COVID-19 Public Health Strategy
Long-Term Testing, Investigation, and Surveillance

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Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Director of Health
May 30, 2020
Objective: Share Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department plan and budget for community protection from COVID-19.

Plan Overview

• Major components.
• Budget request.
• Budget status.
Managing Waves of Disease

- Hospital Capacity
- Flatten the Curve
- Increased Testing
- Discontinue NPI Too Soon

Case Count vs. Time

Seasonality
Planning Stages

**CURRENT STATE**
- Develop community testing strategy.
- Prepare workforce.
- Identify and investigate cases.
- Conduct contact tracing.

**CASE SURGE**
- Expanded case and contact investigation teams.
- Maintain testing.
- Monitor healthcare system impacts.
- Communicate Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs).
- Plan for prevalence and surveillance testing.

**SUMMER / FALL DECREASE**
- Reassess case and contact investigation teams.
- Prepare for respiratory illness and CoVID-19 surveillance.
- Implement prevalence and surveillance testing plan.

**FALL / WINTER RESURGENCE**
- Reassess case and contact investigation teams.
- Implement CoVID-19 surveillance methodologies.

**LONG TERM RECOVERY**
- Develop and implement staged critical workforce vaccine administration program.
- Establish long term monitoring and response program that incorporates lessons learned and improvements.
### Planning Stages: Status

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In maintenance</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td>In planning</td>
<td>In planning</td>
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Stage 1: Current State

Robust public health response key components:

• Testing strategy.
• Strong case investigation and contact tracing - Expand workforce.
Increasing Testing

Areas of focus:

• Increase lab capacity in local healthcare systems.
• Increase accessibility of testing in current healthcare infrastructure.
• Support universal testing in high-risk facilities through technical assistance and supplies.
  • Connect to community testing capacity.
• Community-based testing options for impacted communities.
  • Data-driven and equitable.
  • Involve community leaders in design.
• Drop teams (test, consult and train on site - for high risk).
What is our Investigator Expansion Goal?

Plan for case and contact investigations for the following scenario:

- 350 new cases/day
- 1,400 contacts/day
- 320 2nd Generation contacts/day
- 10 High-risk facilities
Investigation Team Positions

- Case Investigators
- Contact tracers.
- Data analyzers.
- Laboratory coordinators.
- Supervisors and leads.
- Administrative support.
Strategies to Expand Workforce

Temporary positions:

• Reassign Health Department staff at risk of layoff.
• Develop agreements to accept reassigned staff from government partners.
• Hire from within Medical Reserve Corps.
• Post and hire from the community.
Expansion Phases – Investigators Only

- **Internal Group 1**
  - May 18
  - 5 Dept. staff-pilot.

- **Internal Group 2**
  - June 3
  - 30 Dept. and Partner staff.

- **Partners Group 1**
  - Mid-June and June 30
  - 50 Partner staff.

- **Partners Group 2**
  - July 27
  - 20 staff.

- **External Group 1**
  - Aug. 24
  - 20 staff.

- **External Group 2**
  - Sept. 29
  - 20 staff.
Where will our expanded team work?

- **3629 S. D St.**
  - Immediate (Now)

- **3701 Pacific Ave.**
  - Short term (June – July)

- **New location TBD.**
  - Long Term (August – )
Stages 2 & 3: Case Surge & Summer/Fall

As the community reopens throughout the summer, we will:

- Monitor healthcare systems and impacts.
- Surveillance of NPI adjustments in disease transmission.
- Continue and expand case and contact investigations.
- Support isolation and quarantine.
- Maintain increased testing and prepare for more testing options.
- Prepare for any additional fall testing.
Stage 4: Prepare for Fall and Winter

For fall and winter we will:

- Expand case and contact investigations.
- Support isolation and quarantine.
- Drive more testing options in the community.
- Monitor healthcare system capacity and testing.
- Surveillance of all respiratory illness.
  - Immunizations for flu season and essential workforce.
Stage 4: Prepare for Fall and Winter

- Support immunizations, including flu.
- Review and plan to implement additional non-pharmaceutical interventions, if needed.
Stage 5: Long-term recovery

We continue to monitor advances in technology.

Public Health is participating in the Resilience and Recovery Task Force, now Office of Disaster Recovery.

Public health will plan and respond to population health effects from COVID-19 including:

• Social and Economic impacts on health.
• Health disparities.
• Community engagement.
Stage 5: Long-term recovery

Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccine - When a vaccine becomes available, we will use our medical countermeasures plan to inform our response.

Plan addresses:

• Mass vaccination.
  o Costs.
  o Supplies.
  o Staffing.
  o Supply chain.

• Agreements for locations to vaccinate.
  o Will develop additional options like drive-through models.

We have trained and exercised this plan over the last 10 years.
CARES ACT Funding

• Funds available through Dec. 31, 2020.
• Pierce County received $158 million in federal CARES Act funds.
• Council allocated $67 million to public health response.
• Department has a 12-18-month plan to track, respond to and contain the disease.
• We submit funding requests through DEM to support implementation and action.
# Public Health Revised Budget Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Diagnostic Testing – Supports Stage 1-5</strong></td>
<td>$13,165,000</td>
<td>PC DEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increase testing and lab capacity to 300 tests per day based on Governor’s current guidance for Phase II.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Follow developments for valid and reliable serologic testing and implement when FDA approves.</td>
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### Proposal Progress:

- Created a scope of work.
- MHS, CHI, CHC and Sea Mar have shown interest.
- Now waiting on healthcare proposals to submit with funding request. Goal: June 4.
### Public Health Revised Budget Plan cont'd

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<tr>
<td>2. Countywide COVID-19 Surveillance – <em>Supports Stage 1-5</em></td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>Health Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increase systems to address increasing needs to monitor disease trends,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>analyze, share and report information during a pandemic.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research future technology – Waste stream surveillance project.</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>PC DEM</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposals Submitted</th>
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<th>Date Submitted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Surveillance Staff, for 7 months</td>
<td>$1,297,110</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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### Public Health Revised Budget Plan cont'd

#### Category

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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Case Investigation and Contact Tracing - Supports Stage 1-5</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,200,000</strong></td>
<td>Health Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide infrastructure to investigate approximately 350 cases per day and 1,400 associated close contacts outside of the home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• May need up to 250 staff (Trained &amp; available for surge).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Scalable. Budget assumes 10x increase from current capacity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT Equipment – laptop packages, cell phones, software</td>
<td>$515,040</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>5/27/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Infrastructure to support expanded workforce</td>
<td>$170,850</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 Investigation Staff, for 2 months</td>
<td>$749,000</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4. Isolation and Quarantine Housing - Supports Stage 1-5</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,000,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>PC-DEM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide temporary care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who can’t quarantine or isolate in their homes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Includes wrap-around supports for individuals and families who can isolate in their homes.</td>
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**Proposal Progress:**

- Currently working with FEMA Public Assistance.
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<tr>
<td>5. Proactive Testing and Disease Prevention - <em>Supports Stage 1-5</em></td>
<td>$4,210,000</td>
<td>Health Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Establish and deploy drop teams to test people in congregate facilities and underserved and underinsured.</td>
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<td>PC DEM</td>
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<tr>
<td>15,000 Test Kits at $167/kit</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>5/27/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Testing Units, Contracted Medical &amp; Support Staff, Supplies</td>
<td>$561,170</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Personal Protective Equipment <em>Supports Stage 1-5</em></td>
<td>$3,715,000</td>
<td>PC-DEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Secure PPE for the activities above and continue to provide to priority tiers WA Department of Health established.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Various types of PPE</td>
<td>$3,715,000</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>5/29/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Public Education with Equity Focus - Supports Stage 1-5</td>
<td>$435,000</td>
<td>Health Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Community needs assessment, communications staff, project coordination, translation and publication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff costs, Needs Assessment</td>
<td>$435,000</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Approved - waiting on contract from PC Finance</td>
<td>5/29/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Health Department COVID-19 Response Costs - Supports Stage 1-5</td>
<td>$11,275,000</td>
<td>Health Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• $14M total - $2.725M in costs payable from other sources (includes $1.5M state, $866K FEMA at 75%, $359K grants that permit billing for emergency response).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Initial estimate based on assumed staffing needs of 120 as of May 1. This cost projection is under review.</td>
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Proposal Progress:

• To be discussed with Pierce County Budget & Finance.
Why this matters

Funding our public health strategy protects the health of our community and promotes economic recovery.

Our strategy:

- Supports commerce, education, religious and social service partners.
- Improves community health.
- Reduces health disparities.
- Finds disease in our community.
Questions?