

CHANGES to 911 Medical Response

Summary

- As of today, March 23, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of CoVID-19 in Cook County.
 - 235 cases in Minnesota, 2 in St. Louis County
 - The unusual influx of seasonal residents and visitors raises the likelihood that confirmed cases will appear soon. **Minimize non-essential contact to protect yourself and others**
- Cook County is introducing procedures to protect our community
- Call 911 for all medical emergencies.
 - The 911 dispatcher will ask you a series of questions to screen for respiratory problems
- For non-emergencies, call the clinic for an appointment – 218-387-2330.
 - Before giving you an appointment, the Triage nurse will ask you screening questions
 - On arrival, you will be screened at the entrance
- **DO NOT** go to the Emergency Room or Sawtooth Mountain Clinic as a walk-in!
 - You will **NOT** be allowed inside
- The hospital will admit **ONLY** patients with **life-threatening** conditions
- **NO** family members or visitors will be admitted
- When responders arrive at your home, they will screen the patient **and** household members.

Screening includes:

- Questions about travel
- Questions about trouble breathing, shortness of breath, fever

CoVID-19 in Cook County?

As of today, there have been no confirmed cases of CoVID-19 in Cook County. But as we have been hearing, it is not a question of *if*, *but when* it arrives in Cook County.

At his time of year, the Gunflint Trail usually has a population of about 1,000 residents. During the summer season, the population swells to about 10,000 *residents*, not including visitors. Due to the current situation, many seasonal residents who are rarely here in the winter have chosen to come up now. For planning purposes, a population of 3000 is reasonable.

Not as a prediction, but **ONLY** to consider the scale of what we *might* be facing, a 20% infection rate [which is a low estimate] would mean 600 Infected people.

Most of these will not be seriously ill, but in other parts of the U. S., about 20% of those infected are hospitalized. That means it's reasonable to plan for 120 ambulance calls for hospitalizations over this disease cycle. Typically, about 30 of those hospitalized patients would require an ICU and a ventilator.

To put this in context,

- Gunflint Trail VFD averages about 20-30 calls per year
- **The hospital has 16 beds** for the entire county
- **There are NO ICU beds** in Cook County, and only 1 ventilator

Social distancing will slow down the spread...120 ambulance calls over the next year is one thing . . . 120 calls over the next couple months would be much more difficult to handle. So it is VITALLY important that we protect ALL our responders, as well as the public.

- **Enjoy the outdoors, alone or with household members**
- **Minimize contact with others.**
- **When packages arrive by mail, UPS, FedEx, etc., leave them for a day to give any virus they may have picked up along the way a chance to degrade.**
- **Even if you feel you are healthy, 10' tall and bulletproof, follow the social distancing rules. That will protect others. The grandparents you save may be your own!**
- **And, of course, wash your hands frequently.**