

## **CDC media call 3/3/2020**

Nancy Messonnier, M.D., Director,  
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

As of Monday, 60 cases of confirmed or presumptive cases through US public system (not including repatriots), 11 likely person to person, 22 under investigation

State and local health departments taking local action based on confirmed cases. No longer reporting PUIs

States reporting results quickly, in event of discrepancy, state counts should be considered more up to date than CDC counts

6 deaths reported to CDC

Expect to continue to find more cases

12 states that have reported cases of covid-19. Greatest risk of infection is to those in close contact with infected (family/health care workers)

Co-morbidity likely to experience worse outcomes than health people.

Local communities may take action to contain the disease.

Staying home when sick very important.

A spectrum of actions can reduce local impact. Each year, recommend wash hands, cover coughs, sneezes, stay away from people who are sick. For seniors, preparedness may also mean having adequate supplies of necessary medicine.

Clinicians must have information they need to make best decisions for their patients. Last CDC call for clinicians had more than 10,000 listeners. Next call for clinicians on Thursday.

Q/A

WaPo: Lot of epidem on narrow criteria for testing – what was cause for limited criteria/do you regret?  
CDC: Need to focus where we are today to ID ill patients, ensure they are properly treated and tested.

CBS LA: Any new info on new testing kits in CA? Is anyone in WH telling you tamp down on anything you'd like to say?

CDC: Shipped add'l test kits to CA, expect more kits to become available. Been doing these telebriefings since start of outbreak, been very open and able to answer questions.

11 Alive: Process on test kit manufacturing

CDC: Role is to get diagnostic quickly and correctly, then to work with public labs to get access. CDC test kits being used now, results are considered presumptive results due to FDA.

By end of week, 1 million tests a day? Is that just CDC or other tests as well?

CDC: number quoted is number FDA Commissioner reported. CDC expects public health labs will be able to test 75,000. That's why we caution whether CDC will be up to the minute on number of confirmed cases. Really need you to look to the State for up to date numbers.

San Jose Mercury News: WHO conference, concern about global supply chain. Heard from hospitals (Harvard, Stanford) they are concerned.

CDC: Our part is to help the state/local to think through how to make the best use of the supplies we have. Our priority is to make sure highest risk health care workers have PPE. Questions about US supply should go to ASPR

NYT: Contaminants in test kits?

CDC: Reported axios that attributed some CDC test kits to contaminants. Can't comment on ongoing investigation. Concentrated on moving forward.

CNN: Why CDC isn't aggregating testing done by public test labs nationally? Seems like we won't see a national number like South Korea?

CDC: Of course we will be aggregating on daily basis and put on our website. What I mean is if a state reports at 5 p.m., it won't be updated until next day on CDC. We only update once daily. Too difficult to update more than once when cases being updated from states all day.

AP: Re: contaminants – do you know what the problem is? Spread of virus in WA could be result of lack of test kits due to Fed Gov't.

CDC: Our role is to make sure that test kits meet the high quality standards, very confident in kits being sent out now. Time to look back, but now focused on going forward. In Seattle, gene sequencing, it's interesting findings/research. Most recent strains coming out of WA suggest from a later strain coming out of China. Still just a hypothesis. Really happy researchers doing this kind of work – we will learn a lot from it.