



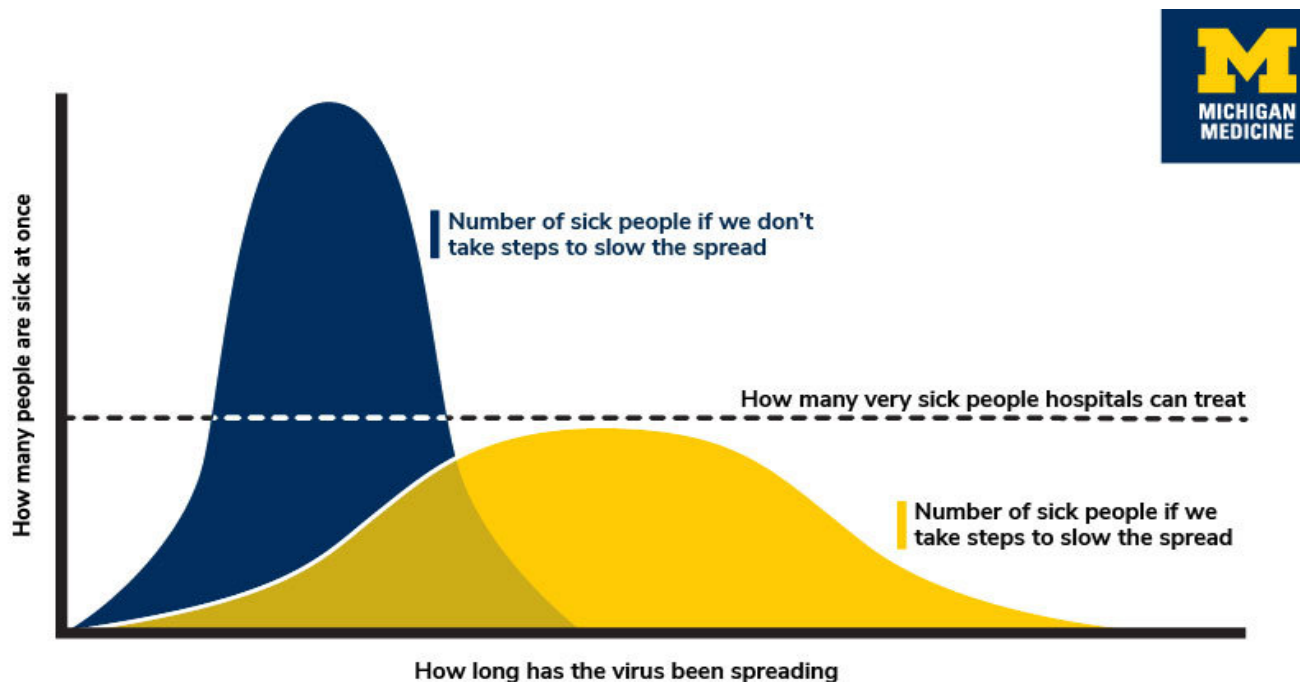
TOWN OF HULL

Town Manager's Office

To All Residents:

We are in waters rarely travelled. This coronavirus pandemic represents a challenge for all of us in part because there is little direct experience in our country either within the ranks of our government employees or among the general public with such a broad-based public health threat that a pandemic represents. Having said that we are fortunate to have a robust scientific community that has a great understanding of the stages of a pandemic and strategies to mitigate the situation.

At this point, the public health strategy is to slow the spread of the virus, allowing the public health systems (hospitals, clinic, medical staff, first responders, etc.) to become increasingly more prepared, thus allowing for treatment of those in need with a higher success rate, and consequently, resulting in fewer overall cases, this is called “flattening the curve.”



Adapted from the CDC

This is achieved in a couple of ways; one is limiting social contact as much as possible. This is why people are being advised to work from home, there are cancellations of large events, colleges closing and local school closing. In addition, in the next several weeks testing will become available more broadly. This will help in early detection and will enhance efforts to isolate the virus and diminish its ability to jump from person to person. Although there a relatively small number of cases in the US today, virus' spread in an exponential fashion; over a thirty-day period the numbers of those impacted changes very quickly. For example, Italy went from 0 cases on February 15th to over 15,000 cases on March 10th. This is why efforts to minimize contact are important.

What are We Doing:

Several weeks ago, we established a Town working group to begin to address how the Coronavirus may impact Hull. As reported our earlier our team includes, Public Health Director Joyce Sullivan, Public Health Nurse Joan Taverna of the Board of Health, Police Chief Dunn, Fire Chief Russo, Superintendent of Schools Kuehn, Council on Aging Director Lawlor, Town Counsel Lampke, Deputy Fire Chief Frazier, Deputy Police Chief Reilly, School Facilities Manager DeGennaro and Town Manager Lemnios.

Our Team's is in daily contact with a various state and federal agencies. Below is a brief summary of our major activities to date:

Board of Health

- Our Board of Health Director Sullivan and Public Health Nurse Taverna is in constant contact with the Mass State Department of Public Health (MADPH) to receive the latest advisories and information specific to Hull
- Staff is providing guidance to Town departments and agencies regarding appropriate protocols and actions and actively monitoring the Town for any instance of the virus
- Staff has received guidance from MADPH on assessing individuals and determining risk levels
- When there are individuals that are in self quarantine Board of Health staff will have the responsibility for contact and counseling
- Providing frequent updates on the Town's social media sites with the relevant and accurate information

Public Safety

- Chief Russo and Chief Dunn and their staffs are deploying new protocols on how to serve residents that may have the virus.
- The Chiefs are focusing on how to keep our Police Officers and Firefighters safe while assisting residents that could be infected
- Contingency plans are being drawn to maintain a superior response rate if staffing is diminished because a police officer or paramedic is quarantined due to contact with someone who does not advise them of their situation

School Department

- School Superintendent Kuehn and staff are working closely with all Town agencies to monitor the school system and plan for adjustments to operations if need be
- Daily cleaning has been increased, sanitizers and other proactive measures are in place
- Plans are prepared if the system needs to shut one or all the schools for either a brief period or longer term

- Communicating and receiving relevant information from the Mass Department of Secondary Education. School staff is staying in close contact with counterparts in other communities to coordinate a regional response

Council on Aging

- Council on Aging Director Lawlor and staff are in communication with the MA Department of Elder Affairs and South Shore Elder Services as well as other area Directors to monitor the situation and plan for service changes as needed

In addition to these examples many other staff members from other Departments are working on how best provide services and to plan for any disruptions that most likely will occur.

WE ALL NEED TO HELP

In addition to Town staff acting, public help is also needed. First and foremost, we must all recognize that because of the extraordinary circumstance there will be impacts and disruptions to our daily routines, this can be stressful. If ever there was a time when we must extend a bit more patience and understanding towards our friends, neighbors and even folks we don't know this is the time.

Also, this is the time to be extra vigilant with your own health, hygiene and taking common sense precautions. If you or a family member does contract the virus and you need emergency service, PLEASE TELL THE 911 OPERATOR. Your care will still be top notch, but that notification will allow our paramedics to come better prepared and protected, so they can stay in service for the next call.

Please check in on any elderly neighbor from time to time, this is a group that is at particular risk. Lastly, stay positive, this will pass if we all continue to pull in one direction. Remember, for over 375 years the residents of Hull have faced many calamities, devastating storms, wars and yes pandemics. Through all those events both in the distant past and recently, working together and helping each other has been a great Hull tradition, let's do what Hull does best, One Town, One Team.

Thank You,

Phil Lemnios
Town Manager