



Russell Meyers, CEO of Midland Health

COVID-19 Daily Briefing: Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Transcribed from a previously recorded live event.

Midland Health's portion selected out of the Unified Command Team Meeting.

Mr. Meyers: This is the briefing from the Unified Command Team for Tuesday, April 7th, 2020. You'll notice I had a mask on when I came to the podium and will discuss new CDC recommendations for masking in the community in just a moment. But first I'd like to give you a few numbers. In the state of Texas now almost 7,300 cases in the state. In Midland County, the state's data base says 24 cases. I think we may be up to 27 actually. It's a little bit of a lag in reporting. 140 deaths reported across Texas and 1 in Midland County.

Testing from the hospital's testing site has improved pretty dramatically. We've tested over 500 patients now and only 35 results remain outstanding. All of the long-term backlog has been removed. That did not result in a lot of new positives. We have only 22 positives that have come from the 500+ tests that we have administered through the hospital's various sites.

Hospital census activity in the hospital itself, overall there is 115 patients today. Still less than 50% occupancy. The ER had a few more patients yesterday at 103, but still well below what we typically see at this time of the year.

In the hospital itself there are 16 patients in critical care, 4 of those critical care patients are PUIs with suspicion of COVID infection. We have 18 of those PUIs in our newly established 30 bed COVID unit in the hospital. So, the medical surgical population is now 18, the critical care population is 4 for a total of 22 PUIs in the hospital. Of those 22, I believe only 2 are positive confirmed. Three of those 4 patients in critical care are on vents. Total ventilators in use is 10 in the hospital of our 44 complement of full-service ventilators. So, still ample capacity remaining for ventilators, critical care space, and overall hospital capacity.

This morning I'd like to offer a little bit of recognition to our materials management team. Every day every conversation begins with the adequacy of our PPE supply. It has been steadily growing through the work of our creative team in materials management, finding new sources, assuring that those sources of gear are legitimate. There are lots of them out there that are not. Certainly, a number of Chinese manufacturers have sprung up that are not approved by the FDA and are not legitimate. We are being offered things from all over the world. And so, our team has to be very careful about vetting each potential distributor. We have found masks in all different kinds of places. Both the traditional American N95 mask and the KN95 mask which are a little bit more abundant. That's the Asian version of the N95. It looks a little bit different, but still works. So, praise and thanks to our team in materials management for the creativity that they have shown in helping us to find all of the materials that we need to keep our staff safe.

Now, speaking of remaining safe, I'd like to call Kit Bredimus to the podium. Kit is Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer and he has some tips to share with you about the use of cloth masks in the community. Kit-



Dr. Bredimus: Thank you Russell. Alright so I am going to be talking about cloth mask usage. I know there are a lot of questions out there about what constitutes a cloth mask and what we can use to protect ourselves out there. I'm going to go over 2 different types. One is the simple loop mask. That is mainly what we are seeing now. This is made from one of our volunteers that have donated to the hospital. And the biggest points to remember is this is all about source control. This is to prevent you from coughing, sneezing, and protecting others from you spreading the disease when you may not know that you have it. There is asymptomatic transmission. So, the main point of this is to help in situations when you have to be out in public and where social distancing is going to be a challenge. So, first I'm going to show the simple loop mask. One of the biggest things to remember is to wash your hands before you touch the mask and before you put it on you need to clean your hands. You'll put the mask on, wrap it around the ears, and it can be a little hard to hear me, so I'll try to get really close to the microphone. Once it's been looped, then you'll make sure not to try to touch the front of the mask. You'll just make sure you have a nice fit around the sides. So, you'll see that it goes firm against the face and it just covers the mouth. It doesn't have to cover a massive expanse just the nose and the mouth. When taking it off again I'm going to wash my hands and take it off without touching the front of the mask. If you choose to make one with ties, that's another option. You'll start again with not touching the mask itself. You'll hold it by the ties. You'll start with the top ties first and then you'll move down to the bottom ties. And again, it doesn't have to be very tight. It just needs to be firm against the sides of the face here. And again, it's just covering my nose and my mouth. When taking it off it's going to be the reverse process. You're going to start with the bottom tie first. That way the mask is still covering. It's not folding down yet. And then you'll take off the top ties and remove the mask like so. Again, not touching the front of the mask and not messing with it and rearranging it a lot. That's again, one of the main modes of transmission is going to be from soiled hands. So, making sure that you're not constantly touching your face, touching your eyes, and adjusting the mask. You'll keep in on until you need to take it off. So, we also don't want to see wearing it around the neck or anything like that. That doesn't do any good. You're just going to make sure that you keep it on until you're going to take it off. A few other things I want to just mention. It is not recommended to put a mask on a child under the age of two. Babies and infants don't have the ability to remove the mask if they are having trouble breathing. And if you've ever tried to put a mask on a 2-year-old, they are going to touch their face 10x more when you do that. So, again it's going to make sure that you are just protecting them from being in public groups. It can be outside. In this setting right here (outside), we wouldn't necessarily need a mask if we are more than 6-10 feet apart and we are in a pretty spaced area where the wind can carry droplet particulate. Also, in cleaning these. When you have a mask, you need to make sure that you keep it clean. This can be done daily by just simple soap and water. You can put it in the washing machine and dry it or you can even wash it by hand. Please do not microwave these. If you microwave a mask, I know that there is a post on social media that talks about microwaving masks, this poses a fire hazard. They will catch on fire and then you'll have a lot bigger issue to worry about. So, just washing. You can air dry them or you can dry them on low heat in the washing machine. So, with that I'll open to any questions if anybody has any questions.