

# Briefing on COVID-19

**Jan Malcolm, Commissioner**  
**Minnesota Department of Health**

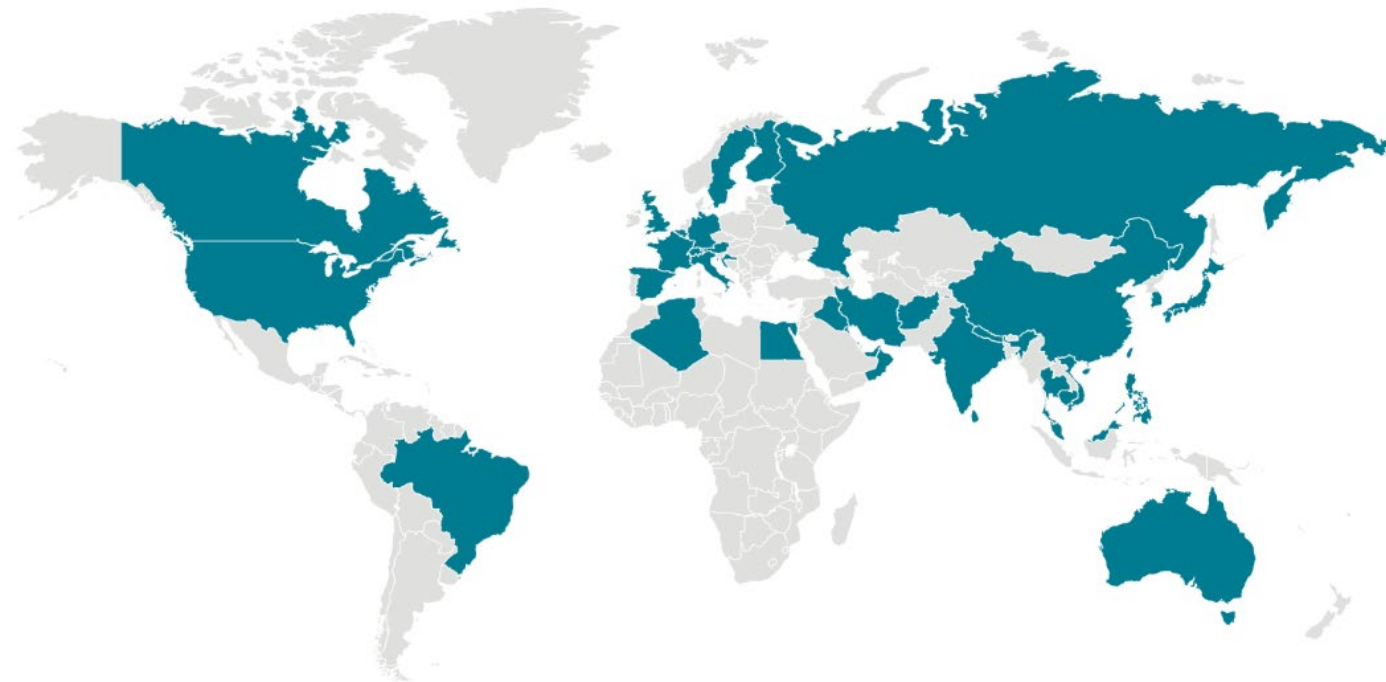
PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

## Spread of Coronavirus:

- 82,446 cases and (2,808 deaths) as of Feb 27
- Majority of cases & deaths in China
- Cases confirmed in multiple other countries
- COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in US:
  - 15 confirmed cases
- COVID-19 Cases among Persons Repatriated to the United States:
  - 39 Positive tests
    - 3 Wuhan, China
    - 42 Diamond Princess Cruise Ship

## Locations with Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

As of February 27, 2020



# Federal Approach to Novel Coronavirus



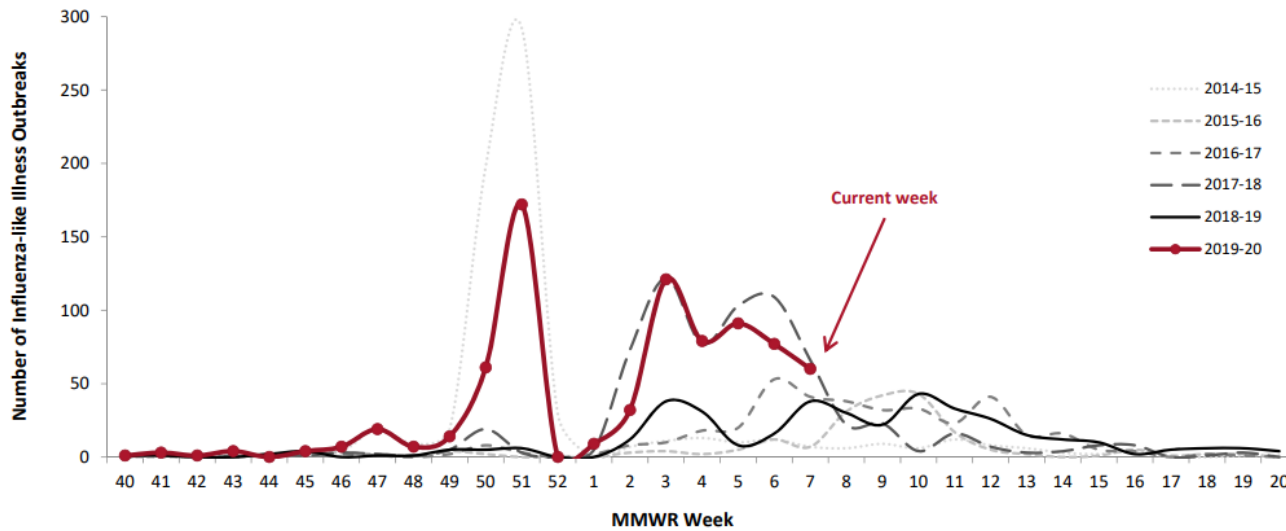
- The U.S. response to the outbreak is multilayered-- and currently continues to focus on travelers.
- The goal is to **slow the spread and distribute the impact of this virus** so health care system is not overwhelmed.
- The increasing spread in multiple countries suggests that we must increase our pandemic preparedness efforts.

# Recent Comparisons

- 2009 H1N1: 1,824 hospitalized PCR- confirmed and 67 deaths from April '09 to April '10
  - Similarities: Unexpected new virus emerges with unknown lethality, no vaccine immediately available
  - Differences: Antivirals and partial immunity for H1N1, unlike COVID-19
- 2017-18 Seasonal influenza: 6,288 people hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed influenza and 435 deaths

# Influenza Activity in Minnesota to date

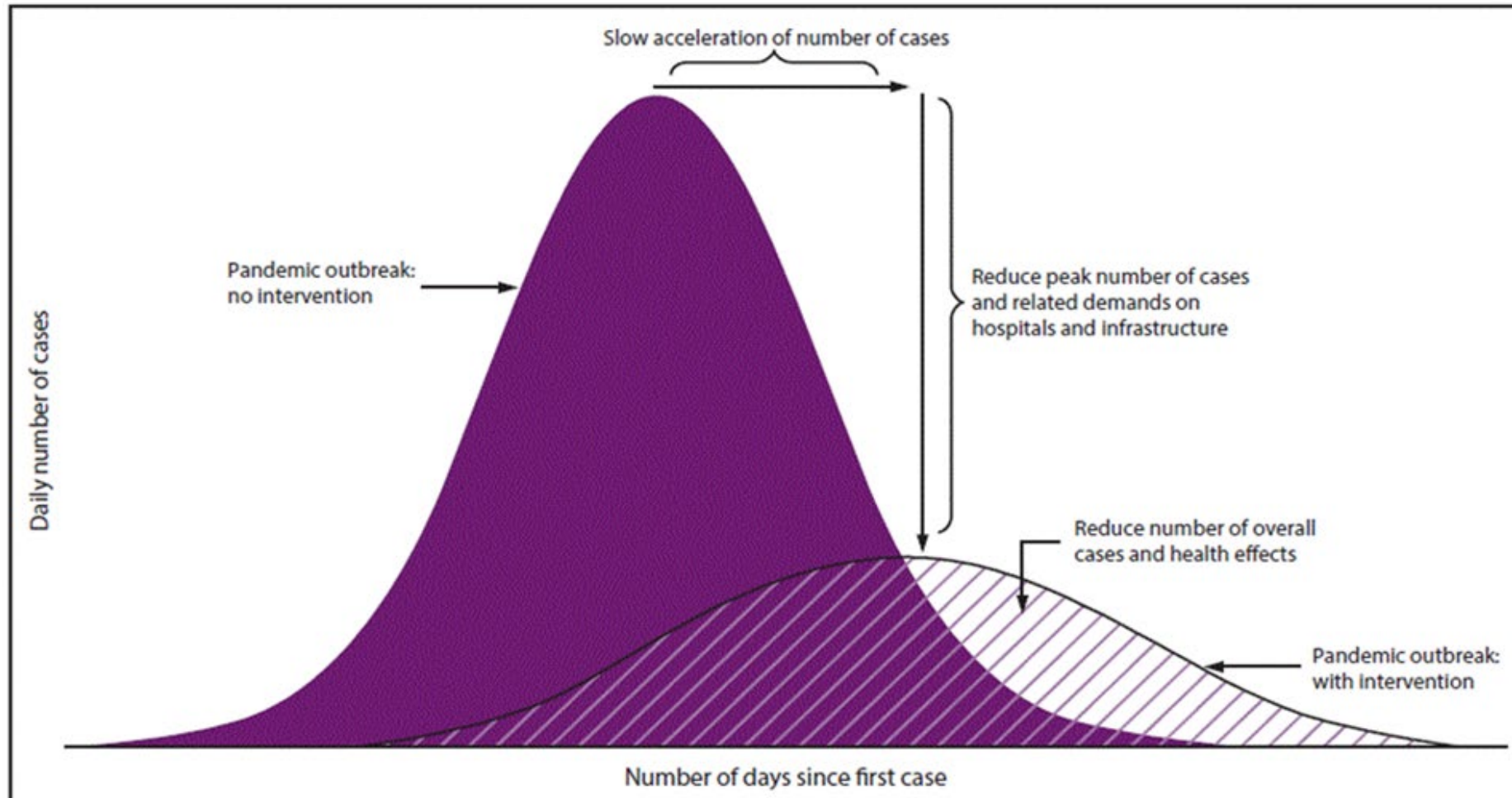
Influenza-like Illness (ILI) in Schools by Season



New school outbreaks this week	New school outbreaks last week	Total this season (to date)
60	77	762

- We are experiencing widespread activity
- We have had 2,872 hospitalizations to date
- There have been 68 deaths , 2 of them pediatric
- 823 outbreaks of influenza-like illness in K-12 schools
- 72 outbreaks of influenza in LTCF
- The percent of influenza tests that are positive is 34%

# Purpose of Pandemic Intervention



# Phases to COVID-19 Response

- **Containment** (handful of cases)
  - When a first case is identified in MN, we will focus on isolation, contact identification, and quarantine.
- **Community mitigation** (multiple cases from different areas/exposures)
  - Consider school closings, cancel large community events, promote virtual/video faith services, etc.
- **Pandemic management** (widespread transmission – hundreds of cases from across the state)
  - Provide oversight and management of scarce resources, continue to encourage self-isolation



# Minnesota's Response to Date

- No cases identified in Minnesota
- Health officials getting information to public
  - Community groups
  - Schools (K-12 and Higher Ed)
  - Health care providers
  - Local public health
- MDH getting daily calls about people with respiratory symptoms and recent travel
  - Flu or other common illnesses most likely causes





# Minnesota's Response to Date, Cross-agency Coordination

- Cross-agency coordination
  - Joint Information Center (JIC) since early February for state, local public health public information officers
  - MDH, Department of Public Safety (DPS) establishing JIC for state agency communicators
  - MDH emergency preparedness team working with DPS/Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) on coordination across state agency operations, planning functions



# Minnesota's Response to Date, Health Care Coordination

- Coordination with health care sector
  - In weekly calls with hospitals, health care providers to share updates and identify, address any resource challenges that arise
  - If we see significant spread of COVID-19 in community, we work with health care providers to implement “Crisis Standard of Care” framework
  - Framework includes everything from delaying elective surgeries to setting up emergency beds and if needed, rationing supplies



# Protective Recommendations for Public, Standard Guidance

- Standard guidance for avoiding respiratory infections also applies for COVID-19:
  - Stay home when sick
  - Cover your cough
  - Wash your hands well
  - Avoid touching your face – especially eyes, nose, and mouth



# Protective Recommendations for Public, Preparing for Potential Community Spread

- Preparing for Potential Community Spread
  - CDC goal is to slow spread, reduce impacts on communities, health care sector
  - Now is the time for individuals and organizations to firm up plans/readiness
  - Key considerations for businesses:
    - Capacity for employees to work from home
    - Encourage ill workers to stay home
  - Key considerations for individuals:
    - Discuss backup plans for child care
    - Consider options for other key services



# Protective Recommendations for Public, Keeping Informed

- Keeping informed
  - [CDC website \(www.cdc.gov\)](http://www.cdc.gov)
  - [Minnesota Department of Health website \(www.health.state.mn.us\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us)



# Thank You!

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