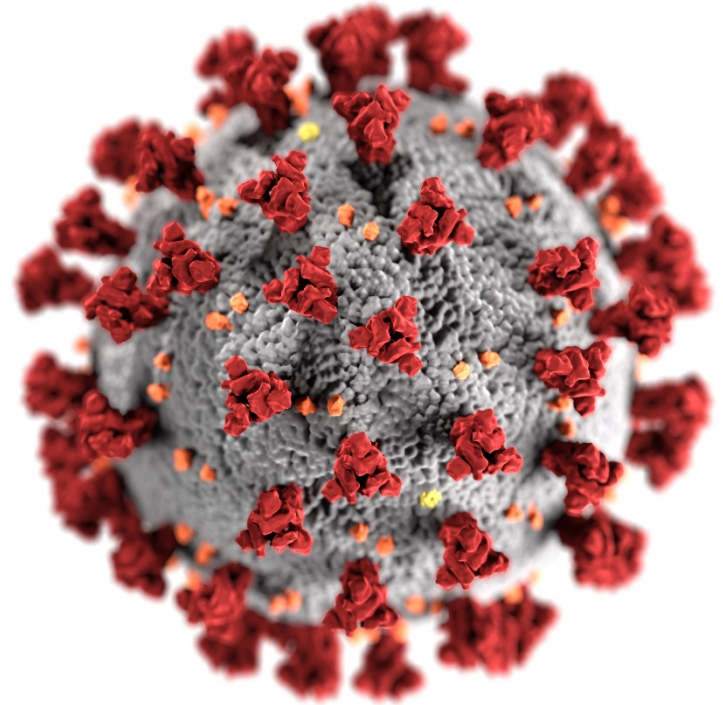


# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Law Enforcement

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March 19, 2020



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

# Overview of Presentation

- Background on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
  - Transmission
  - Symptoms and disease
  - Epidemiology
- COVID-19 in the United States
- Preventive measures for law enforcement on the job
- Preventive measures for law enforcement at home



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 Abbreviation

**'CO' stands for 'corona'**

**'VI' stands for 'virus'**

**'D' stands for 'disease'**

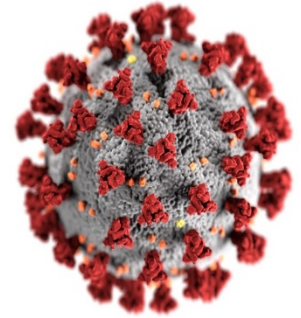
**'19' refers to 2019**



**COVID-19**



# COVID-19: Emergence



- Identified in Wuhan, China
- Caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2
- Early on, many patients were reported to have a link to a large seafood and live animal market
- Now person-to-person spread
- Imported cases in travelers and community spread reported in U.S.
  - First US case: January 21, 2020
- CDC is reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. online at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html)

# How It Spreads



- Investigations are ongoing to better understand spread
- Largely based on what is known from other coronaviruses
- Person-to-person spread
  - Between people in close contact with each other (about 6 feet)
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when infected person coughs or sneezes
- Possible spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes

# COVID-19: Symptoms & Complications

**Wide range of illness severity has been reported**

- Mild to severe illness
- Can result in death

**Estimated incubation period: 2 to 14 days**

**Complications may include:**

- Pneumonia
- Respiratory failure
- Most common in older patients, those with underlying medical conditions



# COVID-19: Treatment

## Treatment

- No specific antiviral treatment licensed for COVID-19
- Supportive care to
  - Relieve symptoms
  - Manage pneumonia and respiratory failure

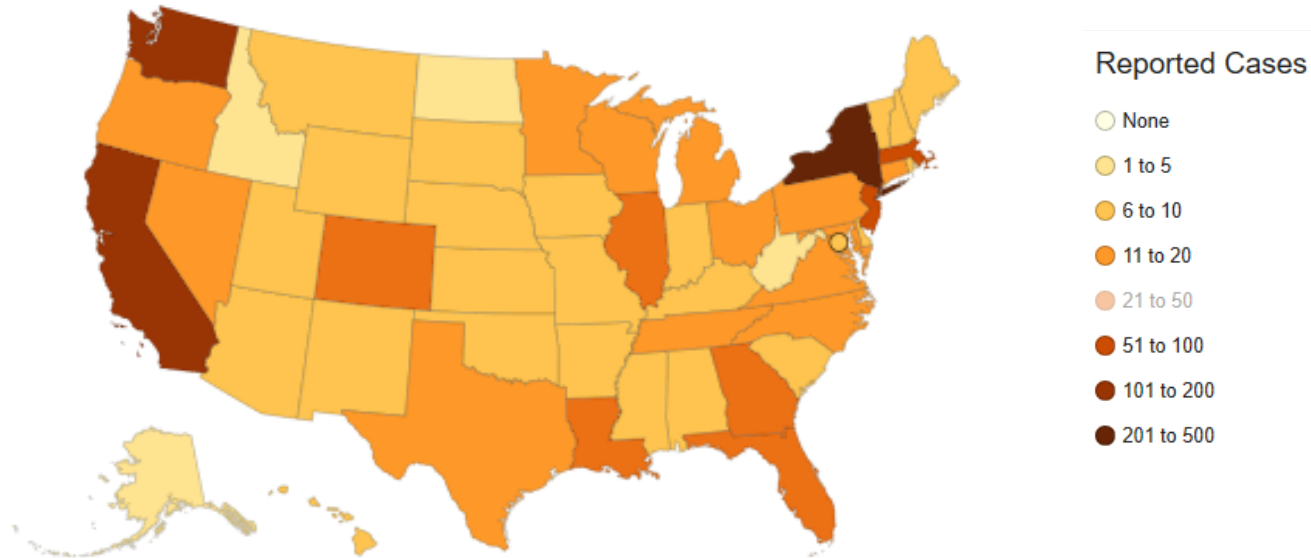




# COVID-19 in the United States

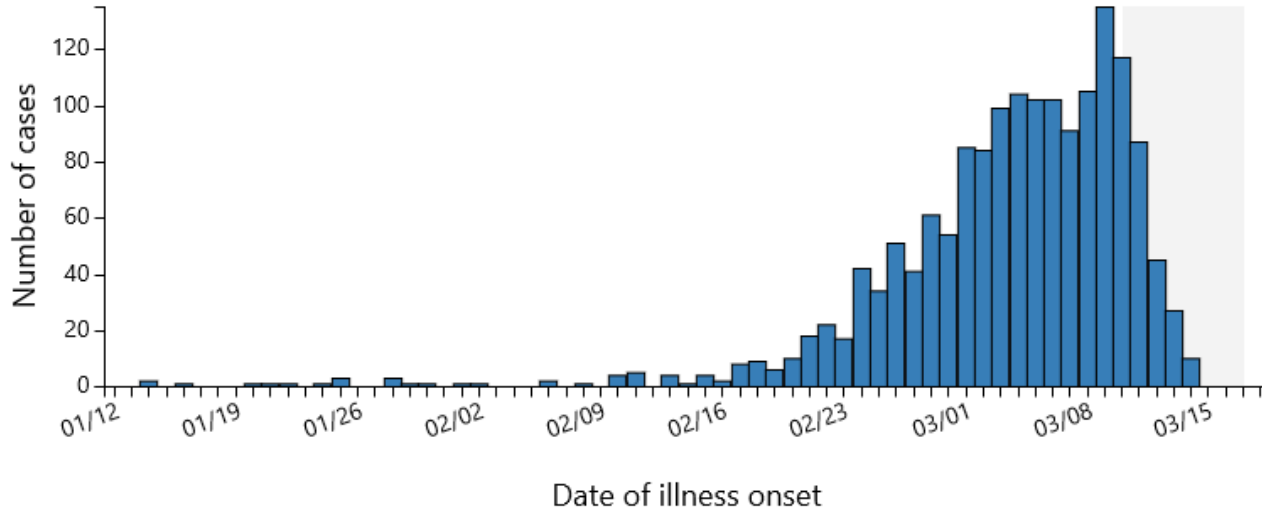


# COVID-19 in the United States



- As of March 18, 2020
- 50 states reporting cases + DC, PR, USVI, Guam
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

# COVID-19 Cases in the United States by Date of Illness Onset



- As of March 18, 2020
  - 7,038 total cases\*
  - 97 total deaths
  - 49 cases among repatriated U.S. citizens

\*Confirmed and presumptive cases detected, tested in United States

# Preventive Measures for Law Enforcement on the Job



## What law enforcement personnel need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The outbreak first started in China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other areas, including the United States.

**Patients with COVID-19** have had mild to severe respiratory illness.

- Data suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Symptoms can include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath.
- The virus causing COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2. It is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts. Respiratory droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can land in the mouths or noses, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs, of people who are nearby.
  - Close contact increases your risk for COVID-19, including:
    - Being within approximately 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time.
    - Having direct contact with body fluids (such as blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets) from an individual with COVID-19.

### To protect yourself from exposure

- **If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.**
- **Practice proper hand hygiene.** Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available and illicit drugs are NOT suspected to be present, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Have a trained Emergency Medical Service/Emergency Medical Technician (EMS/EMT) assess and transport anyone you think might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility.
- Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.
- Learn your employer's plan for exposure control and participate in all-hands training on the use of PPE for respiratory protection, if available.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

### Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Law enforcement who must make contact with individuals confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should follow CDC's Interim Guidance for EMS. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

Different styles of PPE may be necessary to perform operational duties. These alternative styles (i.e., coveralls) must provide protection that is at least as great as that provided by the minimum amount of PPE recommended.

The minimum PPE recommended is:

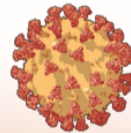
- A single pair of disposable examination gloves,
- Disposable isolation gown or single-use/disposable coveralls\*,
- Any NIOSH-approved particulate respirator (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator); facemasks are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain is restored, and
- Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).

\*If unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls because it limits access to duty belt and gear, ensure duty belt and gear are disinfected after contact with individual.

### If close contact occurred during apprehension

- Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE.
- Follow standard operating procedures for contacting and laundering clothes. Avoid shaking the clothes.

For law enforcement personnel performing daily routine activities, the immediate health risk is considered low. Law enforcement leadership and personnel should follow CDC's Interim General Business Guidance. Search "Interim Guidance for Businesses" on [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).



[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/guidance-law-enforcement.pdf>



# What Law Enforcement Leaders Can Do

- Create response plan for COVID-19
- Engage state, local health departments for local outbreak information
- Develop process to communicate information to employees
- Implement flexible, non-punitive sick leave policies
- Familiarize yourself with [CDC's risk assessment guidance for contacts of lab-confirmed cases](#)
  - Updated March 14 to include section on Personnel in Critical Infrastructure Positions



# What Law Enforcement Leaders Can Do

- Adjust or postpone large meetings, gatherings, trainings
- Use videoconferencing for meetings when possible
- Train personnel on prevention measures including hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Prioritize calls for service, consider remote reporting for lower priority (eg. traffic incidents)
- Implement telework for non-essential personnel when feasible (eg. administrative, investigative personnel)



# What Law Enforcement Personnel Can Do

- Learn about your employer's plan for COVID-19
- Stay home if you are feeling sick (fever, shortness of breath, cough)
- If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others
- Stop shaking hands
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap/water not available and illicit drugs not suspected to be present, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face





# What Law Enforcement Personnel Can Do

- If you think someone may have COVID-19
  - Have trained EMS/EMT assess and transport to healthcare facility
  - Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact
- If you must have contact with someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19
  - Place facemask on individual
  - Follow CDC's [Interim Guidance for EMS](#)
  - Use recommended PPE: gloves, isolation gown/coveralls, fit tested N95 respirator (or facemask if not available), eye protection



# If Close Contact Occurred During Apprehension

- Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE
- Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering clothes. Avoid shaking the clothes



# Prevention Measures for Law Enforcement at Home



# COVID-19: What You Should Do

## Everyday preventive actions for respiratory illnesses

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds



# Get Your Household Ready for COVID-19

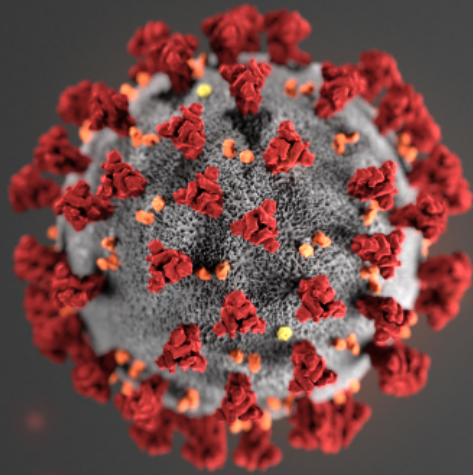
- Identify room to separate sick household members
- Create emergency contact list
- Plan ways to care for those at greater risk for complications
- Limit close contact with others as much as possible
- Clean, disinfect frequently touched objects, surfaces
- Avoid sharing personal items



# Web Resources

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Situation Summary](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), February 2020](#)
- [What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points \(PSAPs\) for COVID-19 in the United States](#)
- [COVID-19: Resources for Home](#)





For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

