Safer at Home 2.0
Municipal Guidance

July 8, 2020

Today's Presenters

Patricia Tilley, MS Ed
Deputy Director
Division of Public Health Services (DPHS)

Sophia Johnson, MPH
Health Officer Specialist
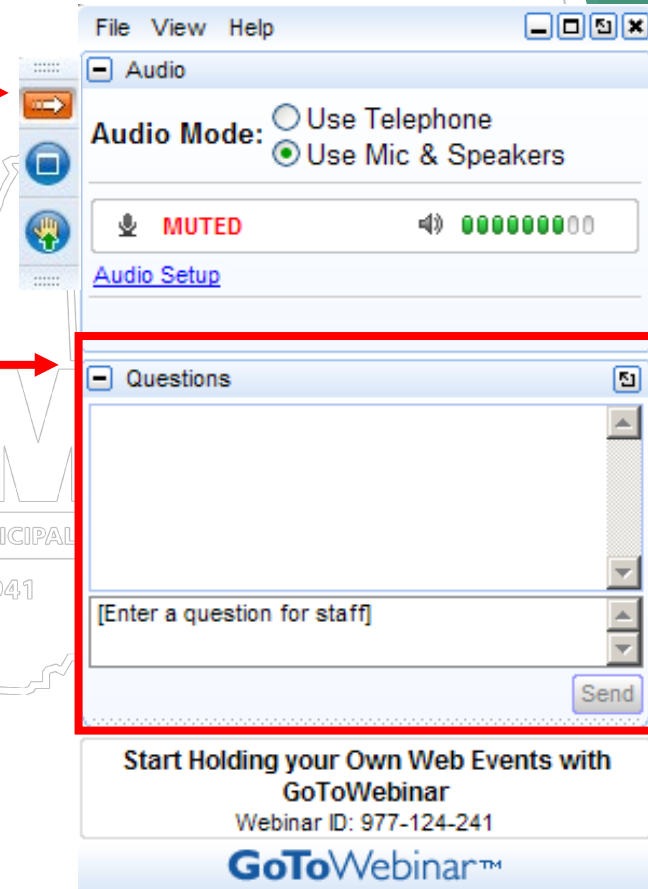*DPHS/Bureau of Public Health Protection*

Natch Greyes, Esq.
Municipal Services Counsel
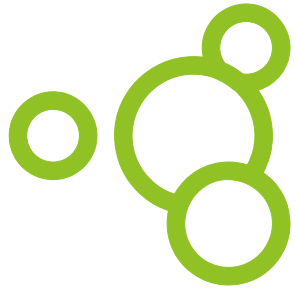New Hampshire Municipal Association

How to Participate Today

- Open and close your panel

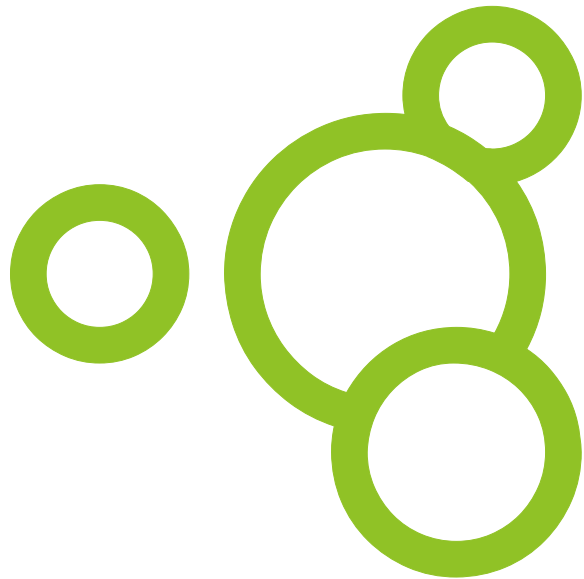- Submit text questions

- Q&A addressed during the webinar session

Agenda
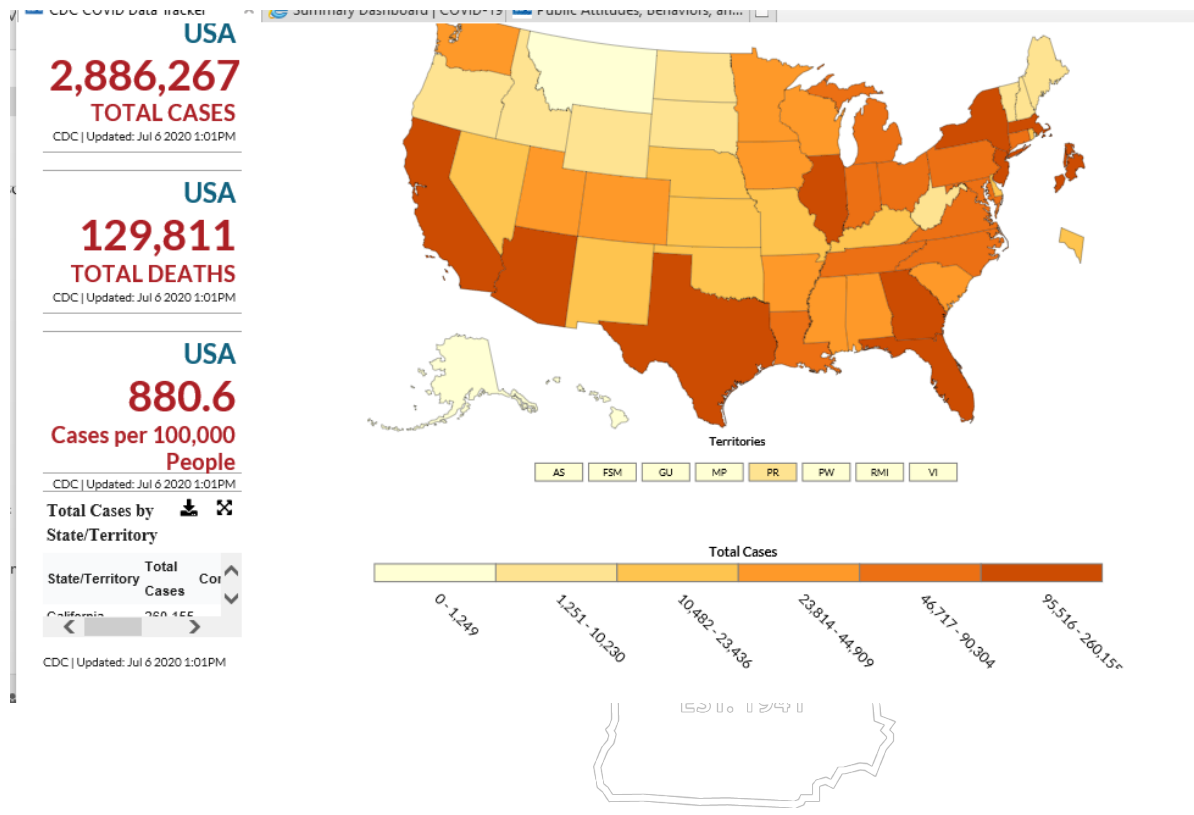
- **LEARN** what DHHS has to say about keeping safe during the pandemic, including what they've seen in New Hampshire and lessons learned elsewhere.
  - DHHS
- **PLAN** for how to reopen your municipality safely by utilizing the resources at your disposal.
  - Natch Greyes
- **ADAPT** your plan as events progress and DHHS has to say about keeping safe.
  - Natch Greyes w/DHHS Comments

LEARN

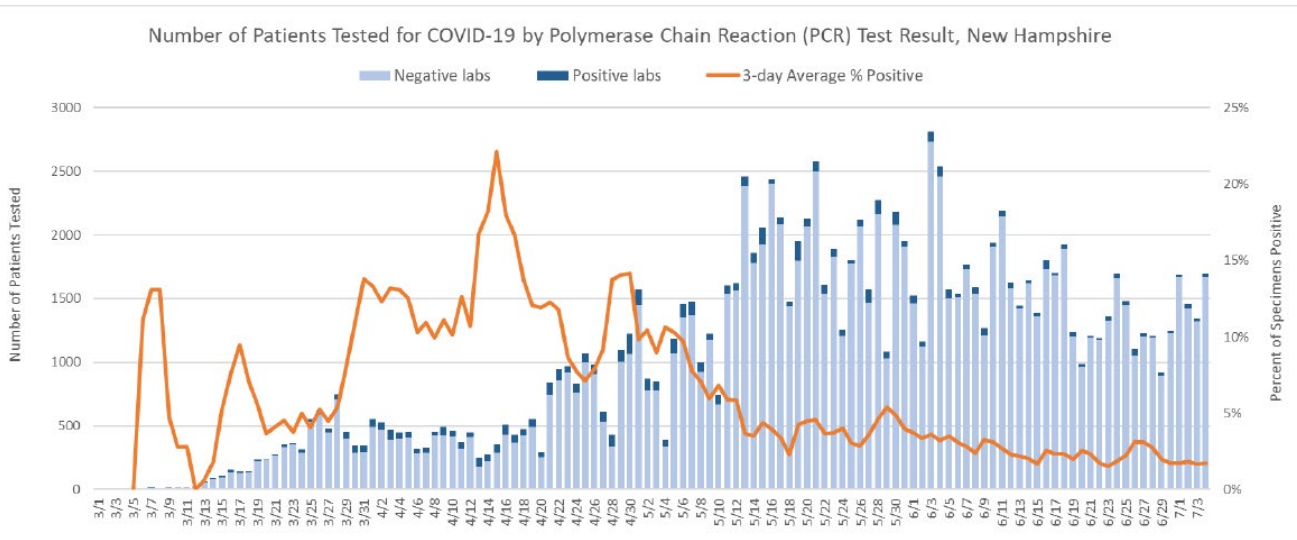Total Number of COVID-19 Cases in the US Reported to the CDC, by State/Territory

https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#cases

The Numbers in New Hampshire

New Hampshire 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Summary Report

(data updated as of July 5, 2020, 9:00 AM)

Number of Persons with COVID-19 [1]	5,897
Recovered	4,684 (79%)
Deaths Attributed to COVID-19	381 (6%)
Total Current COVID-19 Cases	832
Persons Who Have Been Hospitalized for COVID-19	570 (10%)
Current Hospitalizations	25
Total Persons Tested at Selected Laboratories, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) [2]	125,235
Total Persons Tested at Selected Laboratories, Antibody Laboratory Tests [2]	20,395
Persons with Specimens Submitted to NH PHL	32,776
Persons with Test Pending at NH PHL [3]	388
Persons Being Monitored in NH (approximate point in time)	3,475

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https://www.nh.gov/covid19/index.htm

Number of Patients Tested for COVID-19 by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test Result, New Hampshire
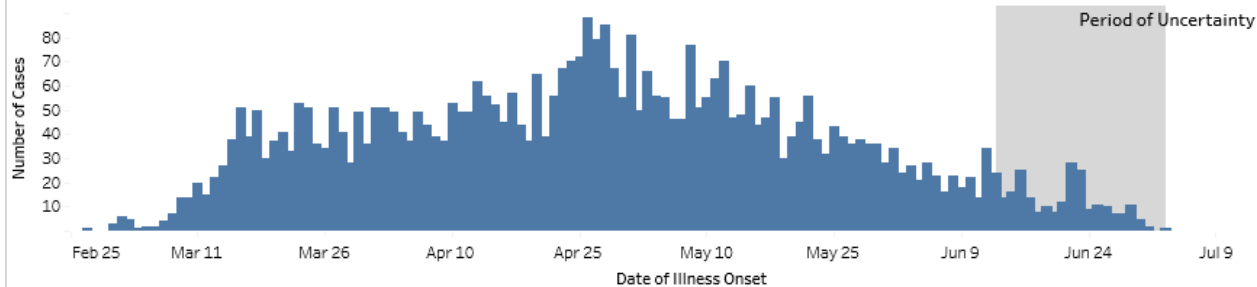
Testing and Percent Positive

NEW HAMPSHIRE LABORATORY-CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES - RISK FACTORS AND EPIDEMIC CURVE

EPIDEMIC CURVE: ONSET OF ILLNESS AMONG PERSONS WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19
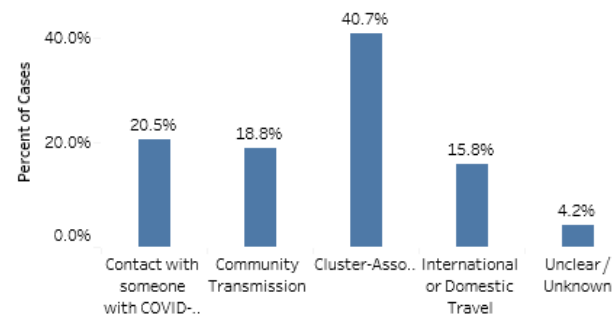
(n= 4531) ?

The epidemic curve is a visual presentation of the progression of COVID-19 in NH that shows the number of people with confirmed illness on the specific date each person first started to experience symptoms. Because there is a delay between when symptoms develop and a confirmed case is reported to DHHS, the data on a given date will change over time.
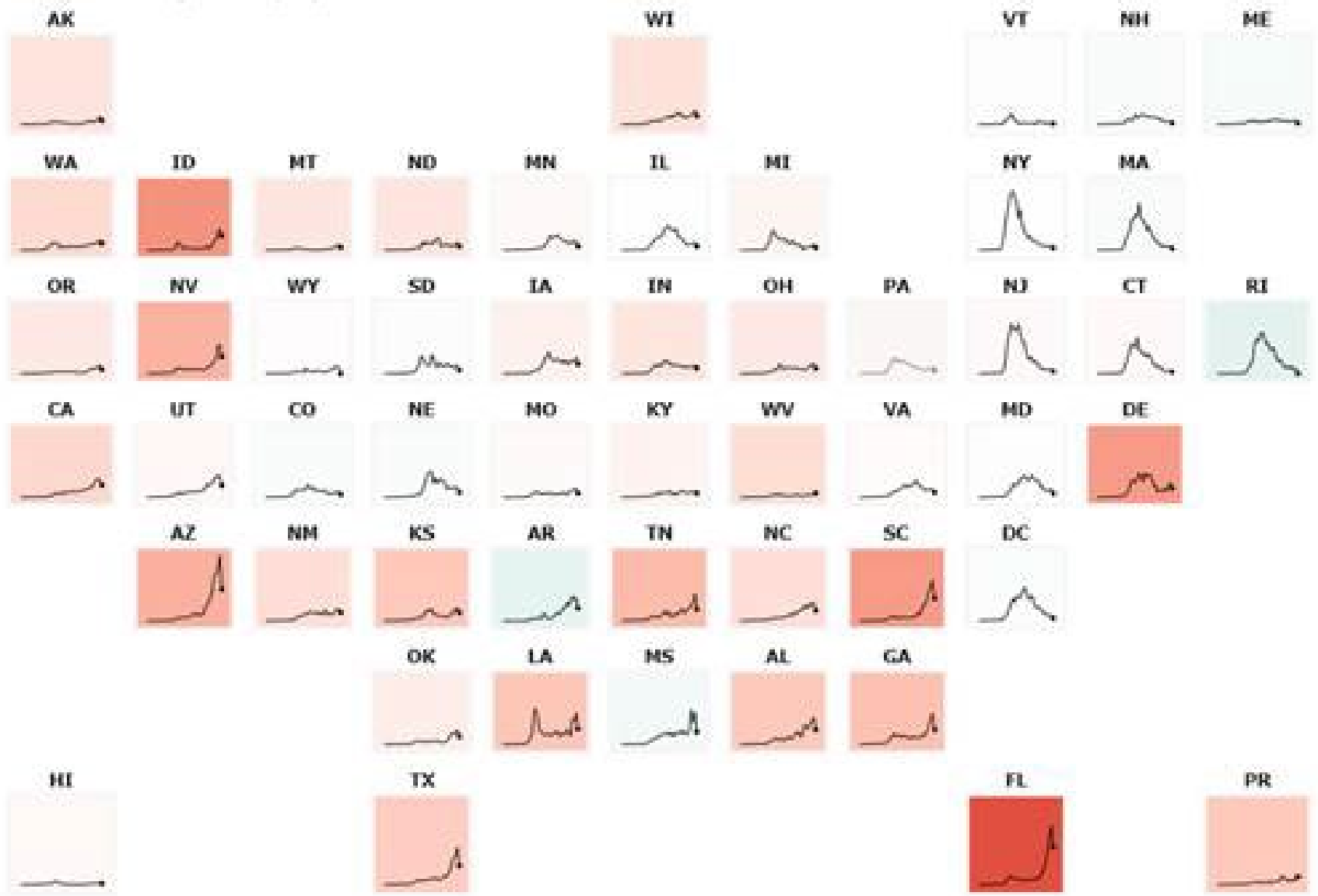

Onset Date Unclear / Unknown: 1,366

Note : Not all confirmed cases are included in this figure due to the person having an unclear onset date or no onset date because they did not experience any symptoms.

Risk Factors of Persons with COVID-19 ?	Infections		Hospitalizations		Deaths	
	Persons	% of Total	Persons	% of Total	Persons	% of Total
Contact with someone with COVID-19	1,208	20.5%	84	14.7%	11	2.9%
Community Transmission	1,111	18.8%	184	32.3%	36	9.4%
Cluster-Associated*	2,401	40.7%	182	31.9%	312	81.9%
International or Domestic Travel	929	15.8%	84	14.7%	15	3.9%
Unclear / Unknown	248	4.2%	36	6.3%	7	1.8%
Grand Total	5,897		570		381	

RISK FACTORS FOR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

(n= 5896) ?

Data as of: 7/5/2020

What We Know

- Coronavirus is believed to be spread mainly by respiratory droplets
  - The 6-feet-away rule of social distancing is meant to keep people out of the splash zone for respiratory droplets.
  - Wearing a face covering reduces the chance that **my** respiratory droplets reach **you**.
    - Increased use of face coverings = reduced chance for transmission

- Individuals with mild symptoms — and even people without symptoms — can spread the virus through their respiratory droplets

- The virus can incubate for up to 14 days before symptoms appear
  - It can be several more days before severe illness sets in.
  - Time lag between exposure and symptoms

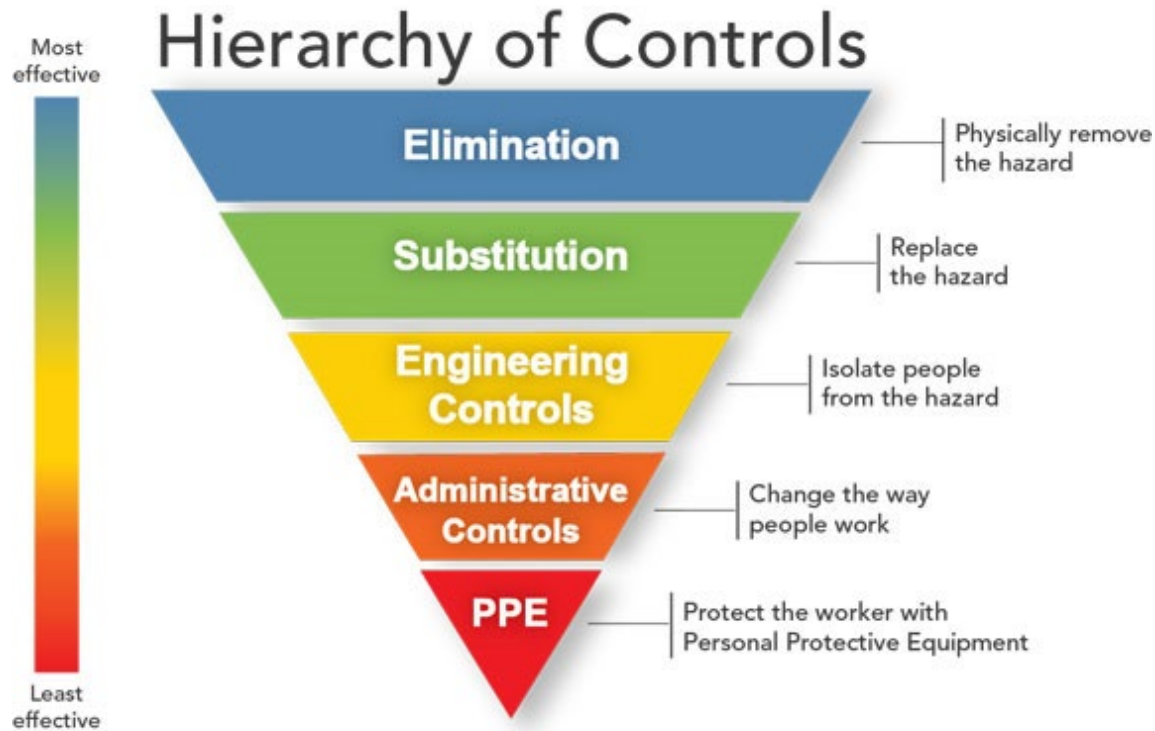# What is Mitigation?

▶ Emphasizes individual responsibility for implementing recommended personal-level actions

▶ Empowers businesses, schools, and other settings to implement appropriate actions

▶ Prioritizes settings that provide critical infrastructure services

▶ Minimizes disruptions to daily life to the extent possible and ensuring access to health care and other essential services.

Control and Mitigate Exposure

Hierarchy of Controls

Most effective → Least effective

- **Elimination** — Physically remove the hazard
- **Substitution** — Replace the hazard
- **Engineering Controls** — Isolate people from the hazard
- **Administrative Controls** — Change the way people work
- **PPE** — Protect the worker with Personal Protective Equipment

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html
https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

HOME ALONE OR WITH HOUSEMATES

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Try to allow only people you live with into your home.
- Wash your hands.
- If you're sick, stay home and isolate from housemates.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Wash your hands and don't touch your face.
- Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with.
- Wear a mask.
- Avoid shared surfaces, like swings or benches.

OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

- Wash your hands and don't touch your face.
- Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with.
- Wear a mask.
- Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces.
- Participate in events

INDOOR GATHERINGS

- Wash your hands and don't touch your face.
- Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with.
- Wear a mask.
- Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces.
- Open windows for

Risk Assessment Graphics

U.S. adults reported widespread support
of public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19*

88% Agree people should always keep at least 6-feet apart

82% Agree groups of 10 or more people should not be allowed

80% Support stay-at-home orders and nonessential business closures

*Online survey of 1,676 U.S. residents May 5-12, 2020
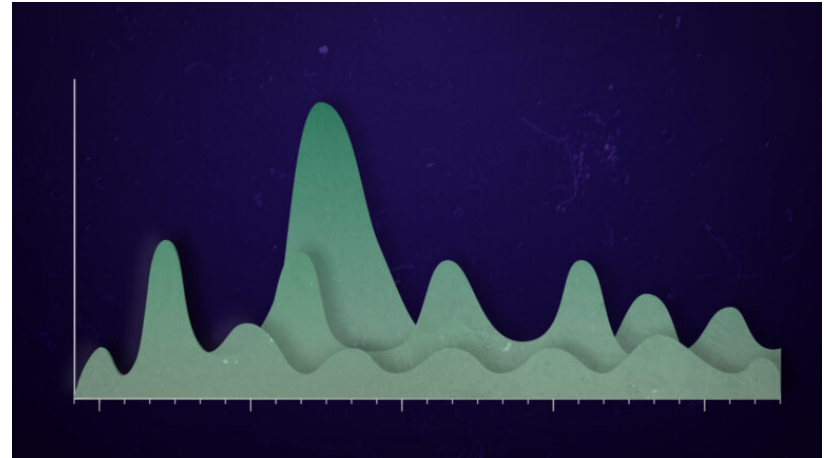
CDC.GOV

bit.ly/MMWR61220

MMWR

National Public Opinion

What are likely scenarios for USA?

▶ Scenario One: Small waves for two years, or until we reach immunity.

▶ Scenario Two: Another larger wave in the fall, History teaches us a lesson

▶ Scenario Three: A set of medium waves, city by city. Similar to Groundhog Day…

▶ https://www.statnews.com/2020/05/01/three-potential-futures-for-covid-19/

Lessons Learned

▶ Need for enhanced collaboration at the local level (fire, police, health)

PLAN

Stay-At-Home / Stay-At-Home 2.0 /Safer-At-Home

- Emergency Order #17 (Stay at Home), Emergency Order #40 (Stay-At-Home 2.0), Emergency Order #52 (Safer-At-Home)

  - This Order shall not apply to . . . local governments"

- Municipalities must determine what is appropriate for themselves regarding reopening.

- <u>BUT,</u> there is some state guidance.

Who Determines What Happens in a Municipality?

The governing body, i.e. the select board, has the authority to determine the rules for use of most municipal property. RSA 41:8; RSA 41:11-a.

The notable exception is libraries. Libraries have their rules set by the library trustees. RSA 202-A:6; RSA 202-A:11.

Town forests, conserved lands, and recreation areas are the other likely exceptions, however, town meeting may have delegated authority to another board or body. RSA 41:11-a; RSA 31:112, RSA 35-B, RSA 36-A:4.

Best Practices

- Get everyone on the same page.

  - Schedule meetings with EMD, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Health Officer, Town Administrator/Manager, Select Board, Library Trustees, etc. to hash out rules.

- Listen to DHHS, CDC, & Reopening Taskforce Guidance to determine what reopening rules may be required, and what reopening rules may be prudent to adopt.

  - https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/

Three Advice Themes

Continue to employ phone, online or limited appointment delivery of service:

▶ Continue to allow applicants for vital records, welfare and other municipal services to apply online, via email, phone or other accessible manner, and continue to provide notice of how to apply remotely at conspicuous places on the town website and at town hall.

Continue to employ remote meetings and hearings, where possible:

▶ Continue to utilize software to host remote meetings and hearings, or, at the very least, allow the public to listen or join in-person meetings remotely.

Continue to abide by social distancing guidelines:

▶ Craft rules which require social distancing for employees and the public while in town buildings and ensure that modifications have been made to accommodate social distancing.

- **Remote Meetings**
  - Allowed Under Emergency Order #12
  - Allowed "for the duration of the State of Emergency"
- **Remote Access**
  - No prohibition on boards adopting rules of procedure which allow for continued remote access or participation in meetings past the end of the State of Emergency.
    - May see an increase in interest if utilize provisions of Emergency Order #56 allowing governing body to reduce appropriations.
- **Remote Payments**
  - GOFERR funds may be used for the fee on credit card transactions.
  - May see an increase if utilize provisions of Emergency Order #56 allowing payment plans for property taxes
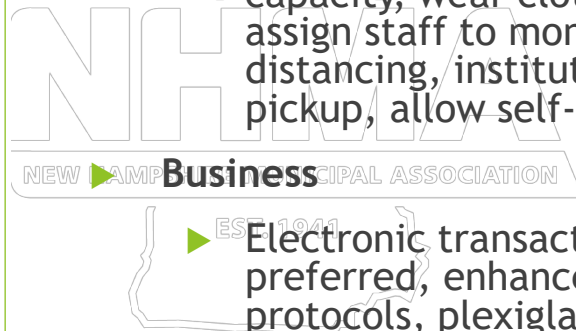
Remote Services

Town Hall & Other Municipal Buildings

- ▶ Look to what has already been created, e.g. for libraries, as guidance for the rules to adopt.

- ▶ Some best practices will be hard to get everyone to comply with, e.g. face masks.

    - ▶ If you do adopt a face mask rule, have some available for the public, but consider charging a reasonable fee – i.e. the cost of acquisition – for those masks to discourage people from collecting masks from the municipality.

    - ▶ Remember that items which are paid for once are not eligible for reimbursement, e.g. if a member of the public pays for a mask, that mask cannot be submitted for reimbursement to FEMA or GOFERR.

- ▶ Plan for what happens when someone violates the rules.

Libraries

- ► State Reopening Taskforce has created guidelines for libraries.

- ► **Employees**
  - ► Wear cloth masks, have hand sanitizer available, stagger shifts/work to allow social distancing, screen for illness.

- ► **Public**
  - ► Limit public to less than 50% capacity, wear cloth masks, assign staff to monitor social distancing, institute curbside pickup, allow self-checkout.

- ► **Business**
  - ► Electronic transactions preferred, enhanced cleaning protocols, plexiglass barriers, suspend food/drink offerings, continue to allow remote work, quarantine books for 72 hours, offer remote services as much as possible.

Libraries: Part 2

- ▶ N.H. Library Association has also created guidance.

- ▶ Very detailed – 38 pages long.

  - ▶ Envisions 6-stage reopening, focusing on digital delivery of services, and movement toward allowing more people into the library, with an eventual result of a full reopening with enhanced digital services.

  - ▶ Walks through the process of reopening – from basic questions to ask regarding roles and responsibilities of governing body and employees to how to accommodate shifts in workload, work schedule, and interaction with public.

- ▶ http://nhlibrarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FINAL-Reopening-NH-Libraries-Task-Force-Best-Practices-5_20_2020.pdf

ADAPT

Planning for the Future

- The future is uncertain, but we do know a few things:
    - The Governor cannot prevent out-of-staters from entering New Hampshire.
    - Record setting outbreaks are happening in most other states.
- Set up your reopening team.
- Make your plan
    - Remember to ask what happens if you have an outbreak.
    - Note that it's a relatively good time to acquire supplies.
- Schedule routine "reviews" new guidance and then-current circumstances.
    - Keep in mind that changing circumstances may necessitate more frequent meetings.
    - Change your rules to suit then-current guidance and circumstances.

Resources

- *DPHS Weekly Webinar Series*
- *Listserv Messages*
- *Safer at Home 2.0 Guidance*

https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2020/20200501-stay-at-home.htm

- Economic Reopening Task Force

https://www.nheconomy.com/reopeningtaskforce

- NHMA COVID-19 Resources

https://www.nhmunicipal.org/covid-19-resources

- *AG's Office*
  - (603) 271-1225 eo40issues@doj.nh.gov
- *Weekly EOC Call for Locals*
  - Participant Dial-In 800-356-8278
  - Code: 985396
- *DPHS HOLU Unit:*
  - healthofficer@dhhs.nh.gov
  - (603) 271-4072

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Guidance Documents

▶ NHMA COVID-19: Public Meetings, Town Meetings & Elections: https://www.nhmunicipal.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/2020-03-18_town_meeting_public_meetings_update_0.pdf

▶ Universal Guidelines (Reopening Taskforce): https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/files/inline-documents/guidance-universal.pdf

▶ Retail Guidelines (Reopening Taskforce): https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/files/inline-documents/guidance-retail.pdf

▶ Libraries (Reopening Taskforce): https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/files/inline-documents/guidance-libraries.pdf

▶ Libraries (NHLA): http://nhlibrarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FINAL-Reopening-NH-Libraries-Task-Force-Best-Practices-5_20_2020.pdf

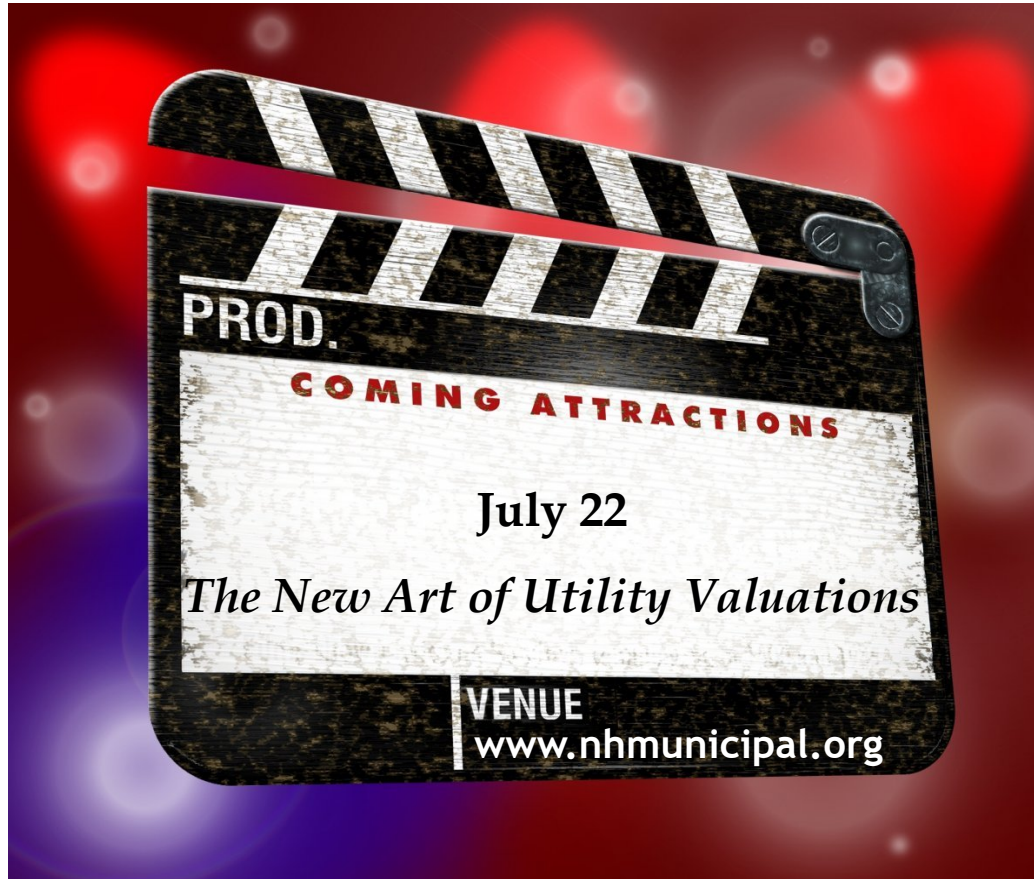NH DIVISION OF
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