSP
1700	CAT Meeting Minutes Distributed	OSP
1900	VAIOC Shift Turnover	OSP



Closing Remarks

- Next meeting Wednesday 11 March at 1500 ETClosing Remarks

COVID-19 – Agency Response
3/10/2020
Department of Veterans Affairs

Administrative Actions, Waivers, and Other Programmatic Changes that Impact Agency Provision of Service or Mission Delivery (Externally Facing)

- Within a day of the first confirmed US case, VA began planning for COVID-19 by establishing screening and triage, isolation and quarantine, and infection control strategy and plans.
- Activated Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) to Level 1 on January 20, 2020 and it remains activated.
- Provided guidance to all employees restricting travel on non-mission-critical events and activities.
- Screening points established at every major VHA Healthcare Facility (170 hospitals that serve nearly 9 million veterans across the country)
- Limited admissions to Spinal Cord Injury Units (24 major centers supporting 24,000 Veterans)
 - Instituted “No Visitor” stance (except in compassionate cases – ex: actively dying and will be limited to the specific Veteran room only)
- Restricted admission to VA Community Living Centers (CLC) (134 nationwide nursing homes supporting 41,000 Veterans)
 - Instituted a “No Visitor” stance (except in compassionate cases – e.g., actively dying Veteran on our hospice units and will be limited to the specific Veteran room only)
 - No admissions from the community to our CLCs; Veterans will be processed through acute care centers prior to admission
- Established national testing capability for VA facilities at Palo Alto, CA
 - The VA lab in Palo Alto has capacity to test up to 2000 patients.
 - Additionally, VA’s are utilizing state labs and recently added private testing labs available across the country (LabCorp and Quest)

Guidance, Communication and Outreach with Stakeholders

- Secretary Wilkie sent a message regarding general Coronavirus prevention and preparedness strategies to all VA employees March 9.
- VHA Executive in Charge Dr. Richard Stone sent message regarding general Coronavirus prevention and preparedness strategies to all VHA employees March 5.
- Outward facing Public Health Website specific to COVID19 with 48,668 unique visits since 2/3/20; <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus>
- Communicating daily with local and national media, updating them on enhanced Coronavirus screening procedures at VA health care facilities.
- VetResources emails, providing Coronavirus information and prevention guidance, were sent to 10.8 million subscribers on February 5 and February 26
- VAntage blog published January 31 and continually updated since: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/70999/cdc-coronavirus-information-and-resources/>
- MyHealtheVet.com, VA’s e-health and online personal record website aimed at Veterans, published a Spotlight blog: “Coronavirus and You: Protect yourself from what is here and now,” and “Veterans: Sick? “Stay Home and Phone” a safe convenient option.”
- Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA) continues to provide updates periodically to Congressional Staff (Committees, Delegations and Leadership) on VA’s COVID-19 response posture

and the numbers of VA inpatients with COVID-19 and outpatients with COVID-19 who are self-quarantined at home.

- VHA has provided over 120 guidance, informational and educational documents to employees and Veterans
- Common banners have been added to all VHA national and local websites informing individuals of changes occurring to support COVID-19 activity
- Active communication with State Veteran Homes to adopt similar COVID-19 preventative measures

Actions That Affect Federal Facilities and Personnel

(Please include actions that would affect your agency, and other Federal agencies.)

- Assessed and prioritizing needs of the supply chain (no unmet needs at this time); accelerating delivery of additional N95 masks, face shields and gowns; purchasing a large number of scanning thermometers to facilitate our active screening efforts at all facilities
- Assessed building and land alternative sites of care options, respiratory isolation room adequacy, and breathing machine supply
- Reviewed all cleaning contracts for NCR facilities and confirmed GSA implementation of coronavirus-specific standard cleaning tasks
- Established an emergency employee Resource Center <http://vaww.va.gov/OHRM/Worklife/Pandemic/>
- Deployed 16 Nursing Assistants to assist with screening of AMCITs repatriated (all have been demobilized)
- Deployed 5 Area Emergency Managers to assist Health and Human Services (HHS) Incident Management Teams at each repatriation site
- Deployed a Liaison Officer to the HHS Secretary's Operations Center (SOC) to assist with response coordination

Other Notable Responses

- VA Office of Information Technology (OIT) created a consolidated test plan for Rescue, Gateway, and Telehealth Apps in preparation of supporting the Department at large during COVID 19.
 - **Virtual Private Network (VPN) Test.** OIT will commence testing the VPN on Wednesday, 3/11/2020 to stress the Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) at our four Gateways.
 - **Citrix Access Gateway (CAG).** Stress testing of CAG is currently being developed with our government and contractual engineering team. This testing will commence after the communications/training have been disseminated to the business community (target date 3/18/2020)
 - **Telehealth Application Testing.** OIT is currently spinning up a rapid response team to analyze the VA Video Connect and Virtual Care Manager applications that are involved in telemedicine workflow. A timeline for this test is being developed, so target date is TBD.
- The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic scheduled March 29-April 3 has been cancelled
 - Decision coordinated with event co-sponsors
- Ongoing review of manifest for latest Princess Cruise Ship to ID Veterans
 - 104 Veterans identified thus far, 34 of which are service connected
 - 42 additional vets possible (working to confirm)
 - Will work with HHS and DoD for oversight of veteran transitions as necessary

From: VAIOC /o=EXCHANGELABS/ou=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=RECIPIENTS/cn=028F129D5C2D4A4C81F95B2BA8CA56E2-VAIOC (B6) @va.gov>

Ware, Dustin /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5d2fde98208f42b99ca344cda4157c54-Ware, Dusti (B6) @va.gov>;

Walters, Ronald /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9248cf4ffc44f9b61f6f4a637ff441-Walters, Ro (B6) @va.gov>;

Wagner, John (Wolf) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ea81beb53184e9681d18d786ac92fe1-Wagner, Joh (B6) @va.gov>;

Uchalik, Nicholas /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=984b5dc641d04726ada43fa03131fb81-Uchalik, Ni (B6) @va.gov>;

Tucker, Brooks /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=24ae47cfff629405aa8557cc2cc792903-Tucker, Bro (B6) @va.gov>;

Tran, Dat VACO /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5672e7e4b20d42719eb55eb33d001ca9-Tran, Dat (B6) @va.gov>;

Tallman, Gary /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a07d34184b7245e4abc96693bce25ac7-Tallman, Ga (B6) @va.gov>;

Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7699e816dfb941bf8048852495d7c4c9-Syrek, Chri (B6) k@va.gov>;

Stone, Richard A., MD /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd16619615d64adea22e45e63ff6462a-Stone, Rich (B6) e2@va.gov>;

Smith, Jeffrey M. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=78851e399c8b4b2da86c6f822ec65378-Smith, Jeff (B6) @va.gov>;

To: Sitterly, Daniel /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41e58b2e9c85435b9f292a5c9e8a3865-Sitterly, D (B6) @va.gov>;

Rychalski, Jon J. /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=86d01b83e30f48d2abe1fa64eb748af7-Rychalski, (B6) @va.gov>;

Roa, Richard (OCLA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=182caeb6a25e412d99ee1cdec3666d0-Roa, Richar (B6) @va.gov>;

RLW /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f8816f131e9b42e4a34115a15e20f437-RLW (B6) @va.gov>;

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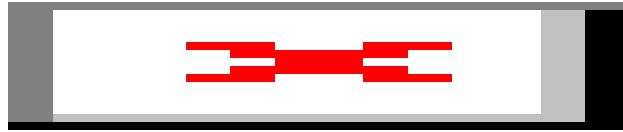
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Subject:	SITREP (Update 37): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global
Date:	2020/03/02 11:04:05
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 2 Mar 20 / 1103 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 37:

- 2 Mar at 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 88,930 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,043 deaths, throughout 65 countries.
- CDC reports the total confirmed cases in the US is 64, and 2 deaths: 15 presenting in US; 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province; 44 among evacuees from Diamond Princess; 27 (+23) presumptive cases (i.e., positive test performed in state lab, pending confirmation at CDC).
- Washington State has declared a state of emergency.
 - Washington state confirmed a second person died from contracting COVID-19.
 - Washington State and the CDC are tracking a possible outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care nursing facility. Officials are also reporting

that approximately 27 of the 108 residents and 25 of the 180 staff are exhibiting symptoms, and are being tested by HHS.

- • New York announced that the state has confirmed its first COVID-19 patient. A Manhattan woman contracted the virus while traveling in Iran and is currently isolated in her home.
- • Florida declared a public health emergency after two adults tested presumptively positive for COVID-19.
- • California had two health care workers in the San Francisco Bay Area test positive for COVID-19 after exposure to a patient treated for the virus at a hospital in Sacramento.
- • HHS reports the United States has 75,000 test kits on hand with plans to radically expand the number of test kits over the next week.

Update 36:

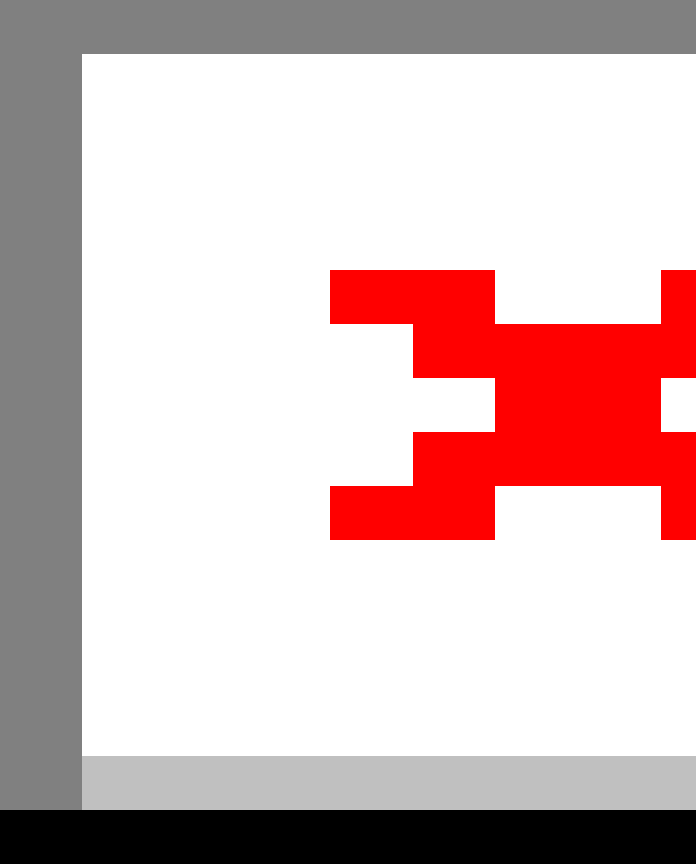
- • 1 Mar, 0600 ET, the WHO is reporting 86,927 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,976 deaths, throughout 59 countries.
- • CDC reports the total confirmed cases in the US is 66, and 1 death: 15 presenting in US; 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province; 44 among evacuees from Diamond Princess; 4 presumptive cases (i.e., positive by CDC test performed in state lab, pending confirmation at CDC).
- • The Washington State Department of Health reported the first death in the US due to COVID-19. The Governor of WA has declared a State of Emergency.
- • Open source media is reporting that officials in Washington State and the CDC are tracking a possible outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care nursing facility in Washington State.
 - • There are currently two presumptive positive cases associated with the facility (one healthcare worker and one resident). Officials are also reporting that approximately 27 of the 108 residents and 25 of the 180 staff have some symptoms and are being tested.
 - • CDC is sending a team to help local officials investigate and test.
- • The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began authorizing American laboratories to develop their own coronavirus tests to increase the U.S. testing capacity. This will allow 300-400 academic laboratories and hospitals to run diagnostic tests.
- • The Department of State has issued travel advisories for the following areas:
 - • Daegu, South Korea – Level IV, Do Not Travel, due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19.
 - • Lombardy and Veneto, Italy – Level IV, Do Not Travel, due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19.
 - • Travel restrictions on any foreign citizen coming to the US who has visited Iran in the last 14 days.

VA:

- • VA provided guidance for all VA TAP Field Staff: Effective 26 Feb, and for a period of 30 days, travel is suspended for in-person support to VA TAP events at itinerant sites in the following countries; South Korea, Japan, and Italy.

- • VBA Office of Field Operations, Outreach and Engagement (O&E) is exploring alternative methods of information and service delivery If necessary for the eight (8) employees located in the United Kingdom (1), Germany (3), Italy (1), and Japan (3), including Okinawa Island.
- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) will stand-up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the future planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- • VHA screened 47 Veterans, 44 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 3 tested negative for COVID-19.
- • VHA screened 25 Employees, 14 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 5 under home quarantine.
- • Palo Alto VAMC created a ward in order to provide patient care for any repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB, CA.
- • The five Nursing Assistants supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA. were demobilized on 27 Feb and have returned to their home stations.
- • VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) Watch Officer

Rene Gomez

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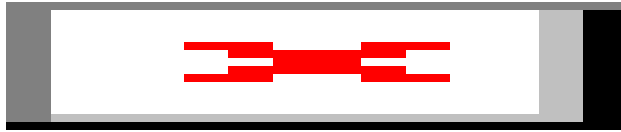
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Subject:	SITREP (Update 41): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global
Date:	2020/03/06 10:12:52
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 6 Mar 20 /1011 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 41:

- On 6 Mar, the WHO is reporting 98,202 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,381 deaths, throughout 88 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 233 confirmed cases across 13 states and territories; 12 total deaths.
- Grand Princess cruise ship with 2,383 passengers and 1,110 crew was scheduled to return to Port of San Francisco 5 Mar; 100 COVID-19 tests delivered 5 Mar; tests will be prioritized for flu-positive passengers (2) and crew members (4) along with 68 holdovers from previous sailing; final disposition of ship pending.
- HHS to procure 500 million N95 respirators over the next 18 months for the Strategic National Stockpile to support healthcare workers in COVID-19 outbreaks.
- The Governor of Maryland has declared a State of Emergency to further mobilize and coordinate state resources in response to COVID-19. This was after the Governor released information that the state's Public Health Laboratory had confirmed the first three positive cases of COVID-19 in the state. There are 11 State Emergency Operations Centers activated and Hawaii, West Virginia, and

California have also all issued various preparedness and emergency declarations.

- The EPA has published a list of qualified disinfectant products for use against the virus.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- The VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) has established the following email account to receive legal questions from the field in regards to COVID-19:
 - ogccovid19@va.gov

Update 40:

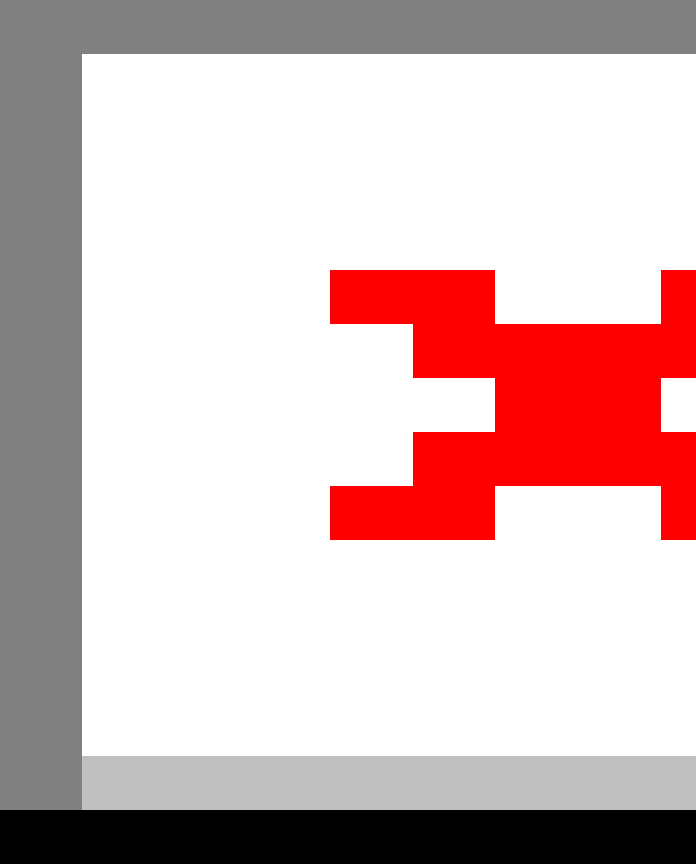
- On 5 Mar, the WHO is reporting 95,270 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,280 deaths, throughout 79 countries.
- CDC reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 159 confirmed cases across 13 states and territories; 11 total deaths.
- HHS has been designated the Lead Federal Agency for the COVID-19 response. FEMA is establishing a Response Operations Cell in order to:
 - 1) provide synchronized support to HHS from across the agency.
 - 2) serve as the central point of information on the Agency's internal activities.
 - 3) provide updates to FEMA senior leadership on FEMA activities.
- The GRAND PRINCESS Cruise Ship has had separate cruises with the potential for exposure to COVID-19.
 - Cruise A: The first cruise occurred from 11 – 21 Feb, roundtrip from San Francisco-Mexico.
 - There were 3 presumptive positives (2 couples traveling together) with 2 Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) - all after disembarking cruise A.
 - One has died (first CA death) and another remains in ICU (spouse), the third case was confirmed positive.
 - Cruise B: The second cruise is currently sailing from 21 Feb-7 Mar with four port calls in Hawaii, and the second leg of the trip was to Mexico but is being diverted to San Francisco.
 - The ship has 2422 passengers and 1122 crew.
 - 11 passengers are sick with upper respiratory illness, 4 flu tests given and 3 are positive for the flu so far; 20 crew are sick with respiratory illness, 7 tested for flu and pending results.
 - There are 68 passengers who were holdovers between cruise A and B. Unknown number of crew changed out between voyages.
 - Approximately 100 people will be tested - all those with symptoms plus the 68 holdovers from cruise A.
 - The test kits will be picked up for the California Department of Public Health lab in Richmond, CA and flown via U.S. Coast Guard to the ship.
 - The testing will be done by the ships medical staff.
 - The CDC and the State of California are coordinating.
- On Wednesday, 4 Mar, VPOTUS announced that 1.5 million coronavirus test kits will be available this week.

- WA state has established a quarantine and isolation facility; currently zero occupants.
- China Economic Impact: Production, trucking, and port operations in China remain lower than normal, but supply chain indicators suggest a gradual resumption of economic and export activity. If these trends continue, container volume into U.S. ports may see increases by early April.

VA:

- • The VA LNO (AEM) at Lackland AFB, TX has redeployed.
- • VHA screened 74 Veterans, 65 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 1 tested positive, 5 tested negative, and 3 tests pending.
- • VHA screened 34 Employees, 18 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 12 under home quarantine.
- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED], Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) [REDACTED], Watch Officer

Rene Gomez

VA Integrated Operations Center

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Fax: (202) 273-7809

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Date:	2020/02/27 10:50:31
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note



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SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 27 Feb 20 / 1030 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.

Update 33:

- 27 Feb, 0500 ET, the WHO is reporting 81,109 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,761 deaths, throughout 38 countries.
- 26 Feb, 1600 ET, the CDC reports confirmed US cases of COVID-19 is 60, including: 15 presenting in U.S., 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province, and 42 (+6) among evacuees from Diamond Princess.
- The WHO reports, for the first time, since the onset of symptoms of the first identified case of COVID-19 on 8 December 2019, there have been more new cases reported from countries outside of China than from China.
- State and Locally Declared Emergencies in City of San Francisco, Santa Clara County, and San Diego County, CA.
- The CDC has confirmed an infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 in California in a person who reportedly did not have relevant travel history or exposure to another known patient with COVID-19.
 - At this time, the patient's exposure is unknown. It's possible this could be an instance of community spread of COVID-19, which would be the first time this has happened in the US. Community spread means spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown. It's also possible, however, that the patient may have been exposed to a returned traveler who was infected.
 - This case was detected through the US public health system — picked up by astute clinicians. This brings the total number of COVID-19 cases in the US to 15.

- CDC advises that non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as personal protective measures, social distancing and surface cleanings, are the most effective way of mitigating spread of virus until vaccines become available.
- FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Drug Shortage Staff asked manufacturers to evaluate supply chains that may be impacted in China or other areas due to COVID-19.

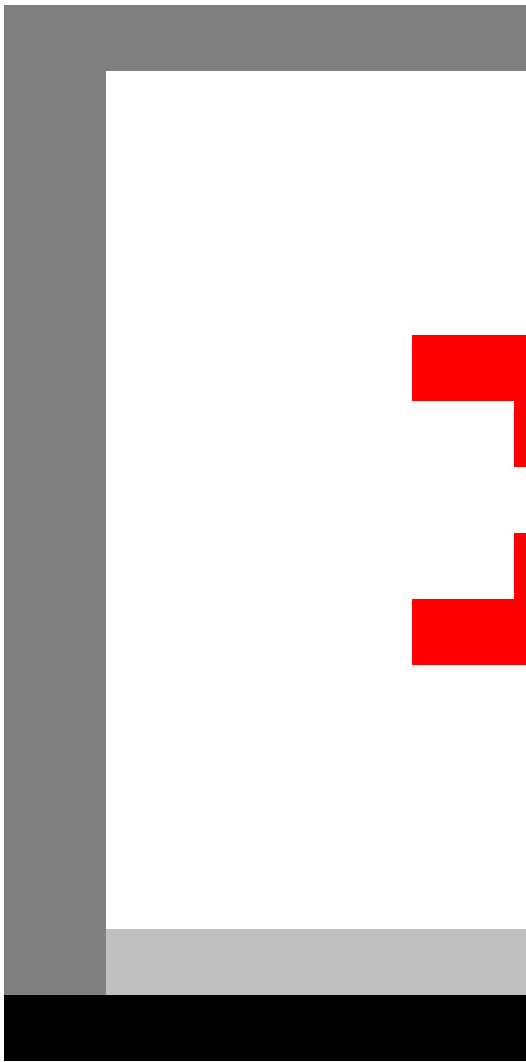
Update 32:

- 26 Feb, 0400 ET, the WHO is reporting 80,980 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,762 deaths, throughout 38 countries.
- 26 Feb, 0600 ET, confirmed US cases of COVID-19 is 59, including: 14 presenting in U.S., 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province, and 42 (+6) among evacuees from Diamond Princess.
- Open source media is reporting one U.S. Army Soldier has tested positive for COVID-19 in South Korea. The Soldier is quarantined in his off base quarters in South Korea.
- CDC is assessing state and local readiness to implement community mitigation measures, e.g., home containment, including housing and transportation needs.
- CDC is preparing resources to consult clinicians, state health departments, and repatriation teams on how to evaluate and test Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19; initiating gradual transfer of PUI assignment to States.
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported they are monitoring supplies of 20 unrelated drugs that are either made in China, where the coronavirus epidemic has drastically reduced manufacturing, or contain ingredients from China.
- FEMA reports, currently there is no impact to continuity of government. All federal departments and agencies continue to perform essential functions.

VA:

- On 26 Feb, VBA reported that the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed. The installation has been restricted to mission essential personnel. The Field Office has a staff of four personnel impacted. Three will tele-work, the fourth does not have equipment to tele-work.
- VHA screened 40 Veterans, 38 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 2 tested negative for COVID-19.
- VHA screened 21 Employees, 14 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 3 under home quarantine.
 - Palo Alto VAMC created a ward in order to provide patient care for any repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB, CA.
 - Five Nursing Assistants supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
 - VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated
FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED] Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) [REDACTED] Watch Officer

VA Integrated Operations Center

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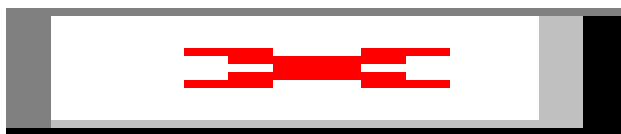
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Subject: SITREP (Update 39): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/03/04 10:20:39

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 4 Mar 20 / 1000 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 39:

- 4 Mar at 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 93,094 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,198 deaths, throughout 77 countries.
- CDC reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 108 across 12 states and territories,
- Washington State Department of Health is 9 nine deaths.
- FDA and CDC allowing health care personnel to use non FDA regulated National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved respirators to increase number of available N95s.
- DHS facility in Seattle was closed by Federal Protective Service (FPS) on 3 Mar, due to one employee becoming ill after visiting a relative in a long term care facility that has experienced multiple cases of COVID-19.
- Businesses are actively working with suppliers to minimize impacts to their supply chains and operations. Slowdowns in retail and manufacturing are anticipated, but no immediate stoppages within the U.S. have been reported or indicated. These disruptions are expected to be remedied if businesses are able to source from alternate suppliers or exports from China resume.

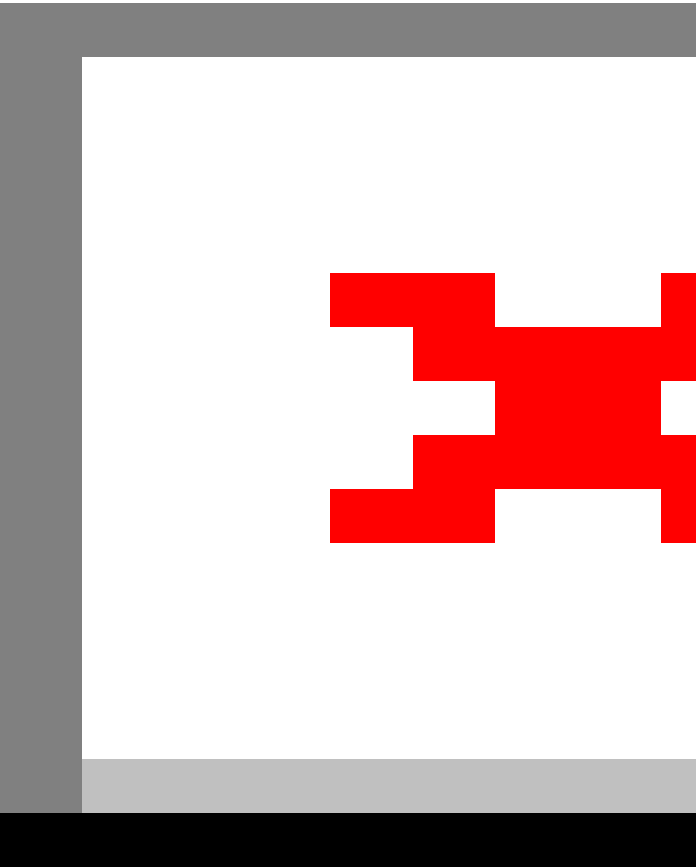
- • In addition to countries where containment and mitigation measures are restricting economic and export activity, some countries (including India) have announced export restrictions of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients.

Update 38:

- • 4 Mar at 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 90,893 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,111 deaths, throughout 73 countries.
- • CDC reports the total U.S cases of COVID-19 is 91, including: 16 presenting in U.S., 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province and 45 among evacuees from Diamond Princess, 27 presumptive cases pending confirmation at CDC.
- • Washington Department of Health is reporting six COVID-19 deaths.
- • Washington and Florida have declared States of Emergencies, along with the city of San Antonio, TX and the following counties in California; Solano, Orange, San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Diego.
- • Supply Chain Task Force focused on implementing N95 policy courses of action including: increase production; prioritize availability for highest risk healthcare workers and first responders; modify guidance to emphasize conservation; and develop whole of nation communications strategy to promote conservation and responsible use.
- • King County, WA ordered the purchase of a motel for isolation of patients in active treatment and recovery; county will also set up modular housing units on publicly owned land.
- • CDC issued interim guidance for healthcare facilities on COVID 19 community transmission preparation.
- • No reports of impact to continuity of government. All federal departments and agencies continue to perform essential functions.

VA:

- • VHA screened 69 Veterans, 60 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 1 tested positive, 5 tested negative, and 3 tests pending.
- • VHA screened 32 Employees, 17 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 11 under home quarantine.
- • VA provided guidance for all VA TAP Field Staff: Effective 26 Feb, and for a period of 30 days, travel is suspended for in-person support to VA TAP events at itinerant sites in the following countries; South Korea, Japan, and Italy.
- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- • Palo Alto VAMC created a ward in order to provide patient care for any repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB, CA.
- • VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6) , Watch Branch Chief

Released by: (B6) , Watch Officer

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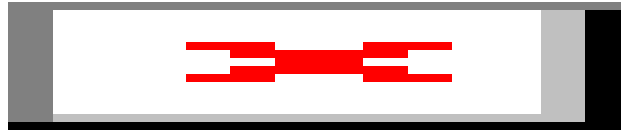
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Subject: SITREP (Update 34): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/02/28 11:02:11

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 28 Feb 20 / 1100 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- On 20 Jan, China's National Health Commission confirmed that a new virus causing an outbreak of pneumonia in the country has been passed from person-to-person and has infected some medical staff.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation.
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 34:

- 28 Feb, 0600 ET, the WHO is reporting 83,647 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,858 deaths, throughout 53 countries.
- The CDC reports the total confirmed cases in the U.S. is 61: 15 presenting in U.S.; three among evacuees from Hubei Province; 43 among evacuees from Diamond Princess.
- HHS issued an activation order for the following Emergency Support Functions (ESF): ESF - 1 Transportation, ESF - 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services, ESF - 13 Public Safety, ESF - 14 Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure, ESF - 15 External Affairs.
- CDC and FDA developed protocol, to maximize the number of available testing kits, which details using two of the three components of original CDC test kit to detect the virus that causes COVID-19. Anticipated at least 40 public health

laboratories able to begin testing using existing kits in their laboratories by 1 Mar 20.

- FDA monitoring PPE supply reports from manufacturers; no PPE shortages currently identified despite media reports.
- CDC submitted updated guidance on optimizing the use of N95 respirators in healthcare settings to include use of stockpiled N95 respirators beyond the manufacturer-intended shelf life and a check sheet to help healthcare facilities prioritize the order of implementation.
- POTUS announced VPOTUS will oversee National Level COVID-19 Task Force. Ambassador Debbie Brix, a physician, will serve as the White House novel coronavirus response coordinator.
- 70 container ships at ports in China have stood idle over the last month, adding to concerns of a global supply chain disruption based on a reliance on Chinese products.
- The Hawaii State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has activated to “Partial”, and New York City activated its EOC.

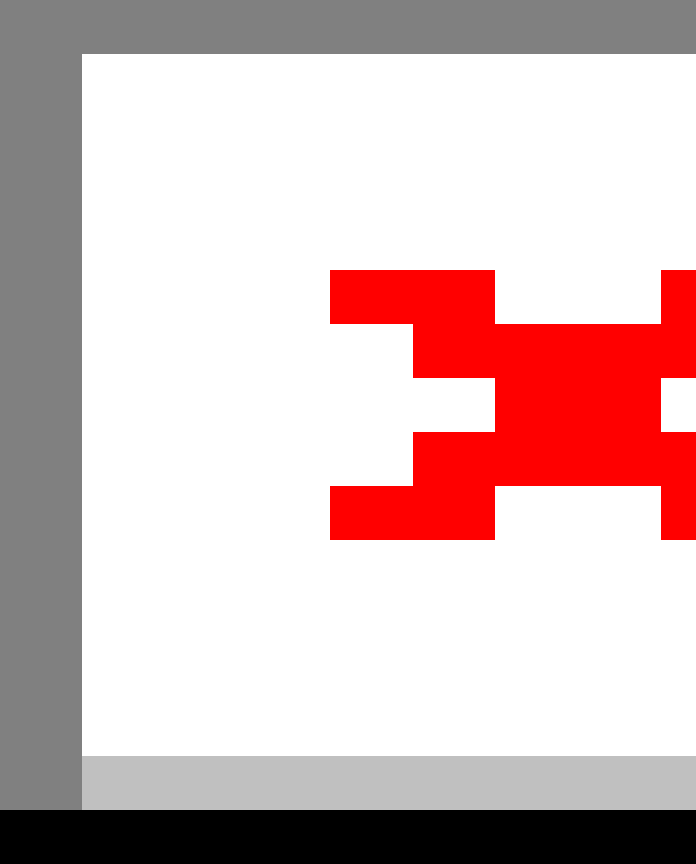
Update 33:

- 27 Feb, 0500 ET, the WHO is reporting 81,109 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 2,761 deaths, throughout 38 countries.
- 26 Feb, 1600 ET, the CDC reports confirmed US cases of COVID-19 is 60, including: 15 presenting in U.S., 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province, and 42 (+6) among evacuees from Diamond Princess.
- The WHO reports, for the first time, since the onset of symptoms of the first identified case of COVID-19 on 8 December 2019¹, there have been more new cases reported from countries outside of China than from China.
- State and Locally Declared Emergencies in City of San Francisco, Santa Clara County, and San Diego County, CA.
- The CDC has confirmed an infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 in California in a person who reportedly did not have relevant travel history or exposure to another known patient with COVID-19.
 - At this time, the patient’s exposure is unknown. It’s possible this could be an instance of community spread of COVID-19, which would be the first time this has happened in the US. Community spread means spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown. It’s also possible, however, that the patient may have been exposed to a returned traveler who was infected.
 - This case was detected through the US public health system — picked up by astute clinicians. This brings the total number of COVID-19 cases in the US to 15.
- CDC advises that non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as personal protective measures, social distancing and surface cleanings, are the most effective way of mitigating spread of virus until vaccines become available.
- FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Drug Shortage Staff asked manufacturers to evaluate supply chains that may be impacted in China or other areas due to COVID-19.

VA:

- As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- VHA screened 47 Veterans, 44 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 3 tested negative for COVID-19.
- VHA screened 25 Employees, 14 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 5 under home quarantine.
- Palo Alto VAMC created a ward in order to provide patient care for any repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB, CA.
- The five Nursing Assistants supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA. were demobilized on 27 Feb and have returned to their home stations.
- VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
- VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

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Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

February 28, 2020

National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

1. Executive Summary

- Monitoring outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

2. Significant Weather Source: NWS

- Heavy Lake effect snow – Great Lakes, New York, and Central Appalachians, Winter Weather Advisories, Winter Storm Warnings, and Blizzard Warnings in effect.
- Isolated river flooding in the central, southcentral, and southeast US.

3. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, VHA, VBA

- As of 0600ET, 28 Feb, the WHO reports 83,647 confirmed cases globally; 2,858 deaths throughout 53 countries.
- The CDC reports the total confirmed cases in the US is 61: 15 presenting in US; three among evacuees from Hubei Province; 43 among evacuees from Diamond Princess.
- As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- POTUS announced VPOTUS will oversee National Level COVID-19 Task Force. Ambassador Debbie Birx has been appointed to serve as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator.
- FDA monitoring PPE supply reports from manufacturers; no PPE shortages currently identified despite media reports.
- VA Response Efforts**
 - If needed, Palo Alto VAMC created a ward to provide care for repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB, CA.
 - VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
 - Five Nursing Assistants supporting repatriation operations at Travis AFB, CA.
 - VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.
- Further details can be found in the COVID-19 VA SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.

4. Long Term Facility Disruptions

- Blythe CBOC, CA Source: VHA**
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimated date of completion is the end of March.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.
 - An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.
- Arecibo CBOC, PR Source: VHA**
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
- Vieques Rural OPC, PR Source: VHA**
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.

5. Ten Day Outlook

- No known significant events affecting VA operations in the next ten days.

Approved by: (B6), Duty Officer

Released by: (B6), Watch Officer

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Communication Plan
February 2020**

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Veterans Affairs are closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in tens of thousands of confirmed cases mostly in China and in a growing number of international locations, including the United States. The World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, proposed an official name for the illness caused by the new coronavirus: COVID-19.

As reported by the CDC, confirmed cases in the United States involve imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers and person-to-person spread of COVID-19 among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan. At this time, the virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States. In preparation for a widespread outbreak in the United States and a confirmed case within VA, communications plans should be developed and in place ahead of time.

VA is coordinating with local, state, and federal public health officials to closely monitor the situation and assist with screening of evacuees arriving in the United States from China. VA is also preparing each medical center to care for any Veteran or staff member who may be exposed to COVID-19 and limit the spread of the virus within the VA health care system as well as how to communicate needed information about that to Veterans, patients, VA medical staff and employees and the public in general.

Primary Sources of Information

- VA Public Health Coronavirus Website: (which will be updated regularly as the situation evolves)
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): (we are closely monitoring this and it also will regularly updated as circumstance develop).
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Key Facts

- VA has activated an Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) to coordinate response efforts to the COVID-19 outbreak . The group is:
 - Monitoring the situation,
 - Coordinating efforts with local, state, and federal public health groups, including providing Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) volunteers to assist with screening evacuees from China who arrive in the United States, and
 - Assisting VA health care facilities to update emergency action plans and protocols based on CDC's guidance for COVID-19. VA has prior experience with public health emergencies and is drawing on that experience and previous lessons learned to inform its current efforts.
- COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplets, similar to influenza and the common cold. Symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath may appear 2-14 days after exposure.
- There is not yet a vaccine or medication to treat COVID-19. The best way to prevent an infection is to ensure people avoid being exposed in the first place by taking [everyday preventive actions](#), such as washing hands often, avoiding close contact with others who are sick, and getting a flu shot to avoid complications.
- CDC has issued a travel notice [<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china>] encouraging U.S. citizens to avoid all nonessential travel to China.

Target Audiences

- Veterans
- VA Staff at all levels, medical facilities and those who do not work at medical facilities but do work at VA.
- Volunteers
- Family Members
- Congress

Key Messages

VA's response to date

- VA is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other Federal agencies, to monitor and prepare for a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States. We are hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst.
- VA has taken precautionary measures to equip each medical center with the resources, tools, and training to evaluate and begin care for any Veteran or staff who may present with

symptoms or exposure to COVID-19. VA's goal is to prevent COVID-19 infections within VA, while maintaining our usual high-level of care for all Veterans.

- VA has joined with other government agencies in a coordinated response to COVID-19. In addition to putting in place a comprehensive plan to protect the health of everyone who visits or works at one of our facilities, VA is working to protect the entire nation by deploying clinical and non-clinical staff alongside CDC to screen evacuees from China for symptoms and exposure to COVID-19.
- VA is screening and testing Veterans and staff who present at VA with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath and travel or exposure histories that suggest a COVID-19 infection. Per CDC guidance and VA protocols, individuals known to be at risk for a COVID infection are immediately isolated to prevent potential spread to others.

Information for Veterans, volunteers, and non-clinical staff

- Symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath can be caused by the flu and the common cold as well as COVID-19. At this time, the flu presents a greater risk in the United States than COVID-19, however, that could change if COVID-19 starts circulating widely. VA encourages everyone to get a flu shot if they have not yet received one to protect against flu and to help minimize demand on health care services.
- Veterans who have symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath should call their local VA medical center before seeking care. VA's phone- and video-based telecare services can be used to avoid exposure to additional germs, keep from spreading germs to others, and eliminate a trip to VA.
- There is not yet a vaccine or medication to treat COVID-19. The best way to prevent an infection is to avoid being exposed in the first place by taking [everyday preventive actions](#).
- Anyone with symptoms of respiratory illness should avoid visiting the medical center except to receive care. Visitors who display respiratory symptoms, should request a mask, wash hands with soap and water or sanitizer, and postpone their visit until they are symptom-free.
- Stay informed of the COVID-19 outbreak. Visit [VA's Public Health Website](#) to learn how to protect against an infection and when to seek care. Monitor the number and location of confirmed COVID-19 cases within the United States at [CDC's COVID-19 Website](#).

Information for clinical staff

- COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplets, similar to influenza and the common cold. Symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Staff should follow CDC guidance for using a facemask:
 - CDC does not recommend at this time that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
- Healthcare personnel evaluating or treating a patient suspected or confirmed to have a COVID-19 infection should use Standard Precautions, Contact Precautions, Airborne Precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).
- VA follows CDC guidance to identify and evaluate Persons Under Investigation (PUIs). Guidance can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/identify-assess-flowchart.html>. Patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room, if available.
- VA may authorize weather and safety leave for asymptomatic employees (i.e., healthy, not displaying symptoms of the given disease) placed in quarantine or isolation because of a significant risk of exposure to COVID-19. If an employee is diagnosed with a COVID-19 infection, accrued or advanced sick leave would be used to cover the period of sickness. Guidance on the use of weather and safety leave can be found at” <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/human-resources-flexibilities-available-federal-employees-impacted-2019-novel-coronavirus>

Communications Tools

Title/Description	Product Type	Link/Resource
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) VA's primary source of information for Veterans	Website	https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDC's primary source of information on COVID-19 for health care personnel, public health professionals and the general public	Website	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html
VHA High Consequence Infection (HCI) Preparedness Program Repository for staff guidance on communications, infection control, triage, diagnosis, treatment and management, and surveillance. Includes answers and questions submitted through VHA HCI Workgroup email (see below)	SharePoint	https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VA_COVHAPublicHealth/HCI/SitePages/Home.aspx
VHA HCI Workgroup Email Address to submit questions to VA's Emergency Management Coordination Cell	Email	VHAHCIWorkgroup@va.gov
CDC coronavirus information and resources Summary of precautions individuals can take to protect against a COVID-19 infection	Blog	https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/70999/cdc-coronavirus-information-and-resources/

Coronavirus and You: Protect yourself from what is here and now	MyHealthVet Spotlight	https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/ss20200211-coronavirus
Infection: Don't Pass It On Resources Posters and fact sheets for Veterans and staff on hand hygiene, masking, covering coughs/sneezes, isolation vs. quarantine, and staying home when sick	SharePoint	https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VACOVHAPublicHealth/handhygiene/New%20Posters%20%20Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FVACOVHAPublicHealth%2Fhandhygiene%2FNew%20Posters%20%20Resources%2FCoronavirus%20Posters%20%26%20Factsheets&viewid=bb0b47f6%2D77a7%2D42f7%2Dbf0c%2D7802f9b4feba
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Six-video series produced by CDC • What is a novel coronavirus? • Different coronaviruses • How to protect against COVID-19 • What is my risk? • Am I at risk from a package shipped from China? • Should I wear a mask?	Video	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html
Alert: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Display sign advises Veterans what to do if they've arrived at VA with symptoms of respiratory illness.	Poster e-bulletin board	In clearance
COVID-19 Q & A Collection of questions and answers from Voluntary Services on COVID-19, the associated risk,	Fact Sheet	In clearance

and appropriate preventive measures.		
Draft VA confirms first COVID-19 case	News Release Template	In clearance
Draft Talking Point re: first COVID-19 case	Talking Points	In clearance
Guidance on Media Queries Notice to PAOs requesting that COVID-19 media queries be sent to regional OPIA teams and 10B2B Media	Guidance	https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VA/COVHAPublicHealth/toolkits/Novel%20Coronavirus/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=51948ea4%2D5adc%2D4085%2D9e9d%2D449b32553d55&id=%2Fsites%2FVACOVHAPublicHealth%2Ftoolkits%2FNovel%20Coronavirus%2FMedia%20Guidance
Approved Social Media Messages Sample social media posts and images approved for use.	Suggested Posts	https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VA/COVHAPublicHealth/toolkits/Novel%20Coronavirus/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=51948ea4%2D5adc%2D4085%2D9e9d%2D449b32553d55&id=%2Fsites%2FVACOVHAPublicHealth%2Ftoolkits%2FNovel%20Coronavirus%2FSocial%20Media

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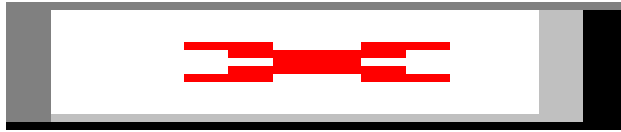
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Subject: SITREP (Update 38): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/03/03 10:08:27

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 3 Mar 20 / 1008 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- As of 3 Feb, under the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency, enhanced screening will take place at 11 designated airports: Newark Liberty, NJ (EWR); Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX (DFW); John F. Kennedy, NY (JFK); Detroit Metro, MI (DTW); Chicago O'Hare, IL (ORD); San Francisco, CA (SFO); Seattle-Tacoma, WA (SEA); Daniel K. Inouye, HI (HNL); Los Angeles, CA (LAX); Hartsfield-Jackson, GA (ATL); Dulles, VA (IAD).
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 38:

- 3 Mar at 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 90,893 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,111 deaths, throughout 73 countries.
- CDC reports the total U.S cases of COVID-19 is 91, including: 16 presenting in U.S., 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province and 45 among evacuees from Diamond Princess, 27 presumptive cases pending confirmation at CDC.
- Washington Department of Health is reporting six COVID-19 deaths.
- Washington and Florida have declared States of Emergencies, along with the city of San Antonio, TX and the following counties in California; Solano, Orange, San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Diego.
- Supply Chain Task Force focused on implementing N95 policy courses of action including: increase production; prioritize availability for highest risk healthcare workers and first responders; modify guidance to emphasize conservation; and develop whole of nation communications strategy to promote conservation and responsible use.
- King County, WA ordered the purchase of a motel for isolation of patients in active treatment and recovery; county will also set up modular housing units on publicly owned land.

- CDC issued interim guidance for healthcare facilities on COVID 19 community transmission preparation.
- No reports of impact to continuity of government. All federal departments and agencies continue to perform essential functions.

Update 37:

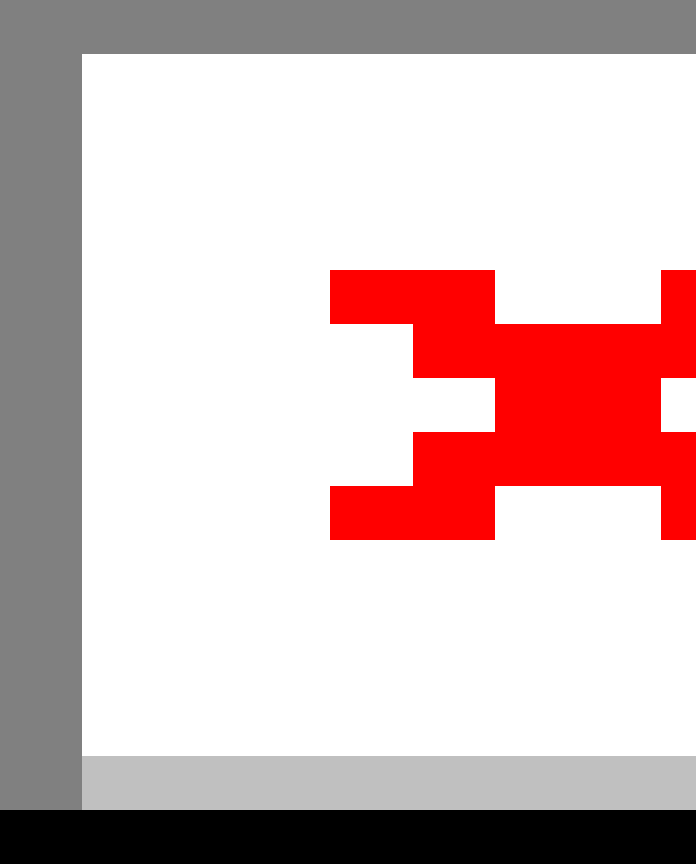
- 2 Mar at 1000 ET, the WHO is reporting 88,930 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,043 deaths, throughout 65 countries.
- CDC reports the total confirmed cases in the US is 64, and 2 deaths: 16 presenting in US; 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province; 45 among evacuees from Diamond Princess; 27 (+23) presumptive cases (i.e., positive test performed in state lab, pending confirmation at CDC).
- Washington State has declared a state of emergency.
 - Washington state confirmed a second person died from contracting COVID-19.
 - Washington State and the CDC are tracking a possible outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care nursing facility. Officials are also reporting that approximately 27 of the 108 residents and 25 of the 180 staff are exhibiting symptoms, and are being tested by HHS.
- New York announced that the state has confirmed its first COVID-19 patient. A Manhattan woman contracted the virus while traveling in Iran and is currently isolated in her home.
- Florida declared a public health emergency after two adults tested presumptively positive for COVID-19.
- California had two health care workers in the San Francisco Bay Area test positive for COVID-19 after exposure to a patient treated for the virus at a hospital in Sacramento.
- HHS reports the United States has 75,000 test kits on hand with plans to radically expand the number of test kits over the next week.

VA:

- The Multi-Use Vehicle and Area Emergency Manager have redeployed from Travis AFB, CA.
- VHA screened 61 Veterans, 56 were ruled out as Person(s) Under Investigation (PUI), 1 tested positive, 3 tested negative, and 1 test remains pending.
- VHA screened 28 Employees, 17 completed home quarantine/work supervision, 7 under home quarantine.
- VA provided guidance for all VA TAP Field Staff: Effective 26 Feb, and for a period of 30 days, travel is suspended for in-person support to VA TAP events at itinerant sites in the following countries; South Korea, Japan, and Italy.
- VBA Office of Field Operations, Outreach and Engagement (O&E) is exploring alternative methods of information and service delivery If necessary for the eight employees located in the United Kingdom (1), Germany (3), Italy (1), and Japan (3), including Okinawa Island.

- • VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) stood up a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
- • As of 26 Feb, the Korea Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Field Office on Camp Humphreys is closed, most of the staff will telework.
- • Palo Alto VAMC created a ward in order to provide patient care for any repatriated COVID-19 Veterans from Travis AFB, CA.
- • VA LNO (AEM) is on-site to coordinate services for Veterans that arrived from the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Lackland AFB, TX.
- • VA LNO is on-site at the HHS SOC to coordinate VA and HHS response efforts.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



A close up of a map Description automatically generated

FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Approved by: (B6), Duty Officer

Released by: (B6), Watch Officer

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Delivered Date:	2020/03/03 10:08:27

Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

March 03, 2020

National Terror Advisory System	COGCON	Baseline Force Protection Condition		
		NORTHCOM	EUCOM	PACOM
No Specific Threat	4	B	B+	A+

1. Executive Summary

- American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference in Washington, DC.
- Monitoring Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); six deaths reported in the state of Washington.
- Tornado touchdown in Nashville, TN area; no reported impacts to VA facilities.

2. Significant Weather Source: NWS

- Hazardous weather will continue across the South, with threats of flash flooding. Severe thunderstorms are possible from parts of Texas eastward across the Gulf Coast.
- Tornado touchdown in Western Tennessee-Nashville
 - A severe storm moving through Western and Middle Tennessee spawned a tornado that touched down in Nashville in the early morning hours, 3 Mar.
 - VHA reported no known impacts to VA operations and facilities. Awaiting updates from VBA and NCA.

3. 2020 AIPAC Policy Conference, Washington, DC, 1-3 Mar

- Approximately 12,000 attendees to hear speeches by American and Israeli leaders at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.
- This has been designated a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) 3 event.
- Several street closures will be in effect during the event.

4. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Source: HHS, CDC, WHO, VHA, VBA

- As of 0200 ET, 3 Mar, the WHO reports 90,893 confirmed cases globally; 3,111 deaths throughout 73 countries.
- CDC reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 91, including: 16 presenting in U.S., 3 among evacuees from Hubei Province and 45 among evacuees from Diamond Princess, 27 presumptive cases pending confirmation at CDC.
- Washington State Department of Health is reporting six COVID-19 deaths.
- Washington and Florida have declared States of Emergencies, along with the city of San Antonio, TX and the following counties in California; Solano, Orange, San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Diego.
- CDC issued interim guidance for healthcare facilities on COVID 19 community transmission preparation.
- **VA Response Efforts**
 - Effective 26 Feb, for a period of 30 days, travel is suspended for in-person support to VA Transition Assistance Program (TAP) events at itinerant sites in the following countries; South Korea, Japan, and Italy.
 - VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) established a Crisis Action Team (Lite) to take questions from the field and serve as the planning cell for non-medical actions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1500 ET.
 - Further details can be found in the COVID-19 VA SITREP produced daily by the VAIOC.

5. Long Term Facility Disruptions

- **Blythe CBOC, CA Source: VHA**
 - 17 Jan, the property manager is working to get needed supplies to repair facility; estimated date of completion is the end of March.
 - On 30 Nov, the CBOC sustained extensive water damage from heavy rains.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Stand-Up Report

March 03, 2020

- An onsite MVC and telehealth capabilities are being used for care.

- **Arecibo CBOC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from offices on the premises of the Manuel Petaca Iguina Coliseum.
- **Vieques Rural OPC, PR** *Source: VHA*
 - Operating from a PR Department of Health temporary clinical at Las Maria.
 - Preliminary occupancy date for the long-term lease replacement is June 20.

6. Ten Day Outlook

- Nothing significant to report.

Approved by: (B6) [REDACTED] Duty Officer

Released by: (B6) [REDACTED], Watch Officer

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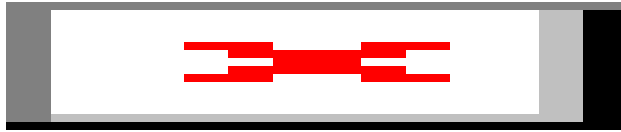
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Subject: SITREP (Update 45): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Global

Date: 2020/03/10 10:54:02

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



SOURCE: CDC / DHS / HHS / WHO / VHA

DATE / TIME: 11 Mar 20 / 1030 ET

LOCATION: Global

NARRATIVE:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- Helpful links about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are listed below:
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>
 - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/index.asp>

Update 45:

- The WHO is reporting 114,567 confirmed cases globally and 4,027 deaths.
- DHS reports the 755 confirmed U.S. cases and 26 deaths.
- On 9 Mar, GRAND PRINCESS docked in Oakland
 - 3,544 persons on board, 1,970 are U.S. citizens
 - 21 passengers tested positive – 19 crew (remaining on board), 2 passengers.
 - Approx. 1,138 rooms available for quarantine at four DoD installations: Travis Air Force Base (AFB), CA, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, CA, Lackland AFB, TX, and Dobbins Air Reserve Base (ARB), GA.
 - Currently, 170 evacuees at Travis AFB, none at the other installations.
 - The Governors of NJ, OH, RI, and IL made emergency declarations in response to COVID-19.
- The National Capital Region (NCR) Watch Desk reports there are 13 Confirmed/Presumptive Positive cases in the NCR.
- The CDC reported 78 state/local public health labs in 50 states now have the capacity to test up to a cumulative 75,000 people for COVID-19.

Update 44:

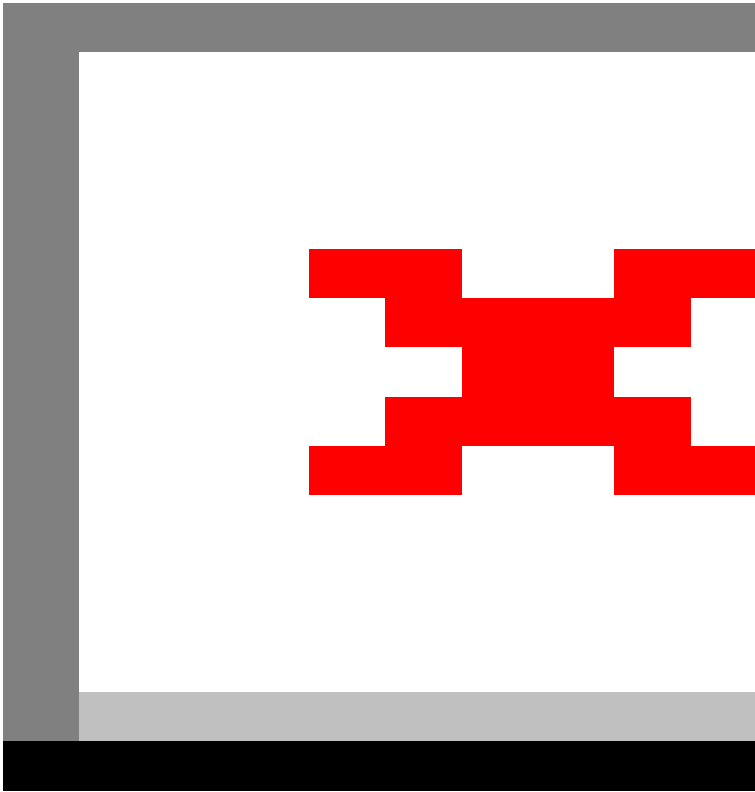
- The WHO is reporting 110,315 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 3,841 deaths, throughout 107 countries.
- DHS reports the total U.S. cases of COVID-19 is 564 confirmed cases across 27 states and territories; 22 total deaths: WA (19), FL (2) and CA (1).

- As of 9 Mar, there are six confirmed and two presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in the NCR: four in Montgomery County, MD; one in the City of Fairfax, VA; one in Prince William County, VA, and two presumptive positive cases in the District of Columbia.
- On 7 Mar, the Governor of NY declared a State of Emergency due to COVID-19. KS, MO, and VT announced first presumptive positive cases.
- The U.S. Army has restricted travel to and from Italy and South Korea, the ban will be in effect through 6 May.
- The GRAND PRINCESS cruise ship will dock at Oakland Inner Harbor today at 1200 ET.
 - COVID-19 symptomatic passengers will disembark from a separate gangway from asymptomatic passengers.
 - U.S. passengers will be transported to DOD installations for quarantine (CA residents will be housed at Travis AFB and MCAS Miramar; non-CA residents will be housed at Lackland AFB, TX and Dobbins ARB, GA).
 - Crew members will remain onboard; DOS will facilitate travel for foreign passengers.

VA Response:

- HHS Incident Management Team support: One AEM deployed to Travis AFB, and one AEM requested for each of the following locations: MCAS Miramar, CA, Lackland AFB, TX, and Dobbins ARB, GA.
- 18 of 18 VISNs have completed COVID-19 Table Top Exercises.
- Effective 9 Mar, the Crisis Response Team (CRT) will convene daily at 1500 ET.

NOTE: Map below depicts the cases confirmed in the United States and the airports where enhanced screenings are being conducted.



FOLLOW-UP: VAIOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

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