



Dudley H.A. Wright II, Chair  
Kent Appelhans, Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

## HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

### Committee Meeting Date and Location:

March 6, 2020  
1970 W. Broad St., Conference Room 1106  
Columbus, OH 43223

### Committee Members Present:

David Gerstner (Chair), Jeffrey Jackson (Vice Chair), Eric Burgess, Dr. Michael Zorko, Mark Resanovich

### Committee Members Absent:

Karen Beavers; Deanna Harris, Christopher Kyer, Micah Stoll

### DPS and EMS Staff Members Present:

Ted Kienzle EMS Support; Aria Sovann, EMS Support

### State Partners Present:

None

### Public Present:

None

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### Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am and introductions were made.

### Review of February 7, 2020 Minutes

The minutes for February 7, 2020 meeting of the subcommittee were reviewed.

**ACTION:** *Motion to approve the Homeland Security Subcommittee meeting minutes from November 1, 2019.* Mark Resanovich– First. Michael Zorko – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.



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## **Homeland Security issues and concerns**

Recent news headlines and concerns were mentioned.

- Mass shooting at Milwaukee Molson Coors.
- Car ramming attack in Germany.
- Series of chemical splash spray attack in Zambia with 16 suspects arrested.
- Active shooter in hookah lounge in Germany.
- Church attack in West Africa.
- Thai army sergeant went on a shooting rampage.
- Phone apps such as TikTok and Telegram can pose a privacy risk to users.

## **New Business**

### **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

The committee viewed a John Hopkins' live interactive map tracking Coronavirus cases. John Hopkins showed over 100,000 confirmed cases worldwide at the time of the meeting. South Korea, Iran, Italy, and Japan are listed by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as travel concerns for the United States (US).

NewsGuard a service that rates creditability and transparency of web news/content says that false and misleading news of COVID-19 is 150 times more likely to be shared on social media than information from official sources like (CDC) or World Health Organization (WHO). Facebook is giving free ads to WHO to fight COVID-19 misinformation.

In terms of infectious risk COVID-19 is comparable to influenza and does not warrant use of a special transportation unit except in possible rare exceptions.

The official name of the virus which causes the disease COVID-19 is SARS-CoV-2. SARS stands for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Coronavirus is a zoonotic disease meaning that is it spread between animals and people. There are hundreds of coronaviruses. Seven that effect humans. Four of the seven causes cold symptoms. 60-70% are rhinoviruses and the rest are coronaviruses. The other two strands of coronaviruses is Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and SARS. All six are droplet spread, not airborne.

Out of an abundance of cautious CDC is still recommending N95 masks. They are also recommending face shield, gloves, and gowns. WHO requires healthcare workers to wear surgical masks unless they are performing aerosol generating procedures. Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) doesn't believe N95 masks



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should be routine since there is no indication that Coronavirus is airborne and has asked the CDC to follow WHO guidance.

Some emergency medical dispatch system including Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) has released protocols that include questions such as:

- Whether a patient has traveled recently and if so where.
- Whether the patient has symptoms such as fever, chills, nasal congestion or persistent cough among others.

Whether or not these questions are asked, it is difficult to differentiate between COVID-19 and influenza which is wide spread in Ohio at this time. Instead each dispatch center has to determine their own course of action. It is not asked to screen for specific questions in an attempt to screen for COVID-19 that in any way will delay dispatching resources that will slow down the dispatch process. The caller can advise the dispatch center of recent contact with the coronavirus patient or a recent return from China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and/or South Korea. The dispatch center can receive a call from the local health department specifically advising of a person that is under investigation for COVID-19. Dispatch centers that becomes aware of patients with fever or other cases of infectious disease should make that information known to police, Fire, and EMS crews so the crews can don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) prior to seeing entry. Dispatch centers should not announce anything that indicates that a patient has a specific disease. They should use terms such as respiratory protection indicated.

If a person is healthy, that person will only need to wear a mask if taking care of a person with a suspected COVID-19 infection. Wear a mask if coughing or sneezing. A mask is only effective when use in combination of frequent hand cleaning or alcohol based sanitizer. If wearing a mask, know how to use it and dispose of it. More information can be found on the WHO website.

ODH has opens call center for COVID-19. Call center staff includes licensed nurses and infectious disease experts.

**The Committee focused mainly on COVID-19. There were no further updates this month on the remaining agenda items.**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.

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***ACTION: Motion to adjourn at 12:19 pm.***

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### **Next meeting:**

**April 3, 2020**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**(Canceled)**

**1970 W. Broad Street, Conference Room 1106**

**Columbus, Ohio 43223**