

COVID-19

Emergency Legal Preparedness Primer

As of April 2, 2020

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Primer Purposes

- **Provide real-time information & objective guidance (*not legal advice*) on emerging issues of law and policy**
- **Serve as a quick briefing on core legal preparedness and response issues**
- **Connect users to available documents and materials via hyperlinks**
- **Create a template for presentations or legal assessments in your jurisdiction**
- ***Invite further questions or comments***

- ❑ **COVID-19 Epi “Snapshot” & Global Spread**
- ❑ **Emergency Legal Preparedness/ Response**
 - International | Federal | State | Tribal | Local
- ❑ **Public Health Emergency Powers**
- ❑ **Constitutional & Other Challenges**
- ❑ **Additional Resources**
- ❑ **Questions/comments**

Transmission

- Transmissible person-to-person with potential infectivity rate exceeding annual influenza.
- Asymptomatic persons may infect others.

Symptoms

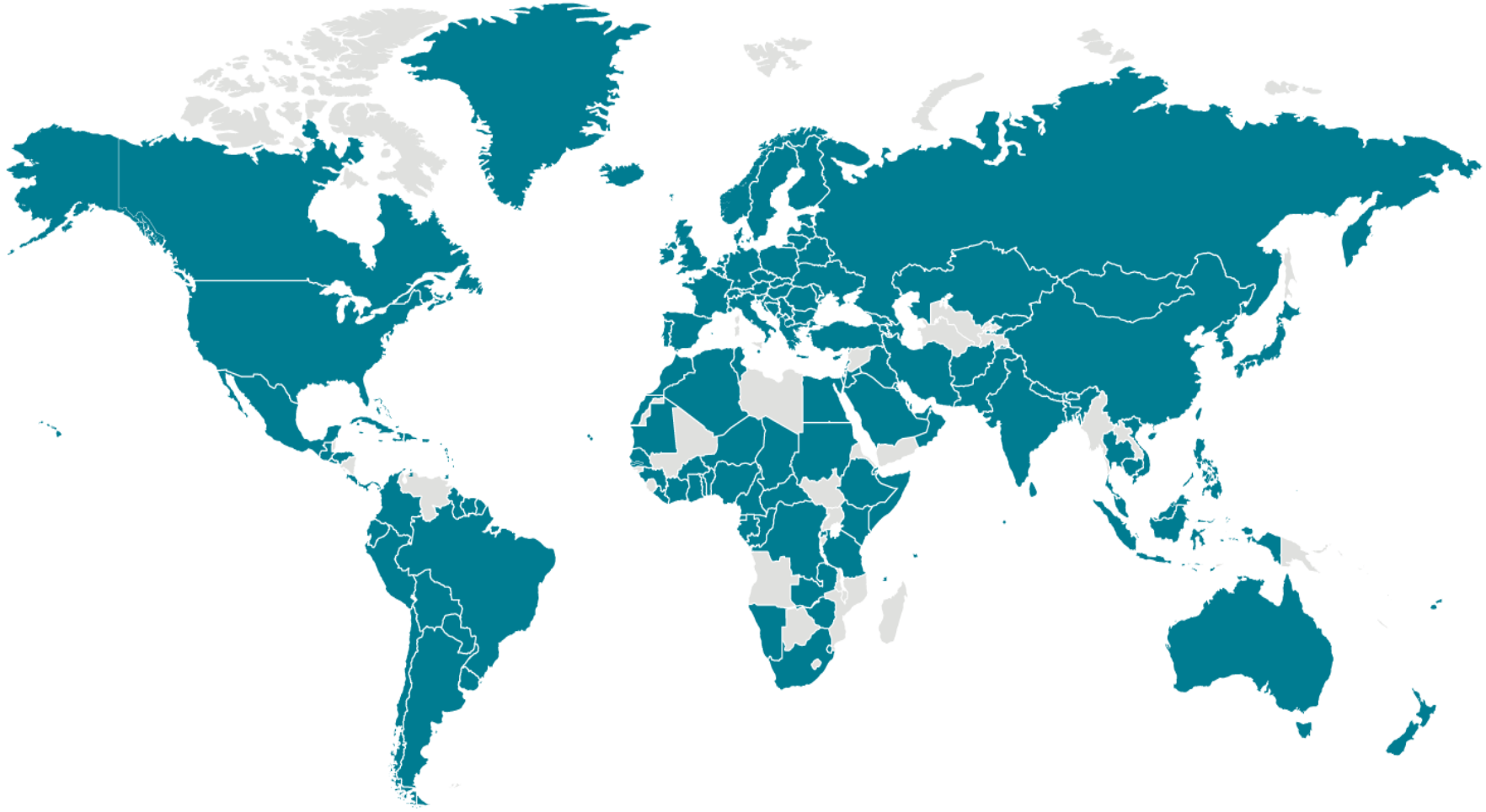
- Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties, aches, pains.
- In severe cases (~20%), infection can cause pneumonia, respiratory issues, kidney failure, and death.

Vaccines & Treatment

- Vaccine trials are underway, but no approved vaccine is anticipated for months.
- No efficacious treatments exist despite widespread myths

COVID-19 Global Distribution

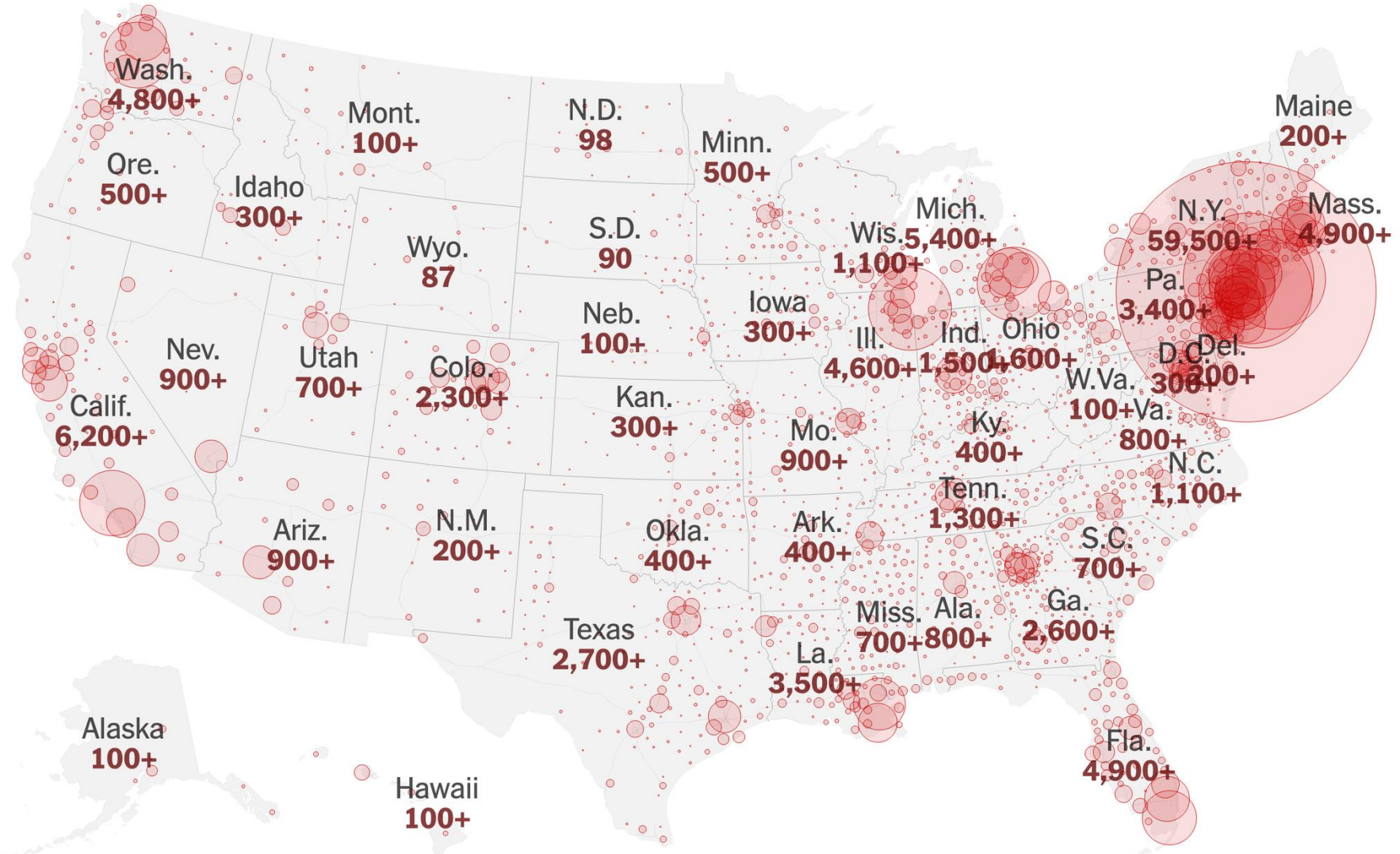
Total Confirmed Deaths >: 49,180 = Mortality Rate 5.1%
Total Confirmed Cases: > 962,977



U.S. Cases of COVID-19

Total Confirmed Cases > **216,768**

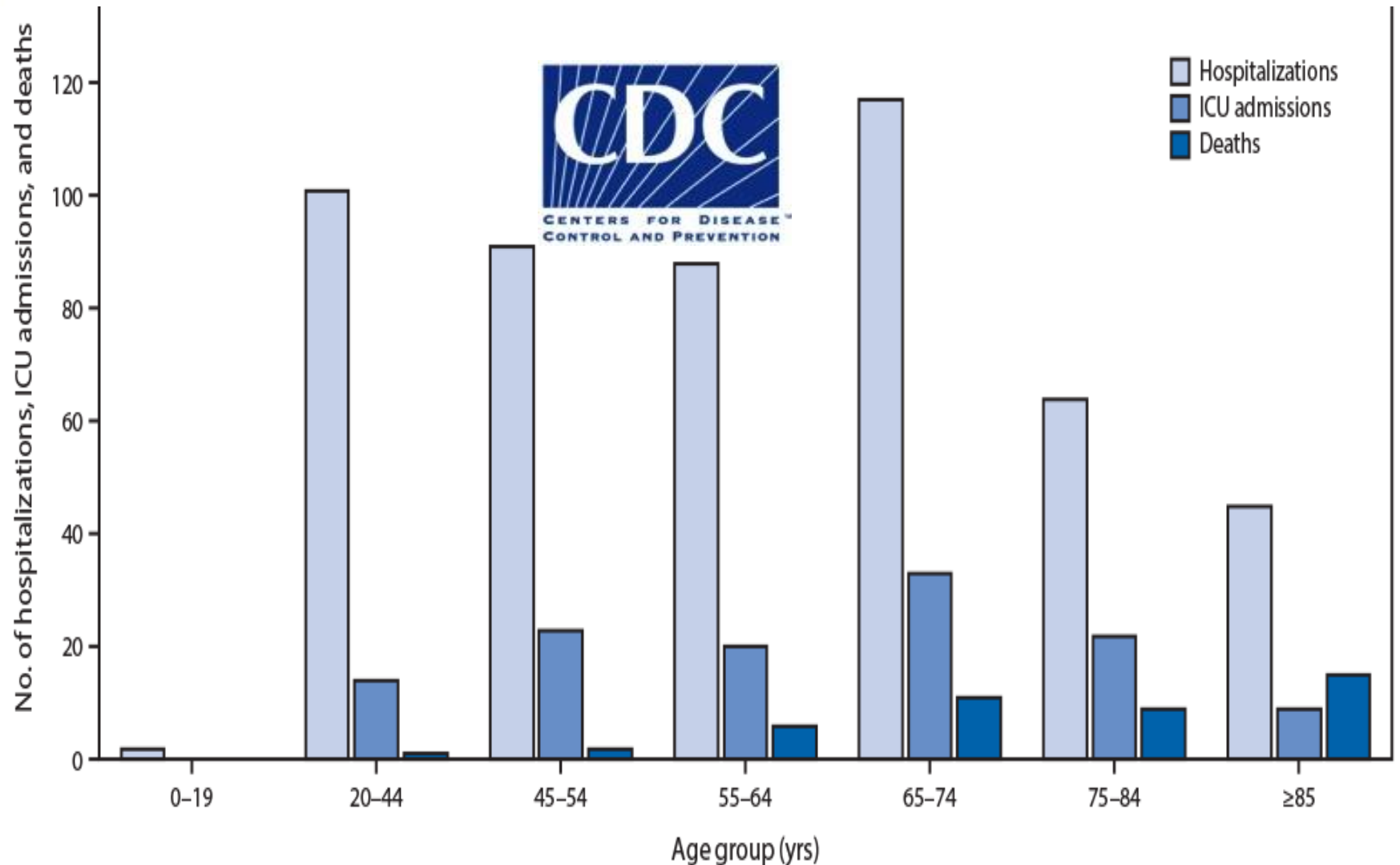
Total Deaths > **5,137**



Source: [NYT](#)

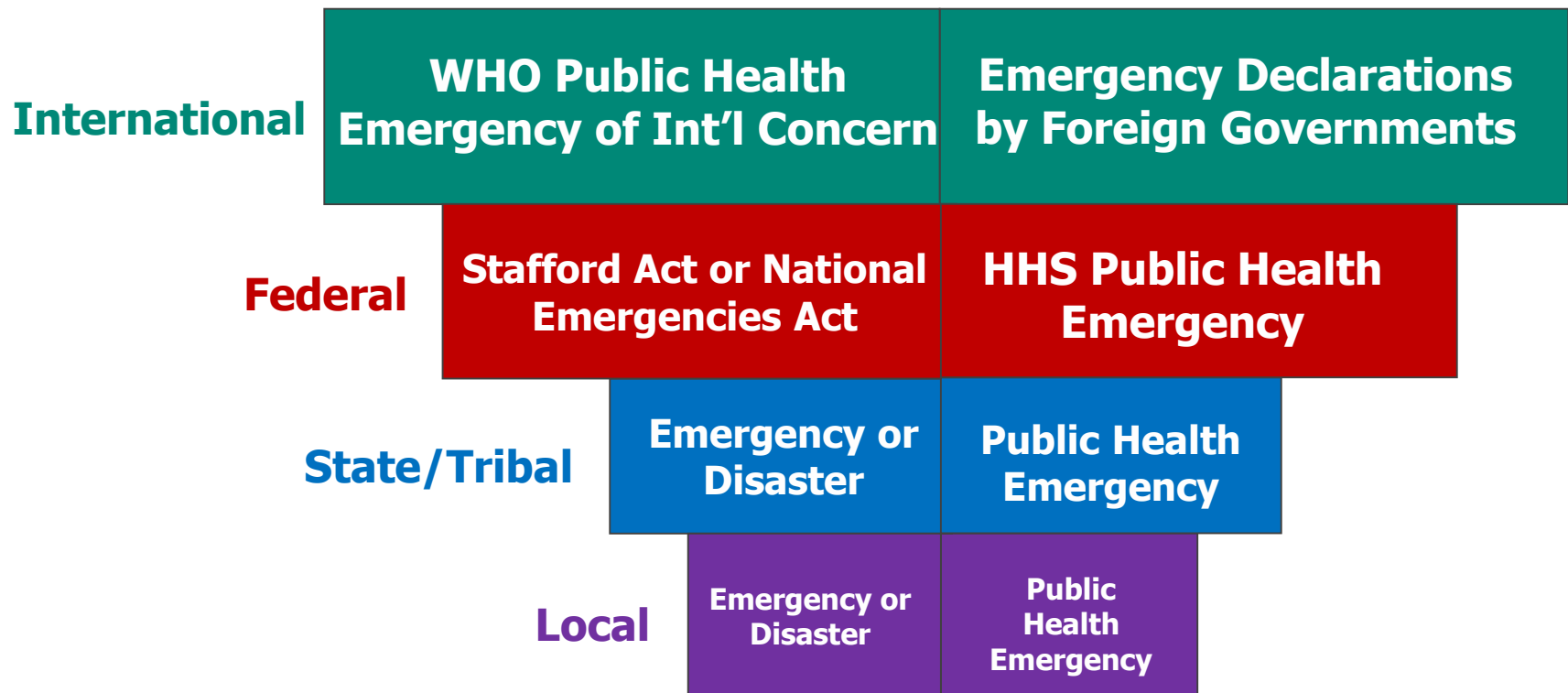
U.S. Morbidity & Mortality

COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU admissions & deaths by age group — U.S. February 12–
March 16, 2020



Multi-level Emergencies

Public health authorities, powers, liabilities & immunities vary depending on the type of emergency declared at each level of government



Jan. 30: WHO declares a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).



Mar. 11: WHO formally classifies COVID-19 as a pandemic

**HHS Public
Health
Emergency**

**Jan.
31**



**National
Emergencies
Act**

**Mar.
13**



**Stafford Act
Emergency**

**Mar.
13**



**Defense
Production
Act**

**Mar.
20**

FEMA



Jan. 31: HHS Sec. Alex Azar declares national public health emergency



- Frees up federal resources
- Encourages interjurisdictional coordination
- Allows waivers of specific federal laws
- Authorizes real-time countermeasures through emergency use authorizations
- Supports social distancing measures (e.g., travel or border limits, quarantine)



FEMA

Mar. 13: President Trump declares dual emergencies via the National Emergencies Act and § 501(b) of the Stafford Act authorizing:

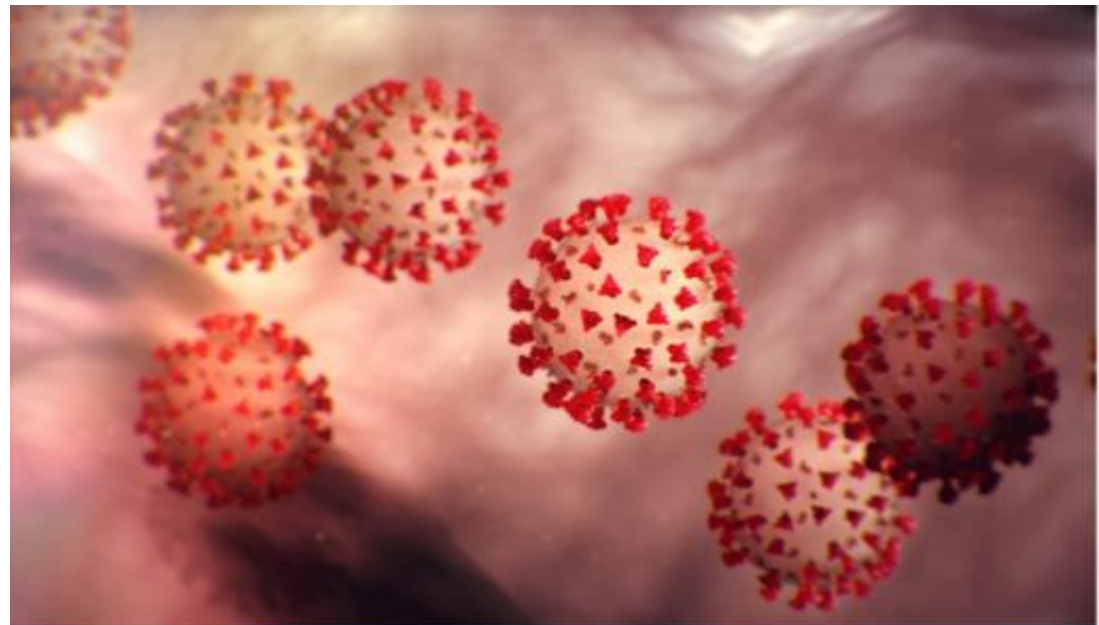
- Access to FEMA's \$50+ billion Disaster Relief Fund and reimbursement for eligible emergency protective response measures.
- Waivers under SSA § 1135 of select Medicare, Medicaid, S-CHIP, HIPAA Privacy Rule
- Additional types of federal assistance to states & localities

Mar. 13: U.S. Government COVID-19 Response Plan outlines coordinated federal activities:

- Interagency Coordination Constructs

Click on image to access

- Phase Indicators & Triggers
- Transition Between Phases
- Lines of Efforts
- Communications, Coordination & Oversight



PanCAP Adapted

**U.S. Government
COVID-19 Response Plan**

March 13, 2020

Select Congressional Responses

3/27

Congress passes the **CARES Act**, the largest economic stimulus package in history



3/14

Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides paid sick/quarantine time & other benefits

3/4

Congress passes \$8 bill fund for Emergency COVID-19 response

3/4

House introduces "Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act"

2/13

Senators urge HHS to establish guidelines for how state & local governments are reimbursed for expenses

Mar. 18: Families First Coronavirus Response Act:

- Requires private health plans to provide no cost coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic tests
- Temporarily > federal portion of Medicaid
- Releases \$ millions in assistance to domestic nutrition assistance programs (e.g., SNAP, WIC)
- Requires certain employers to provide employees 14 days of paid sick leave
- Releases an additional \$1 billion in FY2020 emergency grants for unemployment insurance benefits

COVID-19 Stimulus Bill: Key Public Health Elements



Mar. 27: Congress approves \$2.2 trillion relief bill (largest stimulus package in history):

- Hundreds of billions \$ in emergency funding
- Requires group health plans & insurance providers to cover testing, vaccines, and preventative services related to COVID-19 without cost sharing
- Establishes a Ready Reserve Corps to ensure deployable workers are available for COVID-19 response
- Provides explicit federal & state liability protections for volunteer HCWs assisting COVID-19 patients in good faith
- Authorizes disclosure of PHI to covered entities upon the one-time written consent of patient

Federal Agency Coordination



Mar. 13: HHS Sec. Azar issues § 1135 national waivers (retroactive effect on March 1) re:

- **EMTALA** sanctions for patient relocation purposes
- **HIPAA Privacy Rule** regulations for 72 hours following implementation of hospital disaster protocol
- requirements that health care workers hold **licenses** in the state where they are providing services
- **certain conditions of participation** in Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP
- Medicare Advantage **payment limitations**
- **Stark Law** sanctions



Mar. 17: CMS expands Medicare telehealth coverage to facilitate healthcare services without visiting physical facilities; clinicians may be paid for telehealth services for beneficiaries across the entire country.

Select State Emergency Powers Explicitly Invoked by Declarations

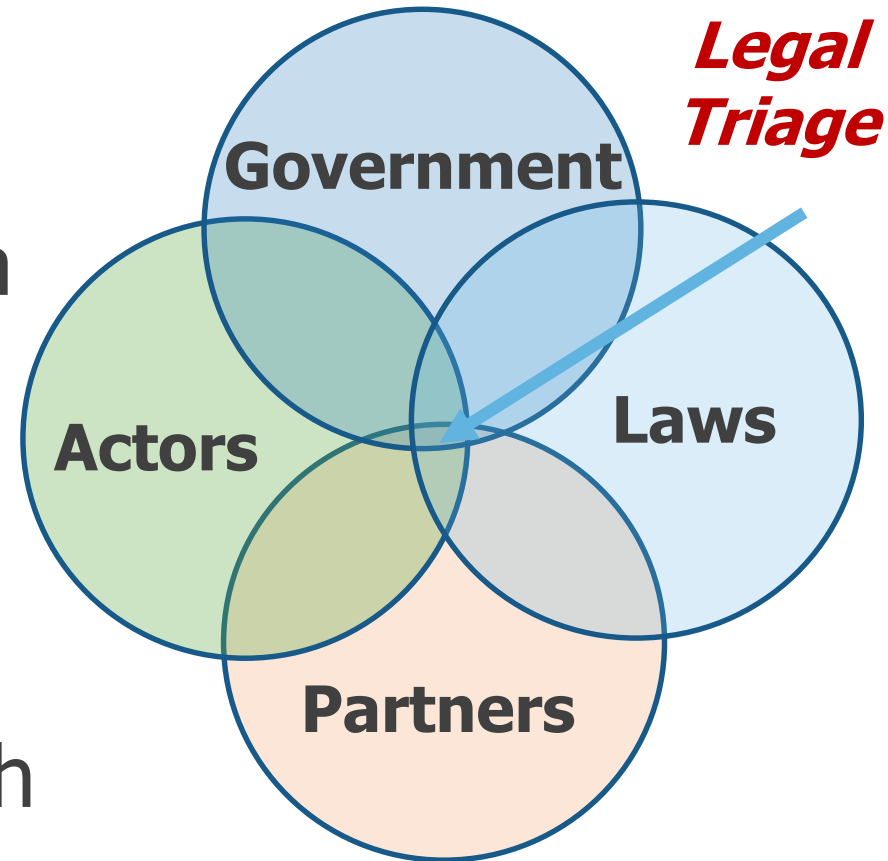
Note: this table tracks select, express authorities referenced via state emergency declarations ([link](#) on each state acronym for access). *Additional emergency powers may be authorized under state law through which the declarations are issued.*

Emergency Powers	A	A	A	C	C	C	D	F	H	I	I	I	K	L	M	M	M	M	N	N	N	N	O	O	P	R	T	V	U	W	W	W			
	K	Z	R	A	O	T	E	L	I	L	N	A	Y	A	E	D	A	I	J	M	Y	C	H	R	A	I	N	A	T	A	V	I			
Altered Contracts Procurements		■		■					■	■				■	■				■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■							
Emergency Plans ICS	■			■	■			■		■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Funding Resource Allocation	■	■							■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■				
Intrastate Coordination	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Isolation Quarantine		■	■		■	■		■						■							■														
Licensure Reciprocity	■			■					■											■	■	■					■								
Price Controls re: Gouging	■			■					■					■					■			■	■	■		■	■					■	■		
Surveillance Reporting	■			■				■															■												
Testing Screening Treatment	■				■										■				■	■	■	■	■	■			■								
Travel Restrictions			■	■		■		■						■					■				■	■											
Waivers Suspensions	■	■	■		■									■					■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■					■	

Select Local Emergency Authorizations

Locality	Date	Select Authorizations
<u>Clackamas County</u> (OR) Emergency	3/2/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish emergency policies and protocols Recoup financial costs and redirect funds “Order such other measures as . . . immediately necessary for the protection of life and/or property.”
<u>County of Hawai'i</u> (HI) Emergency	2/28/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor and enter into mutual aid programs Receive, expend & use contributions or grants; procure federal aid Relieve and suspend hardships and inequities or obstructions to public health, safety or welfare
<u>Solano County</u> (CA) Emergency	2/27/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department Operations Center to bolster identification & screening Collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies to implement containment efforts
<u>Orange County</u> (CA) Emergency	2/27/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimbursements from county, state & federal partners if resources are exhausted Agency coordination & resource leveraging
<u>San Francisco City</u> (CA) Emergency	2/25/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization of city resources & acceleration of emergency plans Streamlining staffing and coordination agencies city-wide
<u>San Diego County</u> (CA) Health Emergency	2/19/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimbursement from state & federal governments Increasing resources such as beds at local hospitals
<u>Santa Clara County</u> (CA) Emergency	2/10/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging state funds and mutual aid resources Increasing resources such as protective gear and training for healthcare workers

Legal Triage: efforts of legal actors & others during declared emergencies to build a favorable legal environment by prioritizing issues & solutions facilitating legitimate public health responses





Assessing Federal & State Emergency Powers

VIEWPOINT

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Presidential Powers and Response to COVID-19

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) modeling suggests that, without mitigation, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), could infect more than 60% of the US population.¹ President Trump has declared a national emergency along with 50 governors declaring state emergencies (Figure), which are unprecedented actions. Social distancing aims to flatten the epidemic curve to moderate demand on the health system. Consequently, whether through voluntary actions or state mandates, individuals are increasingly sheltering at home, schools and universities are closing, businesses are altering operations, and mass gatherings are being canceled. On March 16, the health officers of 6 local governments in the San Francisco Bay Area issued mandatory orders to shelter in place, making it a misdemeanor offense to leave home for any nonessential purpose.

state and local responses are inadequate, but the extent of this authority has not been tested.⁵

Travel Restrictions

Recently, the president banned most non-US citizens from entry into the United States traveling from the Schengen area (an area comprising 26 European states that have officially abolished all passport and other types of border control), the United Kingdom, and Ireland, on top of existing bans from China and Iran. The CDC rarely issues advisories against travel to particular locations within the US and has not done so to date for COVID-19. The CDC last advised against domestic travel during the 2017 Zika outbreak, recommending pregnant women avoid travel to southern Florida. While the White House has policies for military and government personnel traveling to places experiencing high levels of COVID-19 cases, it has not, as of yet, restricted do-

Balancing Individual & Communal Interests

March 2: Achieving A Fair and Effective COVID-19 Response: An Open Letter to Vice-President Mike Pence & Other Federal, State and Local Leaders from U.S. Public Health and Legal Experts



Emergency Preparedness and Response

Constitutionality of Selected, Potential COVID Emergency Responses

Constitutional	Unconstitutional
Quarantine of individuals or groups suspected or known to be exposed to COVID	“Cordon sanitaire” or lockdown of groups or communities within or outside “hot zones”
Isolation of individuals who are known to be infected with COVID	Separation of persons based on mere suspicion of COVID infection without real-time confirmation
Travel recommendations to avoid specific U.S. jurisdictions based on known risks of infection	State or local travel bans or border closures that directly inhibit ingress or egress of U.S. citizens
Real-time medical triage decisions based on government recommendations grounded in epidemiologic and medical science	Real-time medical triage decisions based on specious grounds (e.g., race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, ability to pay)
Limited waivers of federal, state, or local statutory or regulatory laws impeding effective public health responses	Complete waiver of constitutionally-required due process, equal protection, or other rights
Reasonable testing or screening measures designed to mitigate exposure of others to COVID	Forced invasive testing of autonomous adults without a warrant based on probable cause
Accurate, real-time sharing of identifiable patient health information between medical & public health authorities for surveillance purposes	Mass publication of identifiable patient health information absent compelling circumstances
Government acquisition of critical resources or property from private entities sector with reimbursement	Government “taking” of private sector property or resources without “just compensation.”

Substantial change in usual healthcare operations and level of care due to a pervasive or catastrophic disaster.

Crisis Standards of Care

A Systems Framework for
Catastrophic Disaster Response



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
Leadership • Innovation • Impact | *for a healthier future*

Mar. 28: National Academies issues rapid expert consultation on CSC implementation

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

March 28, 2020

[Click on image to access](#)

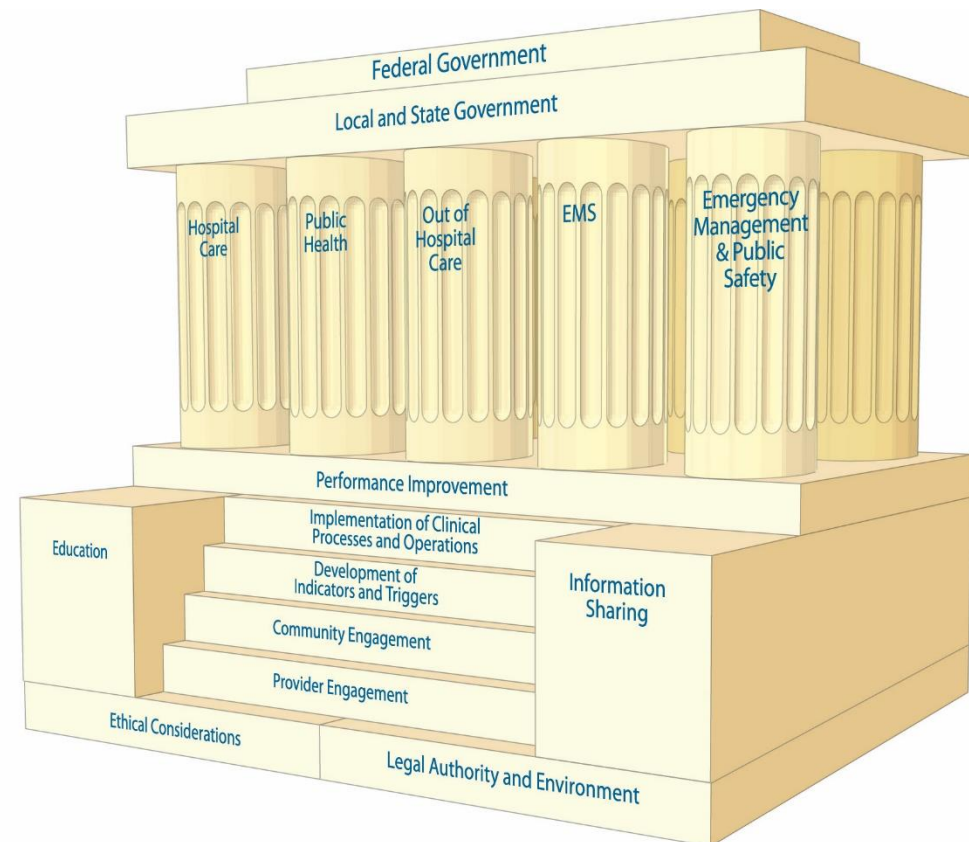
This rapid expert consultation responds to your March 25 request to provide a rationale for the implementation of crisis standards of care (CSC) in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Also discussed are the broad principles and core elements of CSC planning and implementation. This discussion builds on a 10-year foundation of three seminal reports on CSC issued in 2009, 2012, and 2013 by the Institute of Medicine, which are described in Appendix A at the end of this document.

This document is meant to provide principles and guidance. It is neither appropriate nor feasible for us to detail actual choices and preferences that apply to specific situations, each of which depends on the exigencies of the epidemic relative to locally available facilities, equipment, personnel and other needed resources. Rather, this document describes the basis upon which to carry out such decision-making whenever it has to happen.

Practical, Ethical, and Legal Challenges Underlying Crisis Standards of Care [Click on article image to access](#)

James G. Hodge, Jr., Dan Hanfling, and Tia P. Powell

- Coordination
- Allocation
- Reimbursement
- Licensure
- Scope of Practice
- Patient's Interests
- Duty to Care
- Uniformity
- **Liability**



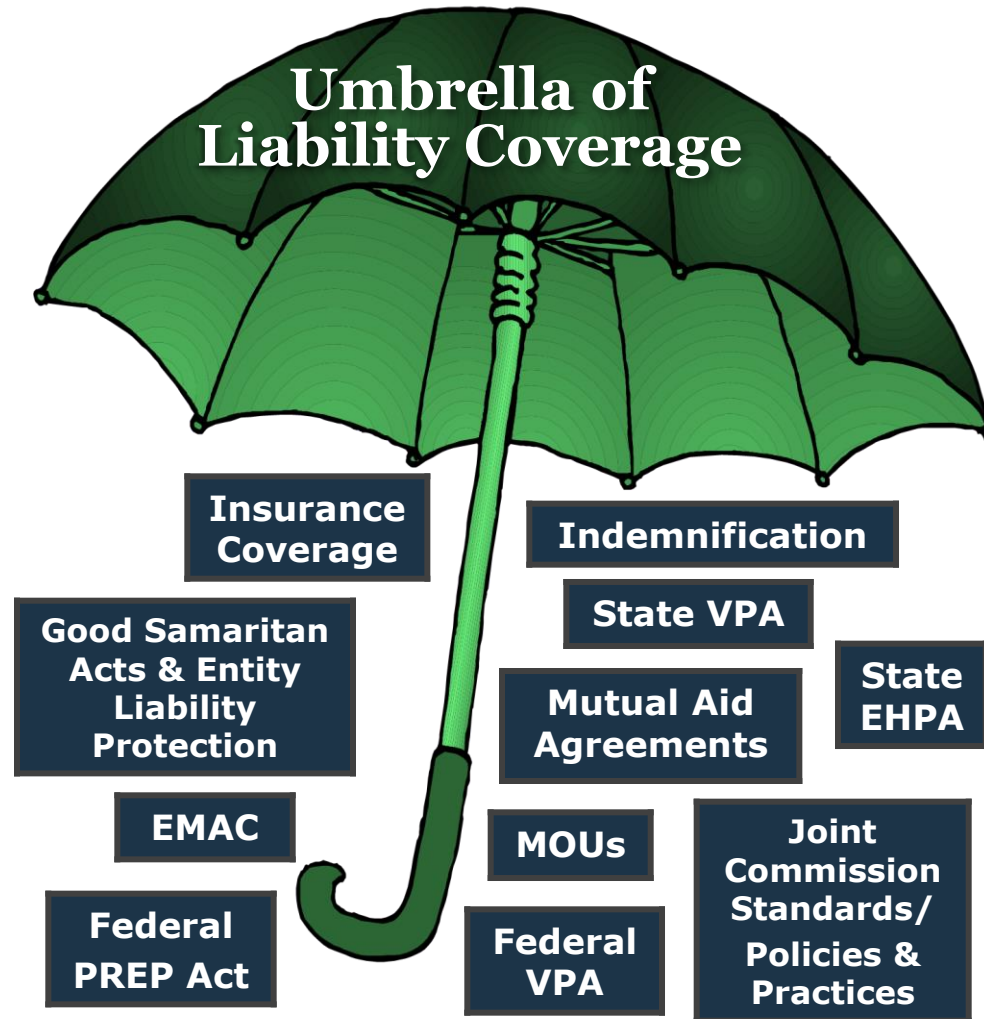
- **Negligence/Malpractice**
- **Intentional Torts**
- **Privacy Infringements**
- **Discrimination**
- **Worker's Compensation**



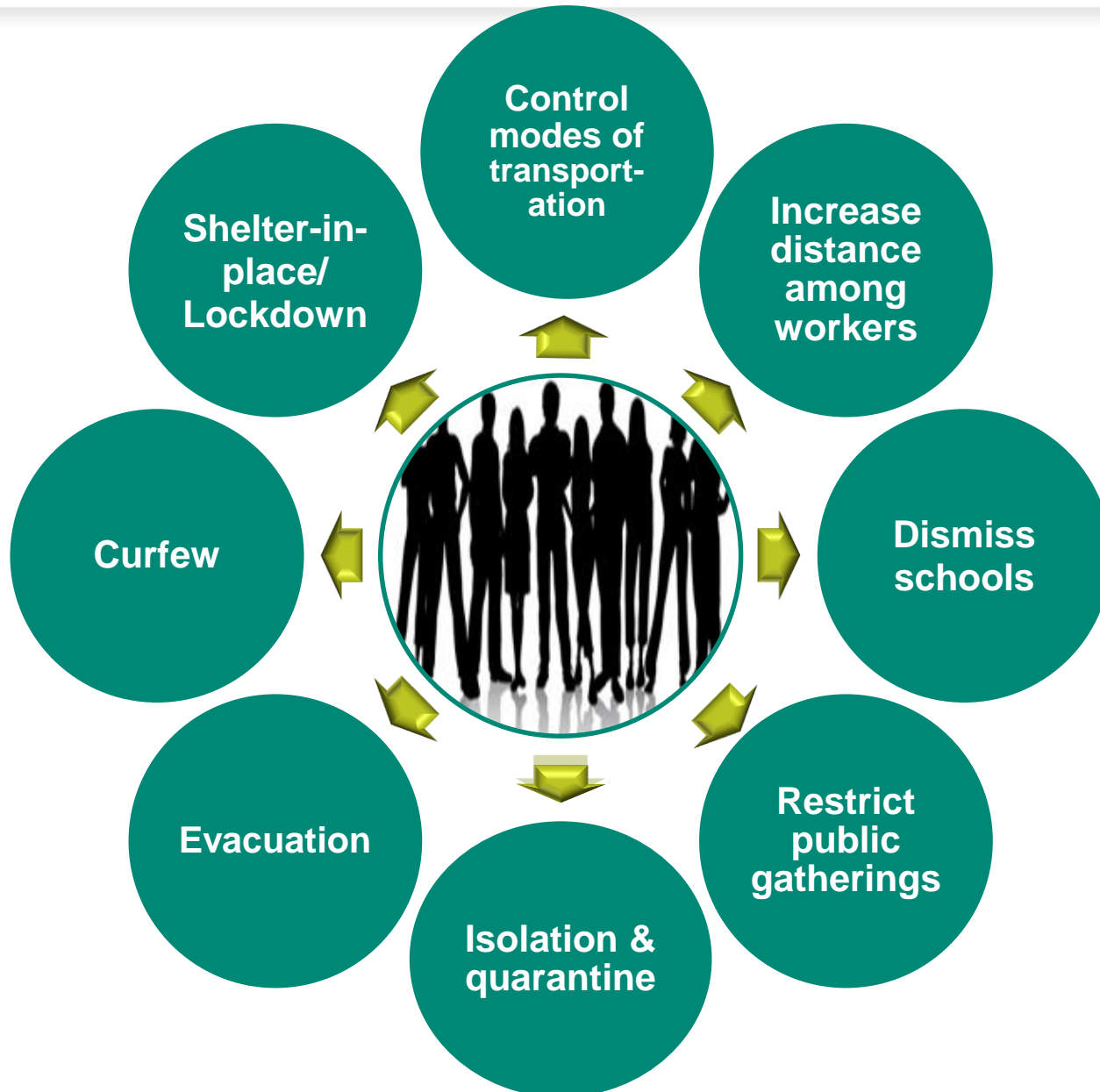
Emergency Liability Protections - Health Practitioners & Entities



Despite risks, many legal liability protections apply in routine events & declared emergencies, especially concerning health care volunteers, workers, and entities.



Social Distancing Measures

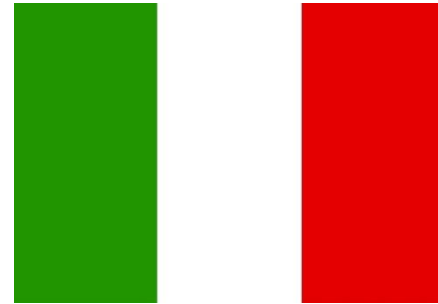


Jan. 31: Trump Administration bans foreign national travel for those who have been in China within the last 14 days and who pose a risk.

Feb. 29: Administration bans foreign national travel for those who have been in Iran, as well as travel warnings re: Italy, Japan & South Korea.

Mar. 11: President Trump institutes 30 day comprehensive travel ban for non-Americans arriving from EU, including the U.K. and Ireland

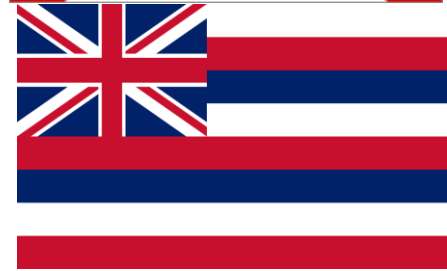
Mar. 19: U.S. closes border with Canada and Mexico to persons travelling for non-essential purposes, including tourism.



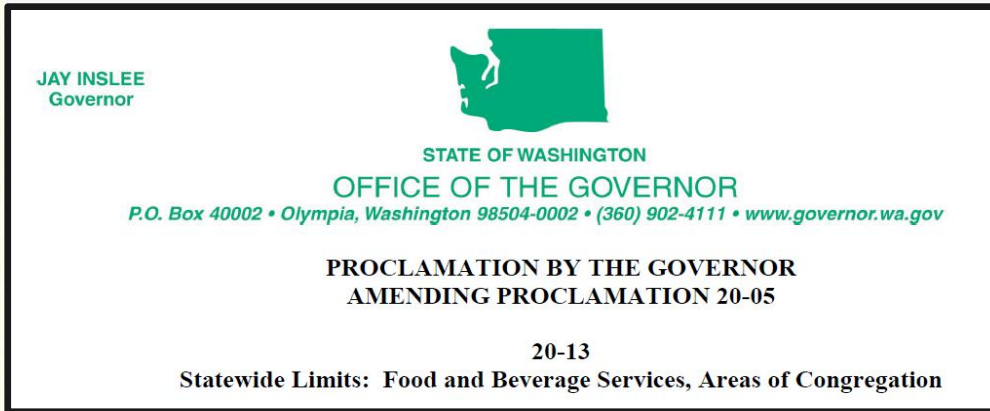
The New York Times

Mar. 26: “Governors Tell Outsiders From ‘Hot Zone’ to Stay Away as Virus Divides States”

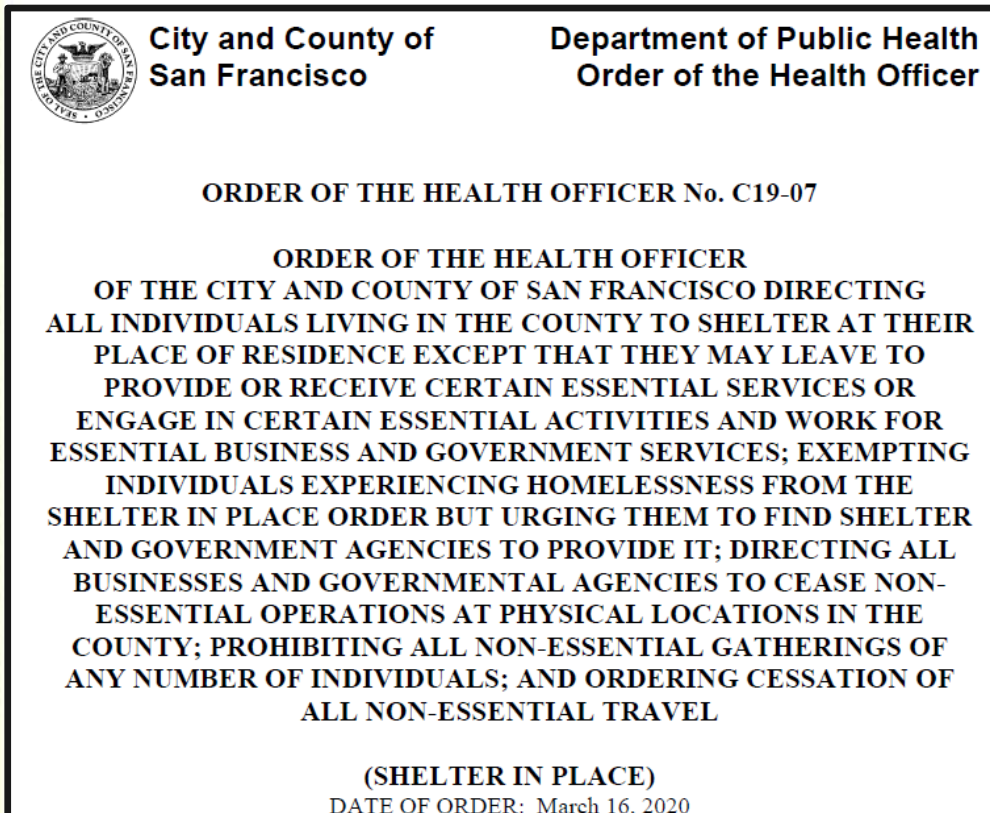
- ❑ Florida Governor Ron DeSantis orders 14 day quarantine against anyone arriving from NY in prior 3 weeks
- ❑ Hawaii Governor David Ige recommends all travelers postpone trips for 30 days and imposes 14 day quarantine on arrivals
- ❑ Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy orders anyone (including residents) arriving in state to self-quarantine for 14 days



Click on images to access



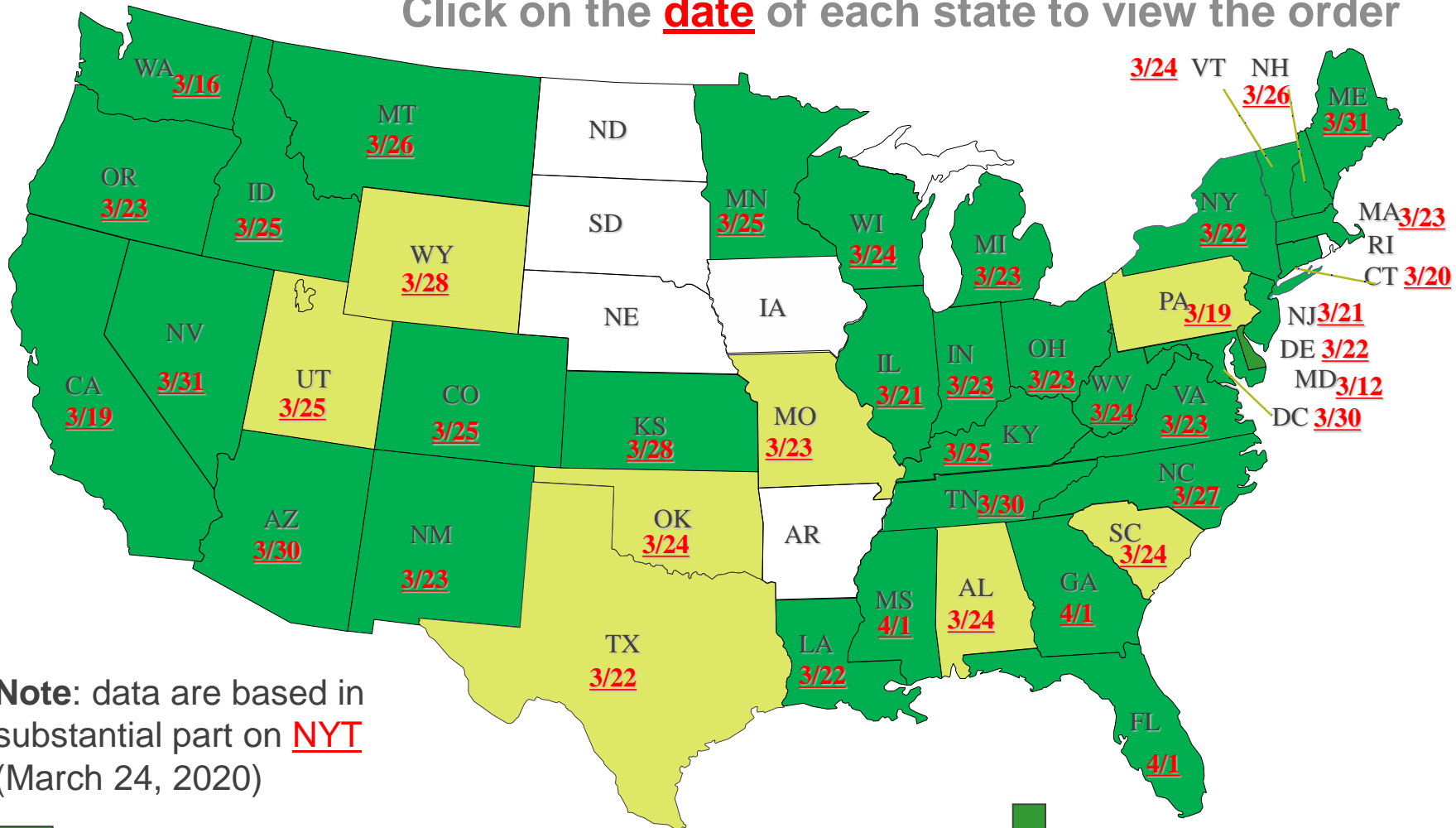
Framed in terms of “sheltering in place” or other broad proclamations, state and local orders seek to limit travel and out-of-residence activities to minimal levels to control disease spread.



While several exceptions to the scope of these measures apply, they rely on broad interpretations of social distancing powers, likely subject to judicial challenge.

State Shelter-In-Place & Stay Home Orders

Click on the **date** of each state to view the order



Note: data are based in substantial part on [NYT](#) (March 24, 2020)

- Shelter-in-Place or Stay Home Orders – **37 states**
- Shelter-in-Place or Stay Home Orders – **8 partial states**

- AK – Alaska **4/1**
- HI – Hawaii **3/23**
- PR - (Puerto Rico)
- VI - (U.S. Virgin Islands)

Select Components of a Sample of State Shelter-in-Place & Stay Home Orders

Component	C	C	D	I	I	L	M	M	N	O	P	O	W
	A	T	E	L	N	A	A	I	Y	H	A	R	V
Restricts Gatherings of “Any Number of People” Outside Household Unit					■			■		■		■	■
Restricts Gatherings >10	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■
Closes Non-Essential Businesses per CISA	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Exempts Religious Establishments	■		■		■		■	■	■	■	■		■
Bans Leaving Homes for Non-Essential Purposes			■	■	■	■		■		■		■	■
No Non-Essential Travel			■	■	■					■		■	
Explicitly Addresses Homelessness			■	■	■					■			
Duration >2 Weeks	■	■	■			■		■			■	■	■
Allows for Reauthorization					■			■					
Opportunities for Additional Exceptions		■					■		■				
Criminal Penalties	■		■	■			■	■		■		■	
Limits Local Responses		■											

Mar. 21: PA Governor Tom Wolfe rescinded in part his order for all “non-life-sustaining” businesses to close:

- Considerable disdain re: economic impacts
- Legal challenges via a law firm and gun store
- **New guidance** excepting timber industry, coal mining, hotels, accountants, laundromats & some law firms
- Allows “robust waiver process” for businesses seeking exemption
- *Will localities enforce?*





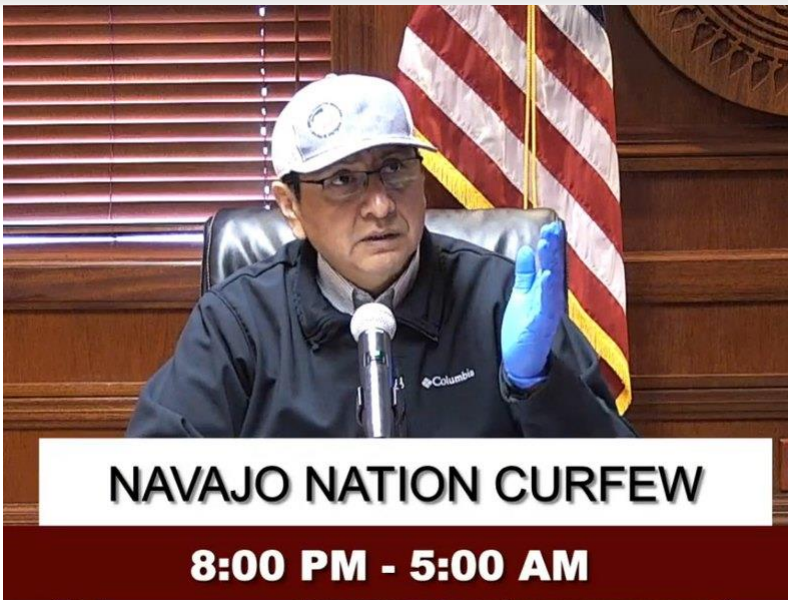
Virtual “Lock Down?”

OR

Public Health & Safety Zone?

U.S. Travel Restrictions & Lockdowns - **Constitutionality**

- ❑ **Substantive due process** – hard to rationalize government responses restricting liberty that are not tied to known risks
- ❑ **Equal protection** – explicitly tying travel restrictions to persons from specific regions of the U.S. raises questionable classifications
- ❑ **Right to travel** – limiting ingress and egress, especially across state lines, implicates federal interests and fundamental rights
- ❑ **Fundamental rights** – infringements require assessments of efficacious, less restrictive alternatives:
 - Strong incentives/messaging to avoid travel;
 - Closures;
 - Screening, quarantine, isolation or other legit. measures



Mar. 29: Curfew order takes effect for Navajo Nation

- Public Health Order extends existing Stay at Home Order to set a curfew for the entire Navajo Nation: everyone must stay home from 8:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m., 7 days a week
- Excludes essential employees reporting to or from duty, with official identification and/or a letter of designation from their essential business employer

Voluntary Closures & Cancellations



Places of Worship



Employers



Universities



Events



Sports



Festivals

School Closures



Feb. 16: CDC issues initial guidance intimating school mitigation could include possible closures

Mar. 4: Northshore School District outside of Seattle announces plans to close for 2 weeks

Mar. 10: NY Gov. Cuomo announces 2 week school closure for entire NYC district

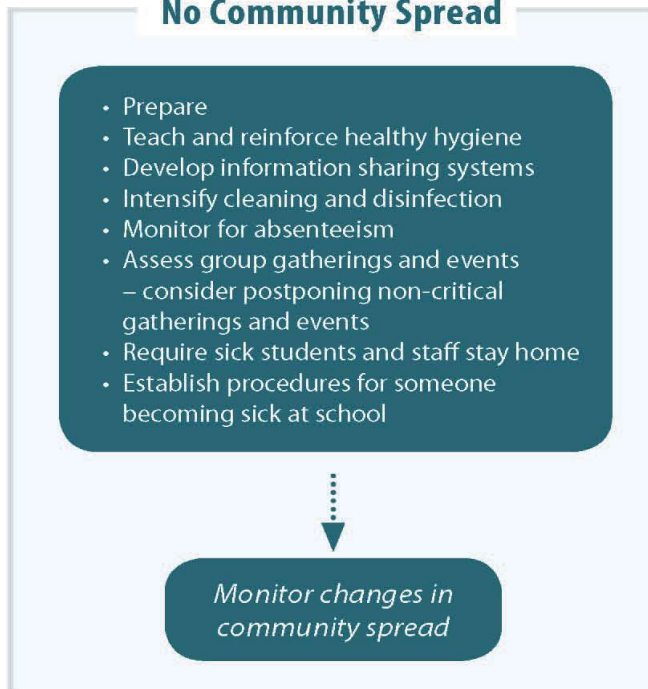
Mar. 13: Multiple states (e.g., OR, IL, MD, NM) determine to close schools for select periods of time

School Decision Tree

All Schools Regardless of Community Spread



No Community Spread



Minimal to Moderate OR Substantial Community Spread



Click on image to access

THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES IN RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC FLU OR OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS

James G. Hodge, Jr.

[Click here to access article](#)

- **Explicit authority to close schools in non-emergencies is lacking in many states**
- **Significant variations exist regarding which levels of government and specific departments are authorized to close schools**
- **Authority to close schools shifts dramatically once a state of emergency is declared**
- **Assessment criteria on the timing & appropriateness of school closure is largely absent**

Guidance as of 3/15/2020

Click on image to access

Large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. Examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of

White House and CDC recommend no in-person events consisting of **10 or more people throughout the United States until **April 30, 2020.****

protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing. When feasible, organizers could modify events to be virtual.

This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses. This recommendation is made in an attempt to reduce introduction of the virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus. This recommendation is not intended to supersede the advice of local public health officials.

- On what authority?
- By who specifically?
- At what level of government?
- In what specific setting or capacity?
- For how long?
- Consistent with 1st Amendment rights?
 - Free speech
 - Freedom to assemble
 - Freedom of religion
 - Reasonable limitations

THE FIRST AMENDMENT
CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECT-
ING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR
PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF;
OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR
OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE
PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE
GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.
PROTECT THE FIRST AMENDMENT, SUPPORT THE CBLDF

Quarantine & Isolation

Quarantine

Separation from others of people exposed to a contagious condition prior to knowing if they may be ill or contagious



Isolation

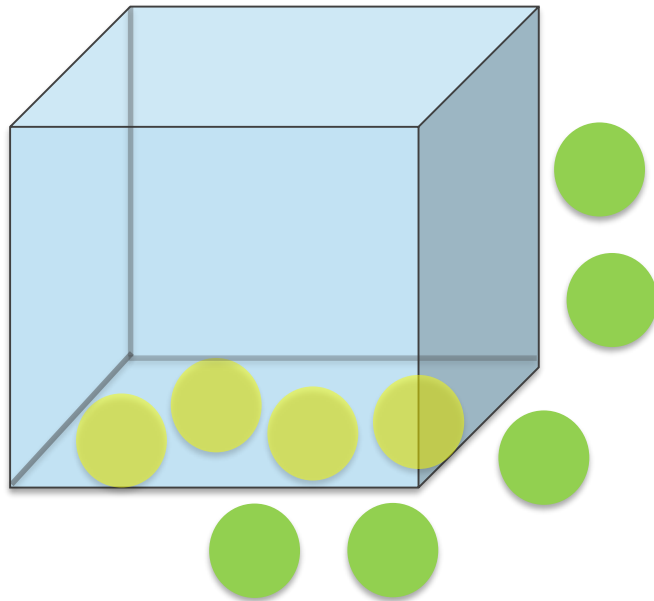
Separation from others of people who are known to be infected, or capable of infecting others, with a contagious condition



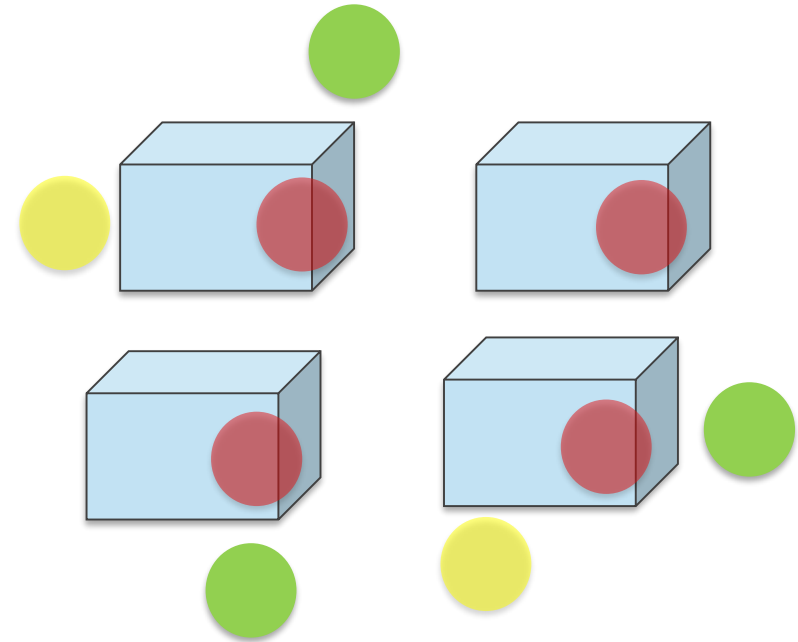
For a listing of state-based quarantine and isolation statutes, see the [link](#) at the National Conference of State Legislatures




Quarantine & Isolation - Illustrated

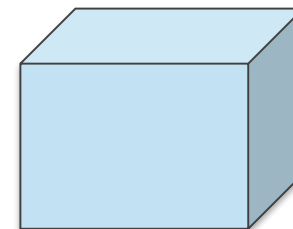
Quarantine



Isolation



-  **Known, infected individual**
-  **Individual exposed to contagious disease**
-  **Healthy individual**



**Place of isolation
or quarantine**

Federal Quarantine



Jan. 31: CDC orders a 14-day quarantine of nearly 200 persons arriving at a U.S. military base in California 2 days prior on an evacuation flight from Wuhan, China.

Feb. 10: 4 additional flights amassing more than 800 Americans quarantined at 4 military bases.



Feb. 17: CDC quarantines 2 flights of over 300 Americans returning from the Diamond Princess cruise ship (in Yokohama, Japan) at Travis and Lackland Air Force bases.

Feb. 19: U.S. Daegu Army Base in South Korea imposes a self-quarantine of U.S. troop members attending a local church linked to COVID-19 infections.



Feb. 28: After obtaining temporary restraining order to block the transfer of individuals exposed to or infected with COVID-19 to Costa Mesa, CA, feds drop their plans and case is dismissed.



March 2: City of San Antonio sues in federal district court to attempt to block CDC from releasing 120+ COVID evacuees from quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The motion was denied.

Option A: Temporary Quarantine or Isolation w/out Judicial Notice via Written Directive

Option B: Quarantine or Isolation w/Judicial Notice

Agency petitions court for an order authorizing Q or I of an individual or group specifying:

- identity of the individual(s) or groups;
- premises subject to Q or I;
- date and time at which Q or I commences;
- suspected contagious disease;
- statement of compliance with conditions and principles; and
- statement of the basis upon which such intervention is justified.
- **Notice**
- **Hearing:** held in proximity of petition, absent extraordinary circumstances.
- **Order:** if, by clear and convincing evidence, Q or I shown to be reasonably necessary to prevent or limit the transmission of a contagious or possibly contagious disease to others.

Q & I Best Practices



Safe, hygienic premises



Monitoring & care



Basic necessities



Means of communication



Least restrictive means



Termination



**Voluntary
Measures**



**Encourage
Compliance**



**Court
Orders to
Enforce
Health
Official's
Order**



Penalties

- **Public Health Services**

- Significant \$ authorized via state/local appropriations, including emergency set-asides
- Potential for use of federal funds or direct reimbursements via national emergencies

- **Affected Individuals**

- [H.R. 6201. Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)
- CMS: Q & I procedures outside the home may be considered essential health benefits
- State or local paid sick and safe time protections
- Provisions of care may be provided w/out \$

Screening & Testing: Transportation Hubs



Legal Research Digest 34

AIRPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: LEGAL RIGHTS, POWERS, AND DUTIES

This digest was prepared under ACRP Project 11-01, "Legal Aspects of Airport Programs," for which the Transportation Research Board (TRB) is the agency coordinating the research. Under Topic 09-01, this digest was prepared by Leila Barraza, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, and Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, College of Pharmacy, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Background

There are over 4,000 airports in the country and most of these airports are owned by governments. A 2003 survey conducted by Airports Council International–North America concluded that city ownership accounts for 38 percent, followed by regional airports at 25 percent, single county at 17 percent, and multi-jurisdictional at 9 percent. Primary legal services to these airports are, in most cases, provided by municipal, county, and state attorneys.

Research reports and summaries produced by the Airport Continuing Legal Studies Project and published as ACRP Legal Research Digests are developed to assist these attorneys seeking to deal with the myriad of legal problems encountered during airport development and operations. Such substantive areas as eminent domain, environmental concerns, leasing, contracting, security, insurance, civil rights, and tort liability present cutting-edge legal issues where research is useful and indeed needed. Airport legal research, when conducted through the TRB's legal studies process, either collects primary data that usually are not available elsewhere or performs analysis of existing literature.

Foreword

Modern air travel has frequently been cited as a leading cause for the rapid spread of disease within countries and

internationally. Recent outbreaks of SARS, MERS, Ebola, and Zika have focused the debate on a number of issues surrounding air travel, including isolation and quarantine, restrictions on freedom of travel, and screening protocols. A number of issues expose the lack of clarity on the respective powers and duties of airport and airline personnel, governments (including federal, state, and local entities) and public health authorities, and the insufficient communication and coordination among local, state, national and international stakeholders.

Numerous legal issues are associated with these inherent challenges, but through planning and coordination with relevant stakeholders they can be addressed. This digest addresses the legal issues concerning the measures to detect communicable diseases, regulations to control communicable diseases, methods for decontamination, emergency legal preparedness, privacy, and potential sources of liability. This digest provides a checklist that airport attorneys and other staff can use to help prepare, plan, and coordinate with their partners in response to a threat of a communicable disease.

This legal digest provides the background on multimodal or intermodal facilities. The history of the laws, rules, and regulations in this area are provided, as well as case studies to assist airport operators in understanding and navigating the complexity of multimodal developments.



Legal Research Digest 50

PUBLIC TRANSIT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AGAINST EBOLA AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES: LEGAL ISSUES

This report was prepared under TCRP Project J-05, "Legal Aspects of Transit and Intermodal Transportation Programs," for which the Transportation Research Board is the agency coordinating the research. The report was prepared under Topic 16-03 by Trudy C. Henson and Megan Timmons, University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security; James B. McDaniel, TRB Counsel for Legal Research Projects, was the principal investigator and content editor.

The Problem and Its Solution

The nation's 6,000 plus transit agencies need to have access to a program that can provide authoritatively researched, specific, limited-scope studies of legal issues and problems having national significance and application to their business. Some transit programs involve legal problems and issues that are not shared with other modes; as, for example, compliance with transit equipment and operations guidelines, FTA financing initiatives, private-sector programs, and labor or environmental standards relating to transit operations. Also, much of the information that is needed by transit attorneys to address legal concerns is scattered and fragmented. Consequently, it would be helpful to the transit lawyer to have well-resourced and well-documented reports on specific legal topics available to the transit legal community.

The *Legal Research Digests* (LRDs) are developed to assist transit attorneys in dealing with the myriad of initiatives and problems associated with transit start-up and operations, as well as with day-to-day legal work. The LRDs address such issues as eminent domain, civil rights, constitutional rights, contracting, environmental concerns, labor, procurement, risk management, security, tort liability, and zoning. The transit legal research, when conducted through the TRB's legal studies process, either collects primary data that generally are not available elsewhere or performs analysis of existing literature.

Foreword

As a result of the 2014 outbreak of Ebola, federal and state authorities in the United States have implemented

of the disease. Transit and other public agencies have developed emergency advance measures and directives to employ for immediate containment.

This research examines responses to infectious disease epidemics and identifies legal issues that may be confronted by transit agencies. Such responses include but are not limited to closures of public facilities, businesses, and other major traffic generators; checkpoints for screening; quarantine zones; compulsory leave for possibly infected employees; refusals of employees to come to work; prescreening of passengers; and full or partial suspension of service. The study evaluates privacy and civil rights of patrons and employees, as well as liability issues.

The digest considers federal and state laws and available court decisions affecting transit agencies' responses to infectious disease outbreaks, including potential cohesiveness among transit agencies' procedures and federal and state guidance.

The digest examines the legal basis for the protocols that public transit agencies and other transportation providers such as airlines have planned or implemented to respond to epidemics and pandemics. It reviews pertinent information from leading agencies and organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control, Department of Homeland Security, and the World Health Organization to ascertain what procedures transit agencies should have in place before and during an epidemic.

The digest built upon the 2014 *NCHRP Report 769: A Guide for Public Transportation Pandemic Planning and Response*. The digest should be useful to public transit administrators and other personnel, government and private attorneys, students, professors, and research-

March 3: Vice President Pence announces massive expansion of who is eligible for COVID testing: “**Any American can be tested . . . subject to doctor’s orders.**”

- Availability
- Allocation
- Costs
- Reimbursements
- Options – voluntary, mandatory, compelled



The Washington Post

March 21: “Health officials in [NY, CA] and other hard-hit parts of the country are restricting coronavirus testing to health care workers and people who are hospitalized, *saying the battle to contain the virus is lost and we are moving into a new phase of the pandemic response.*”



Click on images to access

March 2020

COVID-19 & HIPAA Bulletin

Limited Waiver of HIPAA Sanctions and Penalties During a Nationwide Public Health Emergency

The Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak imposes additional challenges on health care providers. Often questions arise about the ability of entities covered by the HIPAA regulations to share information, including with friends and family, public health officials, and

COVID-19 and HIPAA: Disclosures to law enforcement, paramedics, other first responders and public health authorities

Does the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule allow a covered entity to share the name or other identifying information of an individual who has been infected with, or exposed to, the virus SARS-CoV-2, or the disease caused by the virus, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), with law enforcement, paramedics, other first responders, and public health authorities without an individual's authorization?

For additional expert analyses and guidance, contact Denise Chrysler, JD, and colleagues in our Network–MidStates Region at dchrysler@networkforphl.org

[Latest Resources](#)

[Federal Public Health Emergencies](#)

[Social Distancing Powers](#)

[Liability of Health Care Workers and Entities](#)

[Hospital Emergency Legal Preparedness](#)

[State and Local Preparedness](#)

[Emergency Declarations and Powers](#)

[Mental and Behavioral Health Preparedness](#)

[Model Emergency Laws](#)

[Emerging Threats Preparedness and Response](#)

[Crisis Standards of Care](#)

[Public Health Emergency Ethics](#)

Access these Network materials [here](#)

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- **Ask the Network** concerning questions or comments relating to this information or ongoing COVID-19 legal preparedness and response efforts
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