



Cambridge
Public Health
Department

Agenda
Cambridge COVID-19 Expert Advisory Panel
2 pm, Tuesday April 7th, 2020

Call-in: [REDACTED]

As the surge approaches, we suggest a brainstorming session today to come up with action items for urgent issues directly related to the expertise, information-base and implementation abilities that we have as a team.

With Claude's advice, we agreed to focus on three urgent issues: how to source and distribute medical masks, how to calculate and acquire sufficient field hospital capacity, and what the data-based predictions are regarding duration of school closure.

Goal for Action outcome items 1) defining what we need, 2) determining who to approach to help meet these needs and 3) preparing team-unified recommendations to the City of Cambridge and the Commissioner.

How to source and distribute medical masks

- N95 reuse for Risk category 1 healthcare providers (HCPs) is resolved.
- Face masks provide important protection against COVID-19 (please see attachment).
- Focus should shift to supplying disposable medical masks and informing the public about the most effective DIY mask (please see attachment).
- Here is a possible order of priority for supplying disposable medical masks, to be debated and more specifically defined : all lower-risk HCPs, frontline service workers (< 6 ft. from public, eg cashiers), food preparers and distributors, those serving vulnerable populations (eg elder-care providers), anyone going out in public without an effective DIY mask.
- How to acquire high quality disposable medical masks (please see attached letters, sent to Mayor Siddiqui and CHA).

How to calculate and acquire sufficient field hospital capacity

- What we need, and what we have, to prepare for the surge peak, estimated by IHME to occur in MA within 10 days (<http://covid19.healthdata.org/projections>).
- Based on IHME, field hospitals in MA should provide *at least* beds and minimum of care for an additional 8, 500 cases on peak surge day. Expert epidemiologists at Harvard agree that this is an optimistic projection.
- As Bill pointed out last time, COVID-19 knows no borders, so we must consider surrounding communities, with which Claude is in communication.



- Reports from other surge experiences are typically ‘we thought we were ready.’ We must prepare for more than the optimistic scenario.
- - Who can help? MIT and Harvard field houses, other ideas? Who in EAP can act?

What the data-based predictions are regarding duration of school closure

- Vermont has announced public school closure until fall. Some universities have indicated that they will not have students return in fall.
- Input for drafting official advice letter from EAP about how long schools should be closed.
- Considering the cancellation of summer activities for our youth, our recommendations on when schools can be safely reopened can help school administrators plan for summer schooling.