Transit’s Response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
March 5, 2020
Media Advisory

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To set up an interview with an expert, please contact T.J. Doyle at tdoyle@apta.com or Chad Chitwood at cchitwood@apta.com.
Moderator

Jeffery Nelson
APTA Vice Chair
General Manager, MetroLink
Moline, IL
Thinking Strategically: Planning Your Response

- Identification of Alert Phases that Trigger Specific Action
- Information and Education Programs
- Decontamination Program
- Sanitary Aids to Limit Spread
- Service Reduction, Shutdown, and Restoration
Today’s Presenters

Betty Hasserjian
Acting Chief Safety Officer
TTC
Toronto, ON

Karl Gnadt
General Manager
Champaign-Urbana MTD
Urbana, IL

Kenneth Hernandez
Chief Risk Safety and Asset Management Officer
LA Metro
Los Angeles, CA

Esmeralda Meyer
M.D., JM.
Associate Biosafety Officer
Environmental Health and Safety Office
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
What to Expect

• Topic Overview
• Industry Presentations
• Panel Member Dialogue
• Audience Q&A and Discussions
• Wrap Up
Audience Questions

To submit a question or comment to the moderator during the session or during the Q&A, please type it into the Question box on your screen and then click on the send arrow located at the bottom of the box.
Session Presenter

Betty Hasserjian
Acting Chief Safety Officer
Toronto Transit Commission
Toronto, ON
TTC Approach to Previous High Profile Infectious Diseases

**SARS (2003)** was circulating within health care facilities but not within the community.

Key actions included:

- Working closely with local public health department and City’s Office of Emergency Management
- Regular employee updates
- Emphasis on infectious disease prevention
- Stock piling PPE and equipment
- Respirators for Paratransit operators (higher risk of exposure) due to close contact with customers and trips to and from healthcare facilities

**H1N1 (2009)** was circulating within the community. Key actions included the above plus stockpiling of antivirals.
TTC Approach to COVID-19

The approach to COVID-19 has been similar to SARS. Additional actions include:

• Conference call with the City
• Operational conference calls to provide COVID-19 updates
• Increased disinfection
• Review and update of Pandemic Plan
• Continuity of Operations Plans
• Development of guides to assist front line supervisors
• Meetings with concerned work groups
• Town hall meetings with the City’s Medical Officer of Health
• Information sharing with regional transportation agencies
Moderator / Presenter Conversations

Jeffery Nelson
APTA Vice Chair
General Manager
MetroLink
Moline, IL

Betty Hasserjian
Acting Chief
Safety Officer
TTC
Toronto, ON
Session Presenter

Karl Gnadt
General Manager
Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
Urbana, IL
Communications

Employees
• Group Messages
• Committee Meetings

Community
• Pass Along CDC/WHO Messages – Not Creating Our Own

Partners
• Champaign County Emergency Management Agency
• University of Illinois
• Champaign County Public Health District
Actions

Employees
• Hand Sanitizers

Fleet
• Regularly disinfect using Electrostatic Sprayer / disinfectant spray
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MetroLink
Moline, IL

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General Manager
Champaign-Urbana MTD
Urbana, IL
Session Presenter

Kenneth Hernandez
Chief Risk, Safety and Asset Management Officer
Los Angeles Metro
Los Angeles, CA
LA Metro Actions to Date

- Issued two internal communication memos to all staff – providing facts and information about COVID-19
- Specifically addressed the use of additional PPE (i.e. masks) based on CDC/LACDPH guidance
- Memo from CEO to all staff, Board of Directors, Labor Leaders, and Municipal Operators
- Distributed educational material on hand hygiene and safe coughing etiquette
- Activated a multi-disciplinary Task Force to maintain direct communications with local health agencies and discuss action plans
LA Metro Actions to Date

• Installed posters at all operating facilities informing employees about COVID-19, symptoms of the disease, and preventive measures to take to minimize risk of infection
• Distributed video link on seasonal flu to play on monitors at all operating facilities
• Taskforce recommended procuring personal hand sanitizer bottles for distribution to front line employees
• Met with LACDPH staff to discuss additional proactive actions
• Conducted inventory of N-95 masks currently available at agency
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Q&A With Today’s Presenters

Jeffery Nelson

Betty Hasserjian

Karl Gnadt

Kenneth Hernandez

Dr. Esmeralda Meyer
Resources

• APTA.com Resource Page

• Developing a Contagious Virus Response Plan (APTA SS-S-SEM-005-09)

• TCRP Public Transit Emergency Preparedness Against Ebola and Other Infectious Diseases: Legal Issues
  http://www.trb.org/Publications/Blurbs/176090.aspx

• CDC National Pandemic Strategy

• CDC’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) communication resource videos

• Occupational Safety and Health Administration 2019 Novel Coronavirus Guidance
  https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/
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