City Manager's Report

COVID-19 Update

March 10, 2020

City of Asheville
Buncombe County
Buncombe County Public Health
Emergency Management
Asheville Fire

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COVID-19 Current Situation

- Buncombe County Public Health lead agency for preparation and response to COVID-19 outbreak
- Seven confirmed cases in NC
- One confirmed case in Spartanburg SC
- Prevention and preparation primary focus within community
- Risk in community remains low
- Accurate information to community priority

COVID-19 Current Actions

- Weekly EPI-Team meeting with community partners
- Joint Information Center activated
- Weekly media briefings
- Enhanced call screenings at 911 Center
- Consistent messaging to community and staffs

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COVID-19 Current Actions

- EPI-Team coordinating preparation efforts
  - Community partners provided information from CDC & NC Department of Public Health
  - Includes public sector and private industry community members
  - Additional community partners added every meeting
  - Meetings began almost three weeks ago

COVID-19 Current Actions

- Joint Information Center (JIC) established by BC Public Health
  - Resources on prevention and preparation for community
  - Multiple agencies supporting JIC, including COA CAPE
  - Updating website regularly most accurate information
    - COA messaging focused on directing to JIC for consistency

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COVID-19 Current Actions

- EMS procedures modified to limit responder exposures
  - 911 Center additional Emergency Medical Dispatch questions
    - Implemented over two weeks ago
  - High risk calls not sending first responders, EMS only
  - Stressing use of Personal Protective Equipment for all personnel
  - Coordinating closely with hospitals in region

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COVID-19 Current Actions

- COA efforts focused on supporting community and staff
  - Reviewing Continuity Of Operations Plan for all departments
  - Accurate and timely information to staff
  - Proactively planning utilizing past experiences of Novel Infections (H1-N1, SARS)
  - Collaboration with BC Emergency Management & Public Health

COVID-19 Resources

- BC Public Health
- NC Dept HHS
- CDC

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Conclusions

- High level of collaboration between BC and COA
  - Public Health coordinating prevention and response
  - Prevention key to minimizing effects of outbreak

- Questions

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