

Guidance for Implementing Public Health Mitigation Measures

Updated 03/24/2020

This document provides a framework for data elements to consider when implementing or discontinuing public health mitigation measures for COVID-19. This guidance is subject to change as new information about COVID-19 is incorporated. This guidance can be used to inform decision-making but is not the only factor to consider when making these decisions.

Preparation

All Iowans should be aware of how to access up to date public health information and understand and practice personal protective measures including frequent hand-washing, covering coughs and staying home when sick.

Social Distancing & Mitigation

Implement social distancing and mitigation measures that include increased tele-work and tele-learning, limiting unnecessary travel especially among high-risk groups, limit visitors to health care facilities and consider school closures.

Shelter-in-Place

Consider implementing shelter-in-place recommendation limiting movement to only essential activities for a period of up to 14 days with daily re-evaluation.

Considerations for Implementing Public Health Mitigation Measures

Assess whether social distancing recommendations are currently being followed in your community. Are there additional measures that you can take enhance community compliance with public health recommendations?

- Are community leaders united in messages to the community?
- Are community leaders united in their instruction of mildly ill community members to stay home vs reporting to a healthcare provider and seeking unnecessary testing.

Assess regional healthcare personal protective equipment and workforce capacity.

Consider strategy to ensure the supply chain remains intact for critical infrastructure, particularly the healthcare sector.

Consider the legal authorities required for issuing order and any associated responsibilities for providing care/food/resources.

Develop a plan for enforcement and duration of orders/measures.

Percent of population greater than 65 years of age

% population greater than 65 years	Assigned Value
≥20 percent	3
15 - 19 percent	2
<15 percent	1

This metric serves to provide an assessment of the vulnerable community members in a population.

Percent of identified cases requiring hospitalization

% of cases requiring hospitalization	Assigned Value
≥15 percent	3
12 – 14 percent	2
3 – 11 percent	1
<3 percent	0

This metric serves to inform the severity of case patients in a population.

Rate per 100,000 population in the past 14 days

Rate	Assigned Value
≥ 50	3
21 – 49	2
6 – 20	1
0 - 5	0

This metric serves to inform the number of cases in the community.

Long term care outbreaks

Number of outbreaks	Assigned Value
3	3
2	2
1	1
0	0

This metric serves to inform clusters of illness among a vulnerable population in a shared community setting.

Sum of assigned values

- 0 – 3 Preparation and Awareness
- 4 – 9 Social Distancing and Mitigation Strategies
- ≥10 Shelter-in-place