



To: Jimmy Dumancela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Bureau of Healthcare System Readiness (BHSR), Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR), New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)  
From: Lisa Fenger, Project Manager, Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness, Continuing Care Leadership Coalition  
Date: March 26, 2020  
RE: HPP Deliverable 2.B.1b, Summary of Emergency Preparedness Symposium #2

Per the terms of the Continuing Care Leadership Coalition's (CCLC) HPP BP1 2019-2020 Grant Year contract, with this writing CCLC summarizes the second New York City Emergency Preparedness Symposium (EPS) for the budget period, as convened on March 12, 2020, by Webinar, and which included leadership of all funded NYCHCC sectors. Presentations and activities delivered at the meeting are summarized, below:

### **Presentations and Activities**

- The meeting was converted to Webinar due to the value in social distancing and because of the heightened state of activities overall among HPP grantees moving into position to combat COVID-19. Just earlier during the month, hotspots had been identified in the region, including in New Rochelle, NY;
- Two key presenters from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) included Timothy Styles, M.D., Medical Director, Bureau of Healthcare System Readiness, and David Miller, Jr., similarly of BHSR. The two focused on system-level response as New York City moves into position to combat COVID-19 – which is likely spreading at a community level in New York City and is expected to result in healthcare surge.
- Dr. Styles and Mr. Miller focused on national strategic planning and highlighted elements such as situational awareness, critical infrastructure, supply procurement, and personnel standards;
- Presentation materials also covered altered standards of care, the likely need to curtail non-critical procedures throughout the region, and the criticality of non-traditional surge space;
- Several participants in the EPS offered comments focused on the importance of facilitating discussion across healthcare settings, and of turning swiftly to pandemic plan implementation;
- Others discussed the value of clearly communicating with staff and those receiving care about expectations, conveying understandings about resources to support them, and issuing clear guidance and communication about the challenges, ahead;
- In aligned comments, certain constituents raised the importance of good messaging to keep worried well or those with mild symptomatology away from emergency departments, and discussion included coverage around the scarcity of testing;
- Dr. Styles commented on criteria to clear persons who exhibit symptoms but who resolve without ED intervention; and
- Other discussants focused on the time-sensitivity in moving to incident command structures, if any EPS constituent had yet to activate.

### **Next Steps**

- The next EPS is scheduled to be conducted by Webinar, with specific date to be determined.