# 2019 Novel Coronavirus COVID-19

*Long Term Care Webinar*

*Monday, March 23, 2020*

## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

*Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans*

# Webinar Information

All participants will be muted during the presentation.

- Questions can be submitted directly to the facilitator via the question feature located on your control panel
- All questions submitted will be answered at the end of the presentation

This session will be recorded and made available for reviewing

- When available, you will receive a follow-up-email with instructions on how to access the recording
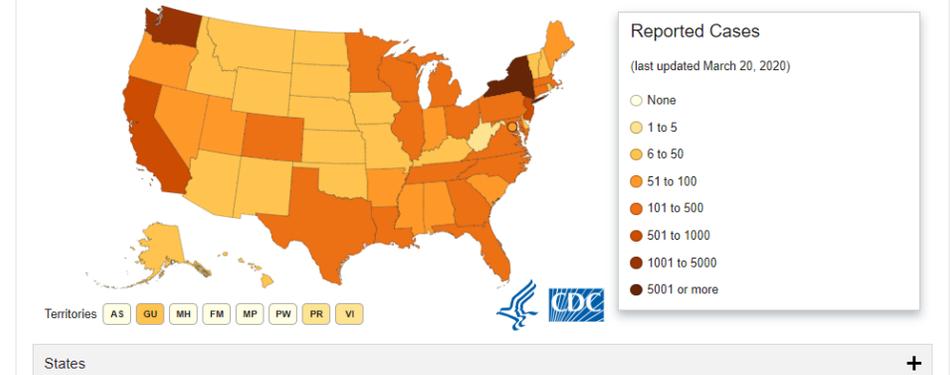
# Discussion topics

- Update on COVID-19
- Review CMS & CDC recommendations
- Reminder: IDPH request for enhanced surveillance
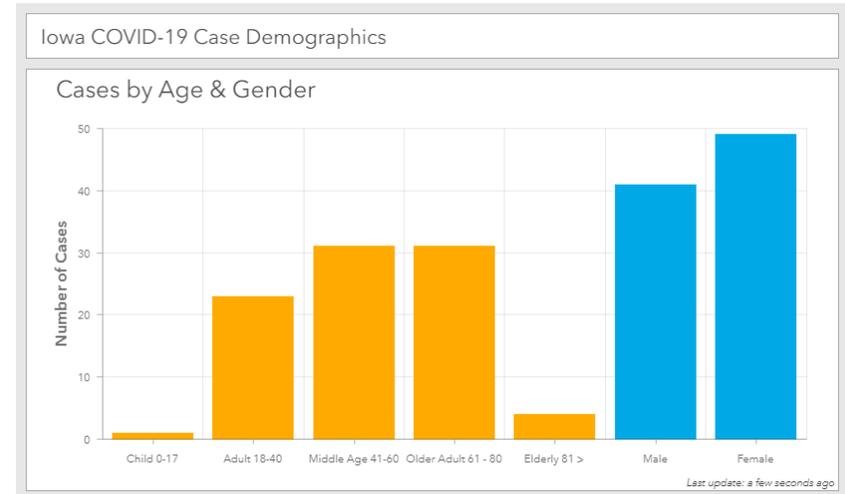- Steps for facility case investigation
- Q&A

# COVID-19
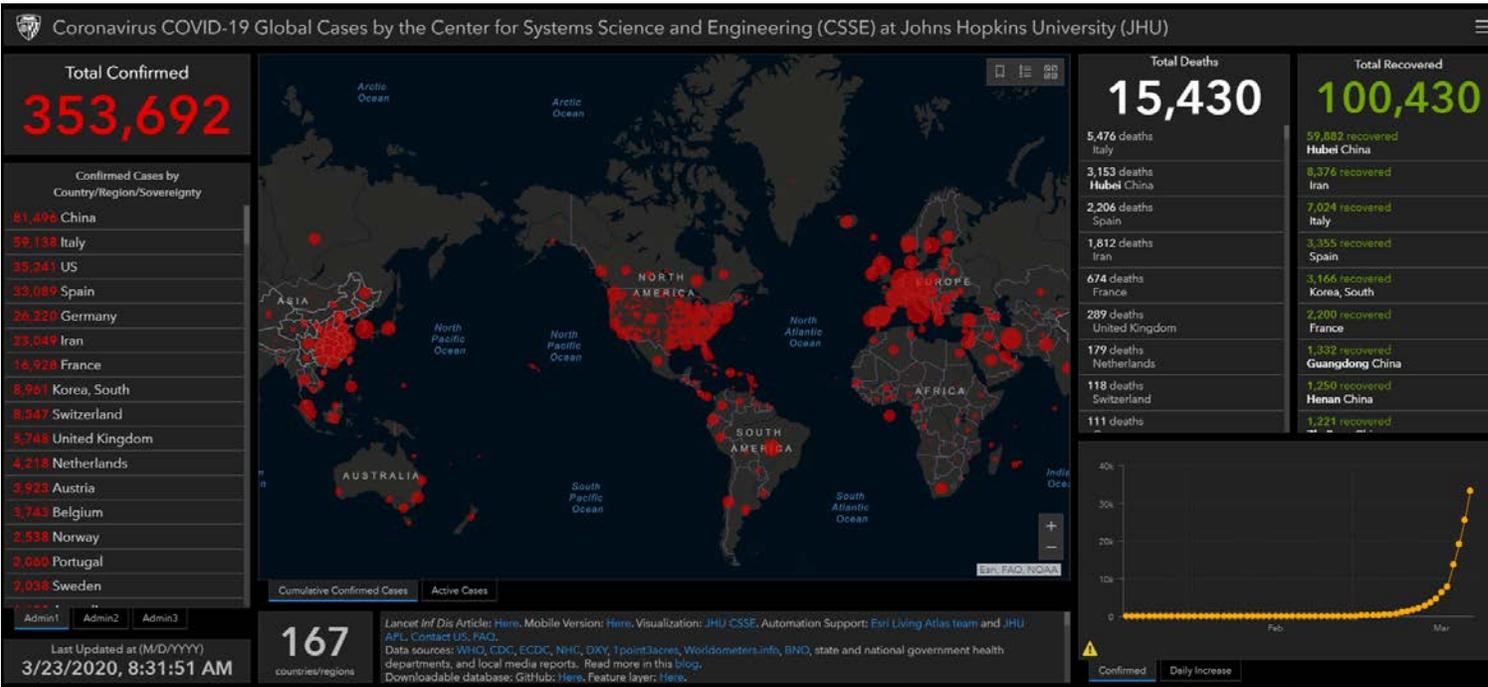
# COVID-19 in Iowa
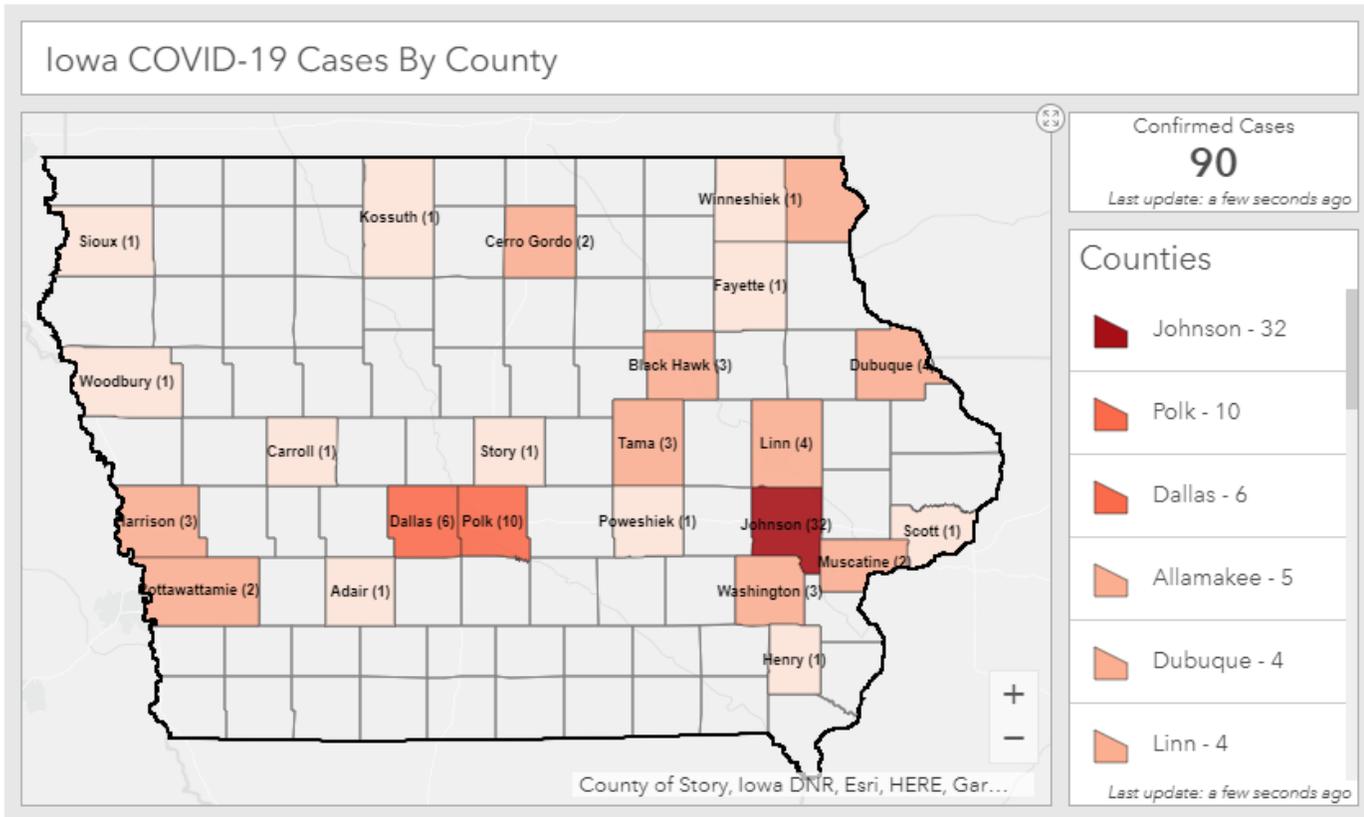
# Previous Questions

PALS/ACLS certifications and requirement are facility by facility

DIA is point of contact for regulatory questions

Request to self-isolate when returning from out-of-state travel does not apply to people who daily cross borders or to health care workers

# CDC Mitigation Guidance

Please review this document https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf

◦ Refer to it as you interact with your community partners

Social distancing measures

Temperature and respiratory symptom screening of staff

Visitor restrictions

# CMS Guidance for Long Term Care

Restricting all visitors, effective immediately, with exceptions for compassionate care, such as end-of-life situations;

Restricting all volunteers and nonessential health care personnel and other personnel (i.e. barbers);

Cancelling all group activities and communal dining; and

Implementing active screening of residents and health care personnel for fever and respiratory symptoms.

Contact DIA with additional regulatory questions.

# Actions to take now

- Cohort all patients with symptoms of respiratory illness.

- Direct pre-identified dedicated staff to care for patients with respiratory illness.

- Provide the right supplies to ensure easy and correct use of PPE.
  - Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident room that clearly describe the type of precautions needed and required PPE.
  - Make PPE, including facemasks, eye protection, gowns, and gloves, available immediately outside of the resident room.
  - Position a trash can near the exit inside any resident room to make it easy for employees to discard PPE.

- Keep residents, their families, and employees informed. Describe what actions the facility is taking to protect residents, and educate them on what they can do to protect themselves and prevent spread.

# Isolation Recommendations for Essential Services Personnel

Essential services personnel includes the following categories:

- Healthcare providers
- Law enforcement
- Fire & EMS personnel
- Long Term Care personnel
- Residential Support Facility personnel
- Public Health & Emergency Management personnel

Essential services personnel would be considered exposed to COVID-19 in the flowing situations:

- Traveled outside of Iowa for business or vacation in the last 14 days
- Taken a cruise anywhere in the world in the last 14 days
- Live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19
- Provided care for a patient with symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 without using proper PPE
- Had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 2 minutes) with a person who is visibly sick with respiratory symptoms (i.e., sneezing, coughing) or says they are sick with fever or respiratory symptom

# Isolation Recommendations for Essential Services Personnel

Essential services personnel are allowed to go to work as long as they remain asymptomatic and monitor their temperature at the beginning and end of their shift.

If essential services personnel become symptomatic at any point during their shift, they should be sent home immediately.

When Essential Service Personnel are not working, they should stay at home and isolate themselves from others in the home for 14 days after their last exposure.

If essential services personnel are providing healthcare in a hospital, long term care, pre-hospital setting or residential care facility- they should wear a procedure/surgical mask when providing care (within 6 feet of patients).

# Recommendations for sick people

Stay home and isolate from others in the house until:

- You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) AND
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) AND
- At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

# Protocol for Iowa Long Term Care Facilities reporting two or greater residents or staff with respiratory illness

*Updated 03/12/2020*

- Report illnesses to IDPH at 800-362-2736

- Isolate sick residents and send sick staff home immediately

- Use contact and droplet precautions with eye protection when providing care for sick residents

- Collect 1- nasopharyngeal swabs, and 1- oropharyngeal swabs from each ill resident and staff member
  - Package 1-nasopharygeal and 1-oropharyngeal swab into one viral transport tube for COVID-19 and Influenza testing

- Communicate with IDPH to coordinate specimen pickup and transport to the State Hygienic Laboratory

- State Hygienic Laboratory will test for COVID-19 first and if negative will test for influenza

- Consider closing to visitors until illnesses resolve

- Consider canceling group activities until illnesses resolve

- Consider serving meals in room until illnesses resolve

# Case in a resident or staff member

◦ Determine when the staff or resident started having symptoms

◦ Identify staff and residents in contact with the individual after their symptoms started

◦ Consider isolating and cohorting exposed residents and staff

◦ Follow essential service personnel guidance

◦ IDPH has notification templates that you can consider using

# Questions