**Recommendation for Mitigation Strategies for Town of Brookline, MA**

**By Brookline Public Health and Human Services (3/23/20)**

***Goals: The goals for using mitigation strategies for the Town of Brookline at this time are to protect:***

* Individuals at risk for severe illness, including persons of any age with underlying health conditions including immune suppression and especially seniors with underlying health conditions
* The healthcare workforce and critical infrastructure workforces
* These approaches are used to minimize morbidity and mortality caused by COVID-19 and minimize social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Individuals, communities, businesses, and healthcare organizations are all part of a community mitigation strategy.

***Implementation emphasizes***:

* Emphasizing individual responsibility for implementation of recommended personal-level actions
* Empowering businesses, schools, and community organizations to implement recommended actions, particularly in ways that protect persons at risk of severe illness such as older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions (e.g., people requiring dialysis, or those with congestive heart failure)
* Focusing on settings that provide critical services to implement recommended actions to protect critical infrastructure and individuals at risk of severe disease
* Minimizing disruptions to daily life to the extent possible

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| Every Individual and Family at Home | * Monitor local information about COVID-19 in your community. <http://Brooklinecovid19.com>.
* Practice personal protective measures (e.g. hand washing).
* Put household plan into action
* Ensure 30 day supply of all medicines.
* Individuals at risk of severe illness should stay at home and avoid any gatherings
* Other individuals without such risk factors should adapt to disruptions in routine activities (e.g., school and/or work closures) by using remote participation such as telework where feasible or online classes or home study (E-learning). No gatherings
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| Every School/childcare | * Schools closed and childcare closing except for essential function personnel
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| Every assisted living facility, Senior living facility and adult day program  | * Implement social distancing measures, e.g.:
* Cancel any gatherings
* Limit programs with external staff
* Daily upon arrival temperature and respiratory symptom screening of attendees, staff. Staff should wear masks and wash hands thoroughly before entering.
* Suspend of new admissions to facilities
* Short-term closures as needed (e.g., if cases in staff, residents or clients who live elsewhere) for cleaning and contact tracing
* Longer-term closure or quarantine of facility until situation resolves.
* Suspend visitor access but arrange for alternate means for family members to communicate (e.g., staff assists with phone calls or videoconferences with visitors).
* Exceptions for end-of-life family visits need to be considered, with limited access of visitors to other areas or people in the facility and these patients should be in a different areas to ensure other clients are not exposed to outside guests.
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| Every Workplace | * Encourage staff to telework
* Provide sick leave for every employee with symptoms of COVID19 whether isolated or quarantine
* Implement social distancing measures, e.g.: Spacing workers at the worksite
* Staggering work schedules
* Decreasing social contacts in the workplace (limit in-person meetings)
* All break areas must accommodate distancing with regular disinfection of all eating surfaces
* Eliminate large work-related gatherings (e.g., staff meetings)
* Must have hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol
* Postpone non-essential work travel
* Regular health checks on arrival each day (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) of staff and visitors entering buildings.
* Implement extended telework arrangements (when feasible)
* Ensure flexible leave policies for staff that need to stay home due to school/childcare dismissals and to encourage individuals to stay home if they are sick.
* Cancel work-sponsored conferences, tradeshows, etc.
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| Every Community and Faith-based Organization | * Implement social distancing. Reduce activities (e.g., religious services, group congregation), especially for organizations with individuals at risk of severe illness. Consider offering video/audio of events.
* Determine methods to continue providing support services to individuals at risk of severe disease (services, meals, checking in) while limiting group settings and exposures
* Cancel any gatherings
* Professional and college sporting events as well as.
* For organizations that serve high-risk communities, cancel gatherings and stagger access to support services.
* Move faith-based and community gatherings of any size to video-accessible venues or postpone/cancel.
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| Healthcare settings and healthcare provider (includes outpatient, nursing homes/long-term care facilities, inpatient, telehealth)\*\* | * Institute temperature/symptom checks for staff, visitors, limit visitor movement in the facility
* Implement triage before entering facilities (e.g. parking lot triage, front door); phone triage and telemedicine; limit unnecessary healthcare visits
* Actively monitor HCP absenteeism and respiratory illness among HCP and patients
* Actively monitor PPE supplies
* Establish processes to evaluate and test large numbers of patients and HCP with respiratory symptoms (e.g., designated clinics for people with fever, surge tent for overflow triage, offsite testing locations)
* Permit asymptomatic exposed HCP to work while wearing a facemask
* Cross train HCP for working in other units to support staffing shortages
* Restrict all visitors from facility entry to reduce facility-based transmission; exceptions for end-of-life visitors but restrict such visitors’ movements within the facility.
* Cancel elective and non-urgent procedures
* Establish cohort units or facilities for large numbers of patients
* Consider requiring all HCP to wear a facemask when in the facility depending on supply
* Consider suspension of new admissions to facilities
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**Other areas not mentioned, but need to be considered if COVID19 cases increase to 250 or more:**

* Close businesses except gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies
* Reduce traffic into Brookline
* Close playgrounds, and any public facility
* Close parks if outbreak persists.
* Curfew at 6 pm
* If schools remain closed kids must stay home with parents
* Parents must supervise kids
* Cancel all in person meetings and move them to virtual or phone call
* When available all service industry should wear masks

**Underlying medical conditions that may increase the risk of serious COVID-19 for individuals of any age.**

* Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
* Chronic kidney disease as defined by your doctor. Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because kidney disease, or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis
* Chronic liver disease as defined by your doctor. (e.g., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis) Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease.
* Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV or AIDS)
* Current or recent pregnancy in the last two weeks
* Endocrine disorders (e.g., diabetes mellitus)
* Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
* Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
* Lung disease including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen
* Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].