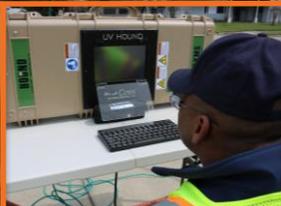


COVID-19 Response

David Persse, MD
Health Authority

March 2020



Our Reach



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

We serve the 2.3 million residents of the city of Houston. Our scope and impact reaches beyond the city limits and extends into Harris County's population of 4.7 million people through our Harris County Area Agency on Aging, immunization strategies and HIV/STD surveillance. In addition, our laboratory serves a 17 county region.



Public Health vs Medicine



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Public Health



Population • Disease Prevention
Health Promotion • Interventions
(environmental, human behavior)
Government (some private)

Medicine



Individual • Diagnosis • Treatment
Interventions (medical care)
Private (some public)





OUR STRENGTHS

Building collaborative relationships and engaging the community.

Organizing and implementing large scale events.

Connecting and developing trust with people face to face.

Innovative strategies/Leveraging resources.

Public health leadership at the local, state, and national level.

Public health role as safety net provider,
convener, facilitator, broker and connector.





PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

- National Voluntary Accreditation opened by Public Health Accreditation Board in 2011
- Evaluation focuses on the 10 Essential Public Health Service Areas, with two additional areas added
- HHD Accredited December 12, 2014
 - 2nd large jurisdiction in US
 - First accredited health department in Texas
- Currently preparing package for reaccreditation.



COVID-19: City Task Force, HHD ICS

City-wide Task Force (City Departments)

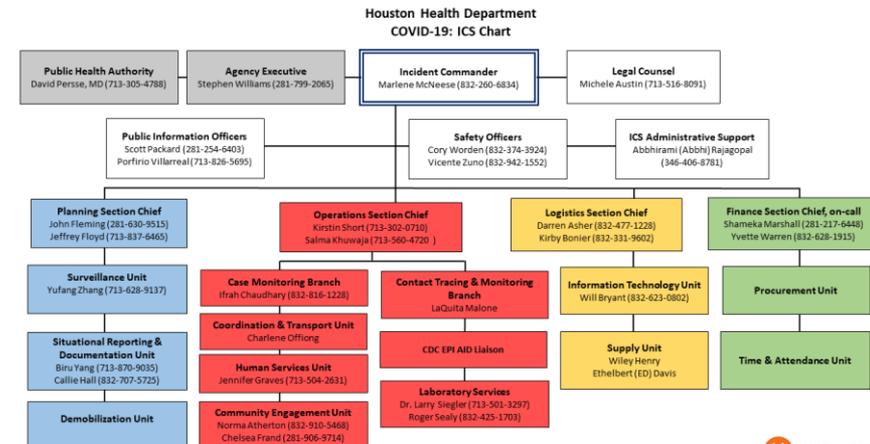
5 Workgroups

- Facility and transport
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Quarantine, isolation, alternative care
- Human resources
- Public affairs



HHD ICS

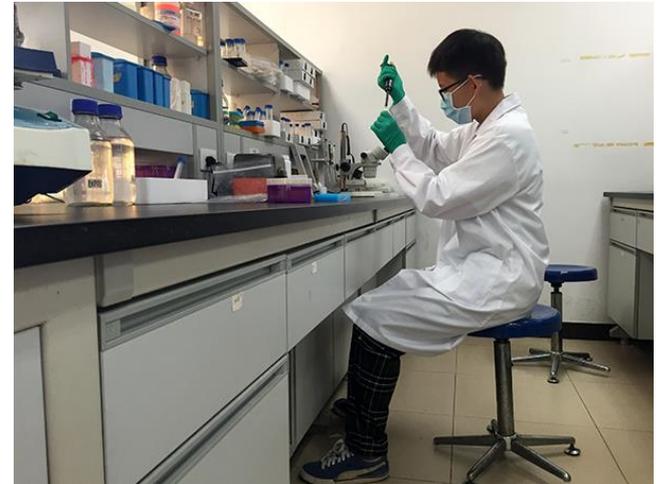
- Incident Command System (ICS) organization activated
- Representation from every area in public health department



COVID-19: What is the HHD Doing?

The Houston Health Department is:

- Protecting the health of the public
- Maintaining appropriate isolation, quarantine, and monitoring measures to protect the public while respecting reasonable personal freedom of people under isolation/quarantine
- Protecting the personal identity of persons who are being tested or being monitored for symptoms
- Coordinating messaging to health care providers
- Keeping the public, elected officials, and providers up-to-date about the situation locally
- Responding to requests for education
- Call center for general public and providers
- Creating and distributing sector-specific guidance (schools, businesses, jails/detention centers, long-term care facilities)



COVID-19: What is the HHD Doing?

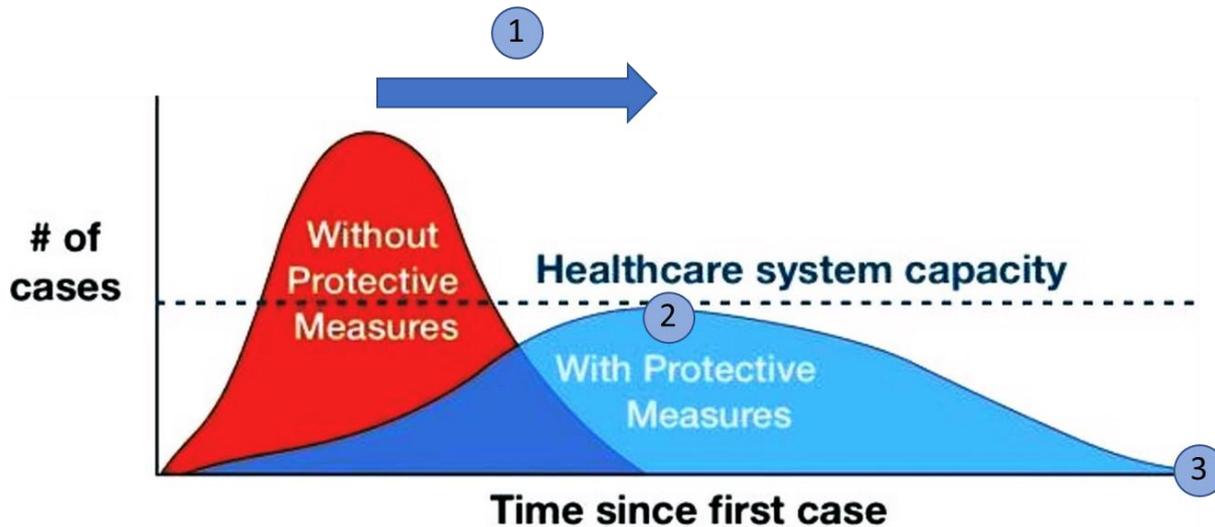
Testing and Treatment:

- Diagnostic testing conducted by some health department laboratories, CDC, and some commercial laboratories
 - Testing being conducted by HHD Laboratory
 - Testing must be approved by local health departments and/or providers
- No targeted treatments
 - No antiviral with known effectiveness
 - Federal government, in partnership with pharmaceutical company, to develop treatment
 - Supportive care recommended
- No vaccine available



COVID-19: What is the HHD Doing?

Projection of cases after response strategy



Goals of Response:

- 1) Delay spike in cases, allowing additional preparation time
- 2) Flatten and reduce spike in cases
- 3) Reduce overall total number of cases and impact to health system

Funding is needed to support all aspects of the local response, including:

- Public health surveillance and epidemiology/informatics
- Quarantining/isolating and wrap around support services
- Laboratory testing
- Public health preparedness and response
- Medical provider and healthcare infrastructure
- Other (Administration, Public Information)

COVID-19: Importance of Local Funding

Approximately 46% of the department's budget is from federal funds. Of this amount:

- 30% (\$24M) is from 1115 Waiver
- 28% (\$22.8M) is Direct Federal Funding
- 42% (\$33.4M) are Federal Funds passed through the state

The State of Texas is unique in that it allocated five percent of its 1115 Waiver funds for public health, thus allowing for expansion and innovation in public health services.

KEY FUNDING INSIGHTS



- Limited general revenue- tax revenue cap
- Congress passed \$1.1 billion for Zika in 2016– took 233 days to reach local jurisdiction
- Customize response to local needs
- Opportunities: 14 current federal grant mechanisms at the HHD (CDC, DOJ, HUD)
- Currently have crisis response grant that could be utilized to expediate funding reaching local level (delays also experienced when money passed through states)

Contact Information



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

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Thank you!

