

LCAD Infectious Disease Pandemic Response Plan

June 29, 2020



Infectious Disease Pandemic Response Plan

An infectious disease (influenza, Norovirus, Zika, COVID-19) pandemic is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new virus appears that can spread easily from person to person. Because people have not been exposed to this new virus before, they have little or no immunity to the virus; therefore, serious illness or death is more likely to result than during seasonal flu. (Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

SEASONAL FLU

The Virus

- Caused by influenza viruses that are closely related to those that have previously circulated; most people will have some immunity to it.
- Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and muscle pain.
- Complications such as pneumonia are most common in the very young and very old and may result in death.
- Vaccine is produced each season to protect people from the three influenza strains predicted to most likely cause illness.

Impact on The Community

- Seasonal flu kills about 36,000 Americans each year and hospitalizes more than 200,000 children and adults.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

The Virus

- A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.
- A wide range of symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea; a list of symptoms can be found on the CDC website. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at a higher risk for a severe illness from COVID-19.
- COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are close in contact with one another (within about 6 feet).

Impact on The Community

- COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community. Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. We are still learning more about the virus and information may change.

MILD TO MODERATE PANDEMIC

The Virus

- Caused by a new virus that has not previously circulated among people and that can be easily spread.
- Because most people will have no immunity to the new virus, it will likely cause illness in high numbers of people and more severe illness and deaths than seasonal influenza.
- Symptoms are similar to seasonal flu, but may be more severe and have more frequent serious complications.
- Healthy adults may be at increased risk for serious complications.

Impact on The Community

- May cause a moderate impact on society (e.g., some short-term school closings, encouragement of people who are sick to stay home).

SEVERE PANDEMIC

The Virus

- A severe strain causes more severe illness, results in greater loss of life, and has a greater impact on society.
- During the peak of a severe pandemic, workplace absenteeism could reach up to 40% due to people being ill themselves or caring for family members.

Impact on The Community

- Schools and day care/child care facilities may be closed.
- Public and social gatherings will be discouraged.
- The patterns of daily life could be changed for some time with basic services and access to supplies possibly disrupted.

PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Prevention

- Wash hands regularly.
- Keep up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Get regular medical examinations.
- Maintain a healthy diet.
- Exercise regularly.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Maintain proper hygiene.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Distance yourself from people that are ill.
- Wear face coverings and other applicable PPE
- Social distance yourself from others who do not live within your household by 6 feet or greater
- Do not gather in large groups

Mitigation

Keeping infectious diseases from getting worse:

- Seek medical attention when you are ill.
- Comply with the medical regime prescribed by your doctor.
- Reduce the spread of the disease by staying home and away from crowded areas.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Get an adequate amount of sleep.

Preparedness

LCAD will be proactive in:

- Keeping track of infectious disease information in and around our area and region.
- Engaging all organizational resources available within our community and region.
- Maintaining adequate emergency supplies and PPE for a possible outbreak.
- Contact Tracing when positive cases arise. This includes completing information on LCAD's Contact Tracing Document (Separate Form) and working with Local Health Departments.
- Enacting special deep cleaning and sanitization services through LCAD's contracted cleaning service. This includes an electromagnetic mist spray and processes that fully sanitize all surfaces of the facility in need within minutes of application. This process would be utilized to address any facility issues related to discovery of an infection within LCAD.
- Educating the community when appropriate.

Response

A pandemic is a public health emergency that could have significant political, social and economic dimensions.

- It is generally governed by factors that cannot be known in advance.
- It could last for an extended period of time.

Emergency Response Teams

During an outbreak, critical staff may be required to come to campus. Areas that will be crucial in a viral outbreak are:

- Campus Safety – Jim Wooley
- Communications – Marc Lyncheski
- Facilities Management – Mark Day
- Human Resources – Caroline Carlson
- Residence Life – Amanda French/Nicole Drost
- Student Experience – Chris Brown

Campus Closure

Determining if the campus needs to be closed will include direction from State mandated orders, Local orders, and/or if there is a direct safety threat to LCAD constituents.

If it is decided that closing the campus is needed. The following steps will take place:

- Campus Safety (Jim Wooley, Director of Safety + Security) will send a closure announcement emergency via Omnilert text and/or email. Human Resources (Caroline Carlson, Director of Human Resources) will send additional communication to employees and the Chief Operating Officer, Hélène Garrison, will send additional communication to students and faculty.
- Communications (Marc Lyncheski, Director of Marketing + Communications) will establish a health advisory window on the main page of the website. This window will be utilized to update the community.
- Campus Safety (Jim Wooley, Director of Safety + Security) will post a closure notice at the front entrance.
- IT (Chief Information Officer, Matt Morton) will work to ensure information technology needs are addressed and communicated to staff and students.
- Campus buildings will be closed to all non-residents.
- Residents who are feeling sick will be asked to notify Resident Life Staff (Amanda French, Director of Student Life, and Nicole Drost, Student Affairs Assistant and Resident Manager) and to remain in their rooms for the duration of their illness

Social Distancing Strategy

Social distancing is a public health strategy to limit exposure to highly communicable disease(s) by restricting person-to-person contact.

Social distancing may include:

- Avoiding unnecessary travel.
- Canceling classes, meetings and scheduled events.
- Maintaining personal distance between oneself and a person showing symptoms of illness.
- Limiting public gatherings.
- Scheduling employees to work in staggered shifts or to work at home.
- Controlling access to buildings.

In the case of a severe outbreak, social distancing could be implemented for a period of time depending on the circumstances.

The appropriate public health agency will be consulted for the determination of need and length of time. Determining at what point and what level of social distancing measures to employ is a difficult decision. Social Distancing will likely come as a result of mandates from the Orange County Health Care Agency and federal, state and local government authorities. These authorities are likely to follow CDC and WHO recommendations.

LCAD Operations Status

Based on consultation with the Orange County Health Care Agency, the LCAD COO has the authority to declare that the Institute is operating according to one of the following tiers:

TIER 01	<p>Classes are being held, and offices are open for business. LCAD staff and students are asked to accept personal responsibility to avoid contact with others. Create Social Distancing groups with other individuals with whom you have close contact and limit contacts with outside groups, within reason. Avoid crowds or mass gatherings. Implement good infection control hygiene measures.</p>
TIER 02	<p>Classes are suspended, but offices are open for business. Restrict public gatherings on campus to only essential academic and business functions as the number of local cases rise or evidence suggests sustained growth inside a 500- mile radius. Restrict meetings whenever possible. Conduct business and academic programs via telephone, zoom, email, or any other available means.</p>
TIER 03	<p>Classes are suspended, and offices are closed. Close ancillary functions, including residence halls and dining locations as the number of local cases rise or evidence suggests sustained growth inside a 250-mile radius. Implement the use of PPEs when in contact with others. Only critical employees report to work as directed.</p>
TIER 04	<p>Classes are suspended, and offices are closed. Provide accommodations for those students who remain on campus due to travel restrictions, illness, etc., and require the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all contacts. Ill students will be segregated from well students. Only critical employees report to work as directed.</p>

In the extreme event that a complete campus closure is necessary, most academic, administrative, and support operations will cease. Minimal utilities will be supplied to buildings and all routine, normal daily housekeeping and maintenance activities will cease until such time the campus is reopened. Buildings will be secured in a way to prevent re-entry by all but approved critical employees. Only minimal or basic communications systems will be maintained.

CONCLUSION

The LCAD, Infectious Disease Pandemic Response Plan has been put in place in order to protect our campus and the community at large. Our comprehensive plan works in coordination with state and local authorities to ensure containment in as timely a manner as possible. Planning in advance for the influenza virus and for potential infectious diseases will reduce transmission, protect the health of the community, and save lives. For more information, please contact hr@lcad.edu.