

A novel coronavirus, designated as 2019-nCoV, emerged in Wuhan, China, at the end of December 2019. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has spread to all continents except Antarctica, with more new cases appearing outside of China than inside of China near the end of February 2020. COVID-19 cases in the United States have transitioned from travelers to community spread, and states must adjust their planning and response to this change.

### IEM's Coronavirus Support for HHS

IEM is currently supporting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and their Exercise, Evaluation and After-Action Division to develop a Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) tabletop exercise (TTX) series intended for senior Federal decision makers. Support is ongoing.

### State and Local Readiness

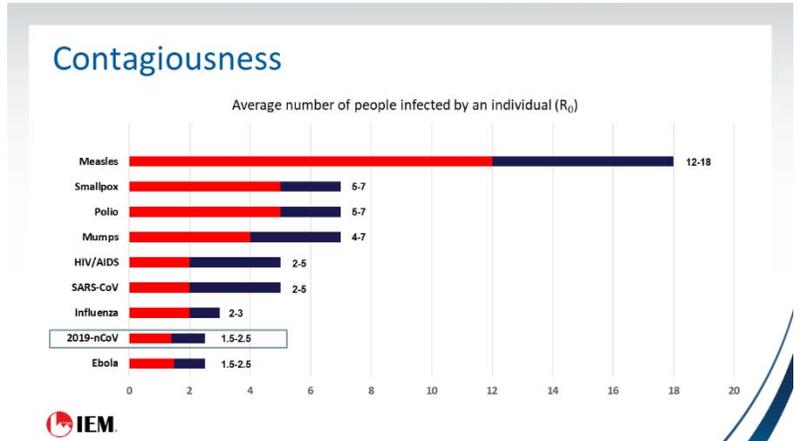
In light of the recent spike of U.S. COVID-19 cases through community spread, IEM stands ready to assist state and locals with **COVID-19 tabletop exercises for senior elected officials** to support **public health and emergency management planning and response** efforts.

To ensure that your government is ready to address a COVID-19 pandemic, IEM designs, develops and delivers innovative tabletop exercises to serve as a **planning tool for key decision makers** and helps **guide actions**, including determining **key trigger points** for various activities. We use state-of-the-art tools and technologies to build credible consequence predictions drive a real scenario-based exercise.

Our COVID-19 tabletop exercise will ensure that your emergency response and pandemic plans and procedures work and that your team is ready to respond. Specifically, IEM will help you and your team:

- Validate your plans and assumptions;
- Clarify roles and responsibilities; and
- Identify liabilities in the system and create solutions to address them.

Through our **COVID-19 Tabletop Exercise**, the IEM team will run **senior decision makers** through a series of scenarios to **exercise current plans and policies** and **to test the "systems" and measures in place**. Following the exercise, IEM is able to aid in drafting or revising pandemic response plans or other solutions for issues/challenges that are identified through the exercise.



### Previous HHS Project Highlight

**Crimson Contagion:** IEM provided exercise last summer leading up to and during the HHS full-scale exercise called “Crimson Contagion” (a pandemic influenza scenario). Crimson Contagion was conducted August 13-16, 2019, and was the largest functional exercise ever conducted by HHS covering all ten HHS and FEMA regions, 12 states, and all four time zones in the continental United States. This exercise focused on a whole community response and policy issues of workforce viability; critical infrastructure protection; economic impact; non-pharmaceutical interventions; scarce resource allocation; prioritization of vaccines and other countermeasures; and medical surge operations. Leading up to Crimson Contagion, IEM worked with the states participating in the exercise to provide them with the epidemiological data they would need for the exercise. During the exercise, IEM provided states with their expected state-specific medical case-load on a daily basis. Some states requested a high number of minimum cases (1,000 to 2,000+) so that the state and local epidemiology teams could work on their contact-tracing procedures. Many states praised IEM’s support leading up to the exercise and stated that they could not have met their exercise goals and objectives without IEM’s assistance.

### IEM’s Public Health Experience

**IEM’s public health and pandemic data and modeling expertise is world class.** Our pandemic and medical countermeasures (MCM) modeling work remains the basis for federal government policies and plans that are use today. Our team works every day **to enable data-driven planning in the federal, state, local, and territorial government and the private sector.** We help **public health agencies and healthcare organizations overcome the challenges** they face preparing for emergencies and disasters. For over 15 years, IEM has supported HHS in their **planning and modeling for pandemics and MCM requirements**, including various federal interagency working groups to develop **vetted disease models for all Category A and some Category B biological agents.** Our modeling work transformed planning for national and regional medical countermeasures. IEM professionals have first-hand public health and medical services knowledge and expertise. Our staff of experts includes medical preparedness and response planners, epidemiologists, disease progression modelers, former hospital emergency managers, and public health policy analysts. They are experienced clinicians in the areas of public health, emergency care, critical care, medical-surgical, hospital administration, and emergency medical services.

### Key IEM Team Members

**Bryan Koon** is the former Director at the Florida Division of Emergency Management and serves as IEM’s Vice President of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Koon has spent his career focused on improving emergency response operations and engaging communities in becoming better prepared for emergencies and disasters.

**Dr. Sid Baccam** is IEM’s Computational Epidemiologist expert with more than 20 years of experience in medical consequence modeling and simulation of disease outbreaks following hypothetical attacks with biological agents and emerging infectious diseases. He develops key simulation models and decision support tools, specializing in public health, disaster response, and medical countermeasures to enhance data-driven decision making.

IEM will help you exercise and consider **Key Decisions Points** for State and Local Officials, such as:

- Continuity of Operations Plans
  - Review and update as needed
  - Capacity for Telework
  - Modification of Operations
  - Mission Essential Functions for key agencies
- Workforce
  - Medications to staffing public agencies and venues
  - Telework capacity/agreements
  - Protection and prevent strategies
- Public Events
  - Risks
  - Alternative Plans
  - Go/No Go Decisions
- Public Spaces
  - Cleaning/Disinfecting
  - Restriction of Movement
- Communications Strategies
  - Timely creation and distribution of information (e.g., medical webinars; press conferences)
  - Internal/External Messaging

***To get started with your COVID-19 exercise or planning, contact Bryan Koon at 850-519-7966 or [bryan.koon@iem.com](mailto:bryan.koon@iem.com).***