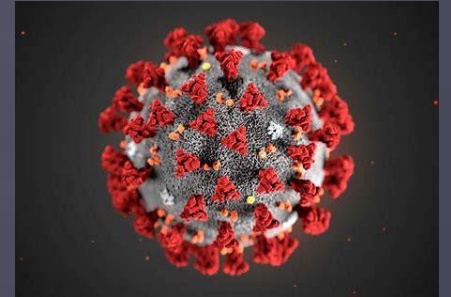


# COVID-19 UPDATE

Issues for Commercial Diving Operations in  
the Gulf of Mexico

# COVID-19 Origins

- ▣ 12/2019 – Wuhan China –
  - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 - SARS-CoV-2
  - Probable Animal Transmission from Marketplace
  - Now Human Transmission
- ▣ US cases – beginning in January 2020
- ▣ Currently - March 18, 2020
  - 204,700 Worldwide Cases / 8,270 Deaths – 4%
  - 6539 US Cases / 116 Deaths – 1.8% (Still Early in Pandemic)
  - 257 Louisiana Cases / 5 Deaths – 2% (Still Early in Pandemic)



# COVID-19 vs Flu

- ▣ COVID-19 – US (March 18, 2020)

- ▣ 6539 Cases
- ▣ 116 Deaths
- ▣ 106 Recovered

- ▣ COVID-19 – Global

- ▣ 204,700 Cases
- ▣ 8270 Deaths
- ▣ 82,868 Recovered (40.5%)

- ▣ FLU - US

- ▣ 9 to 45 Million Cases / year
- ▣ 12K to 61K Deaths / year

- ▣ FLU – Global

- ▣ One Billion Cases / year
- ▣ 291K to 646K Deaths / year

# Symptoms

- ▣ Fever ( >100.4F )
- ▣ Cough
- ▣ Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing
- ▣ Some with Chest Pain
- ▣ Some with GI Symptoms
- ▣ Symptoms usually within 2 to 14 days post exposure

# Risk Factors

- ▣ Increasing Age
  - Under 40 Less Risk but still can have severe illness
- ▣ Diabetes
- ▣ Heart Disease
- ▣ Immunosuppression
  - Chemotherapy / Newer Immunosuppressants / Steroids
- ▣ Cancer

# Transmission

- ▣ Human to Human
  - Cough
  - Sneeze
  - Hand to Face – When Touching Contaminated Surface or Contaminated Person then touching mouth, nose or eyes (eating, smoking, etc.)

# Transmission

- ▣ NEJM - “Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2...”
  - Aerosol – Up to Three Hours
  - Copper Surfaces – Up to Four Hours
  - Cardboard – Up to 24 Hours
  - Stainless Steel – Up to 2 to 3 DAYS
  - Plastic – Up to 2 to 3 DAYS
- ▣ Cleaning – Removal of dirt and impurities from surface (Soap / Water)
- ▣ Disinfecting – Using Chemical to kill germs on surface (70% Alcohol Solutions / EPA Listed Disinfectants / Bleach – 5 Tbsp / Gallon H2O)

# May Suspect COVID-19

- ▣ If you have:
  - Been in Close Contact with an Infected person
  - Have Symptoms (Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Chest Pain)
  - Recently travelled from an area with COVID-19 (China, Italy, Iran, New Orleans, Houston...)
- ▣ Contact your Personal Physician / Medical Director
  - May Quarantine in place
  - Keep **AWAY** from Healthy Persons
  - May refer to appropriate screening location for evaluation



# Suspect COVID-19

- ▣ Fever, Cough, Chest Pain, Temp >100.4F
- ▣ Patient – Wear Surgical Mask (NOT N-95 Respirator)
- ▣ ISOLATE from Other Well Employees
- ▣ PPE for Responder –
  - Face Mask – Protects from Splashes & Sprays
  - Respirator (i.e. N-95) – Filters the air (if worn properly)
  - Eye Protection - Protects from Splashes & Sprays
  - Gowns - Protects from Splashes & Sprays / High Patient Contact Tasks
- ▣ Transport via appropriate means with PPE for Transporters



# Prevention

- ▣ STAY AWAY from SICK PEOPLE
- ▣ STAY HOME if YOU ARE SICK
- ▣ Avoid touching face – nose, mouth, eyes before washing hands
- ▣ Handwashing – Minimum 20 seconds with soap and water
- ▣ Hand Sanitizers – 70% Alcohol based (Flammable)
- ▣ Cough or Sneeze into elbow or tissue

# Prevention

- ▣ Screening Employee Health Questionnaire – Start 4 days BEFORE Crew Change, 2 days and day prior to Crew Change.
  - If Positive on Questionnaires – DO NOT TRAVEL to CREW CHANGE
- ▣ Goal is to Keep Sick Employees away from Well Employees
- ▣ Do not infect others in Crew Van, at Heliport or Boat Dock
- ▣ Stay Home – Call Personal Physician for Instructions for Screening or other care
- ▣ Do Not Return Offshore until Cleared by PMD and Company Physician

# Prevention

- ▣ Clean / Disinfect at least twice daily – Work Areas, Living Areas, Door Knobs, Handrails, Tables, Desks, Phones, Keyboards, Faucets, Toilets, Light Switches
- ▣ Disinfect Chamber – Inside, Controls, Hatch, Coms
- ▣ Disinfect - Bibs, Hat – After each use
- ▣ EPA Disinfectants for COVID-19
  - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

# Prevention

- ▣ Strict Compliance with Health Screening Questionnaire
- ▣ Add COVID-19 Update to daily Safety Briefings
- ▣ Encourage:
  - Social Distancing – Greater than 6 Feet
  - Hand washing at least hourly and after touching any contaminated surface
  - DO NOT touch your face – eyes, nose or mouth

# Offshore Employee with Suspected COVID-19

- ▣ Isolate from Others
- ▣ Follow Company Policy / Procedures for:
  - Quarantine – Individual / Other Workers?
  - Transportation to Shore Based Care
    - ▣ Notifications – USCG / BSEE / Healthcare Provider / Transporters
  - Disinfecting Employee Room / Other Shared Objects
- ▣ Usual Evaluation – FLU Screen
  - If Positive manage as usual for Flu – HOME until well; Monitor other workers
  - If Negative – May meet criteria for COVID-19 Screen
  - Should have medical records review / evaluation prior to RTW

# Medical Care

- ▣ Most Only Need Supportive Treatment – Fluids, Rest
  - 80% are OK to stay at home
- ▣ May need higher level of care if Respiratory Distress
  - IV Fluids, Oxygen Therapy – 15%
  - Ventilatory Support – 5% are critically ill
- ▣ Research in Progress
  - Vaccines
  - Anti-Viral Medications

# COVID-19 Impact on Offshore Work

- ▣ Travel Restrictions
  - Three Levels – Precautions / Postpone / Restrict
  - Travel Bans from Other Countries
  - Limited Domestic Flights
  - Limitations to Travel When ILL
- ▣ Transportation - Risk during Transportation and while waiting for Transportation
  - Risk to Van Drivers, Pilots, Boat Crew, Co-Workers if Employee is Contagious
  - When Transporting Ill Employees, Van Driver – Wear PPE (N-95 Respirator)
  - Keep Social Distancing with Ill Employee (Van vs. Front Passenger Seat)
  - Most Ill Employees Offshore will be Medically Evacuated – Flight Crew with PPE



# COVID-19 Impact on Offshore Work

- ▣ Today the Safest Place is Offshore – If no other employees are ill
- ▣ Symptoms – Initially similar to other Viral Upper Respiratory Illnesses
  - Difficult to tell from Flu by Symptoms – Should not be Offshore with Either
- ▣ Manning / Staffing Issues –
  - Staff Essential Employees; May release Non-Essential Employees
  - Outbreak offshore may warrant quarantine of vessel / rig / platform
  - Pandemic may result in too many ill to crew change
  - Need a stable base of essential positions to replace ill employees

# COVID-19 Impact on Offshore Work

- ▣ Surface Dives with minimal Decompression – Not much of an Issue if NOT ILL same day
- ▣ Saturation Work – If ILL during Sat, could become a significant medical management issue.
  - Screening Questionnaire
  - Enhanced Personal Hygiene – Add Scheduled Hygiene Breaks
  - Enhanced Cleaning Schedule
  - NO ONE TOPSIDE SICK that could contaminate Chamber

# Resources

- ▣ American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine / ACOEM
  - [www.ocoem.org](http://www.ocoem.org)
- ▣ EPA COVID-19 Disinfectants
  - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- ▣ Prevention for those confined at home
  - <https://files.constantcontact.com/dd5f31ef601/017414b5-669a-4861-8dcb-5b59466ac1a9.pdf>
- ▣ Infection Control for Healthcare Facilities
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronaviruss%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronaviruss%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html)

# Resources

- ▣ Louisiana Dept of Health – COVID-19 Update
  - <http://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus/>
- ▣ Johns Hopkins Interactive COVID-19 Map
  - <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- ▣ CDC Maritime Guidance
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html>
- ▣ CDC Traveler Guidance
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- ▣ NEJM – Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2
  - <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>

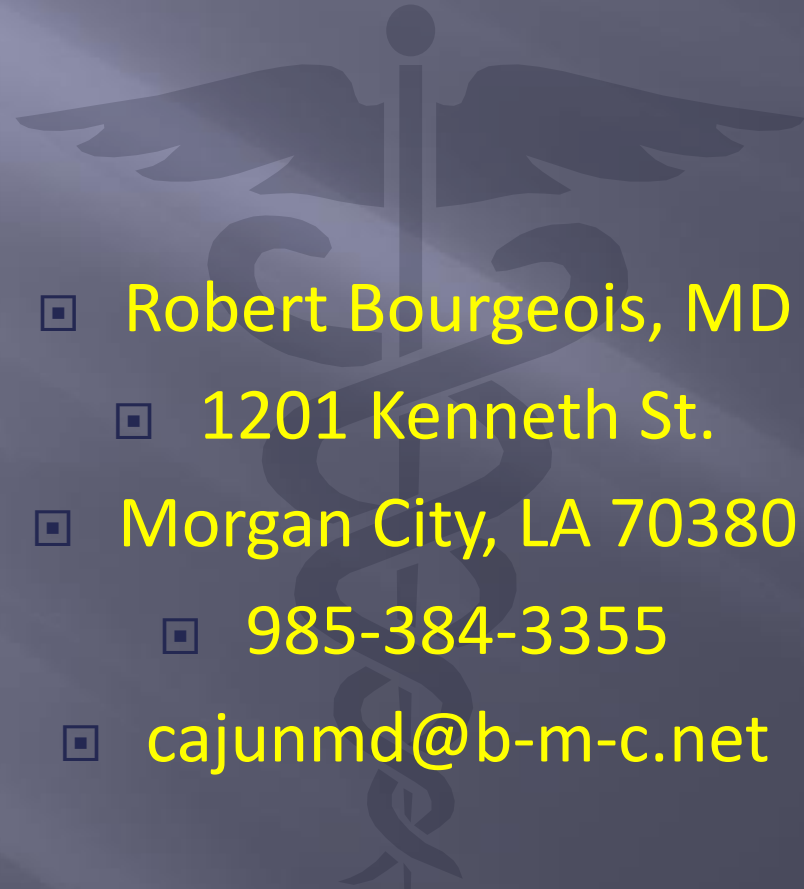
# Return to Normal Activity

- ▣ Updated clinical guidance to return to normal activity after being in isolation for suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- ▣ Please use the following updated symptom-based strategy to return to normal activity following a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19: Continue isolation until:
  - ▣ At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
  - ▣ At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

# “Coming to a Place Near You”



# Questions



- ▣ Robert Bourgeois, MD
  - ▣ 1201 Kenneth St.
- ▣ Morgan City, LA 70380
  - ▣ 985-384-3355
- ▣ [cajunmd@b-m-c.net](mailto:cajunmd@b-m-c.net)