
Joint COVID-19 Response Legislative Workgroup

Teleconference Meeting

***THIS MEETING WILL*
*BEGIN SHORTLY***

**August 12, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

Agenda Overview

(10:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.)

- I. Opening Remarks
- II. Briefing from Maryland Department of Health
- III. Closing Remarks

Briefing from MD Dept. of Health

(10:05 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

- Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Acting Deputy Secretary, Public Health
Services
- Limited Questions and Answers
- Contact:

Webster Ye
webster.ye@maryland.gov



MDH COVID-19 Response Overview

Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services

Joint Legislative COVID-19 Workgroup
August 12, 2020

Opening Remarks

Introduction

- Dr. Jinlene Chan is serving as the Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health, taking over for Fran Phillips so she can return to retirement after her leadership in this crisis
 - Served as Assistant Secretary and Chief Medical Officer for MDH
 - Previously served as Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health in 2017
 - Also served as Anne Arundel County Health Officer
 - Look forward to building on Fran's leadership under Governor Hogan

Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery

- **Testing** - 1.5 million cumulative tests total conducted in the State of Maryland, averaging over 24,000 tests a day within the State.
- **Contact Tracing** - Over 20,000 cases with over 30,000 contacts reached and interviewed by Contact Tracers throughout the State
- **PPE** - Over 72 million pieces of Personal Protective Equipment distributed as of last week, with requests being fulfilled as we speak including supplies for the November Election
- **Hospital Surge Capacity** - Approximately 6700 surge beds were identified, and we continue to make Advanced Medical Tents, ICU Modularity, and Alternate Care Sites available for COVID patients.

Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery

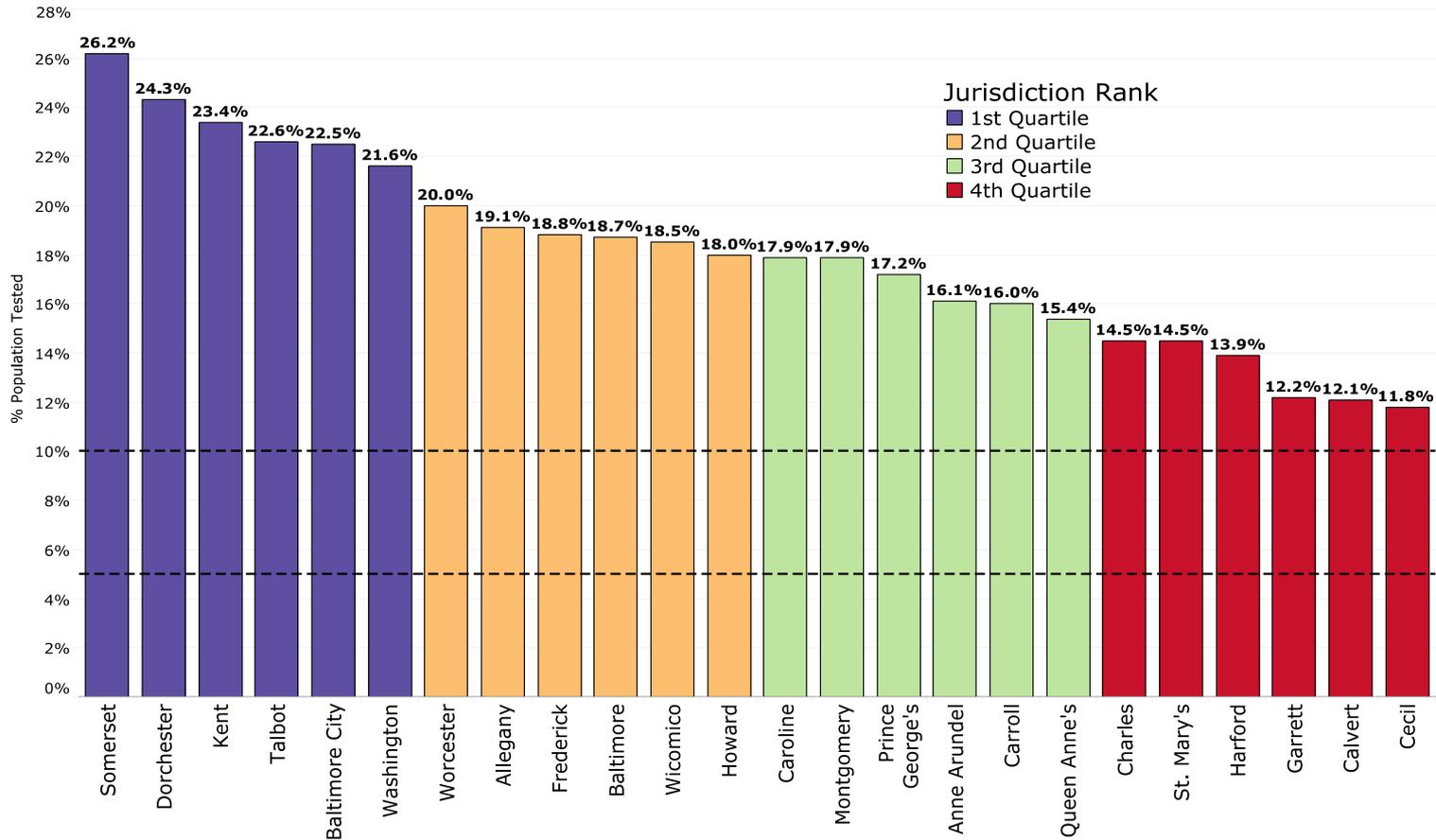
- We are currently in Phase 2 of the Roadmap to Recovery
- As stated by the Governor on July 29th, we are currently in a pause for further reopening plans as we observe trends and data
- All counties have tested at least 10% of their population at this time, and continue to test throughout Maryland
- We have recently issued additional guidance for Nursing Homes to allow for submission of alternate testing plans which will be evaluated by the Department to ensure that residents are safe
- We have also provided updated guidance to allow for the use of specific Point of Care tests with reporting requirements and other instructions

Statistics

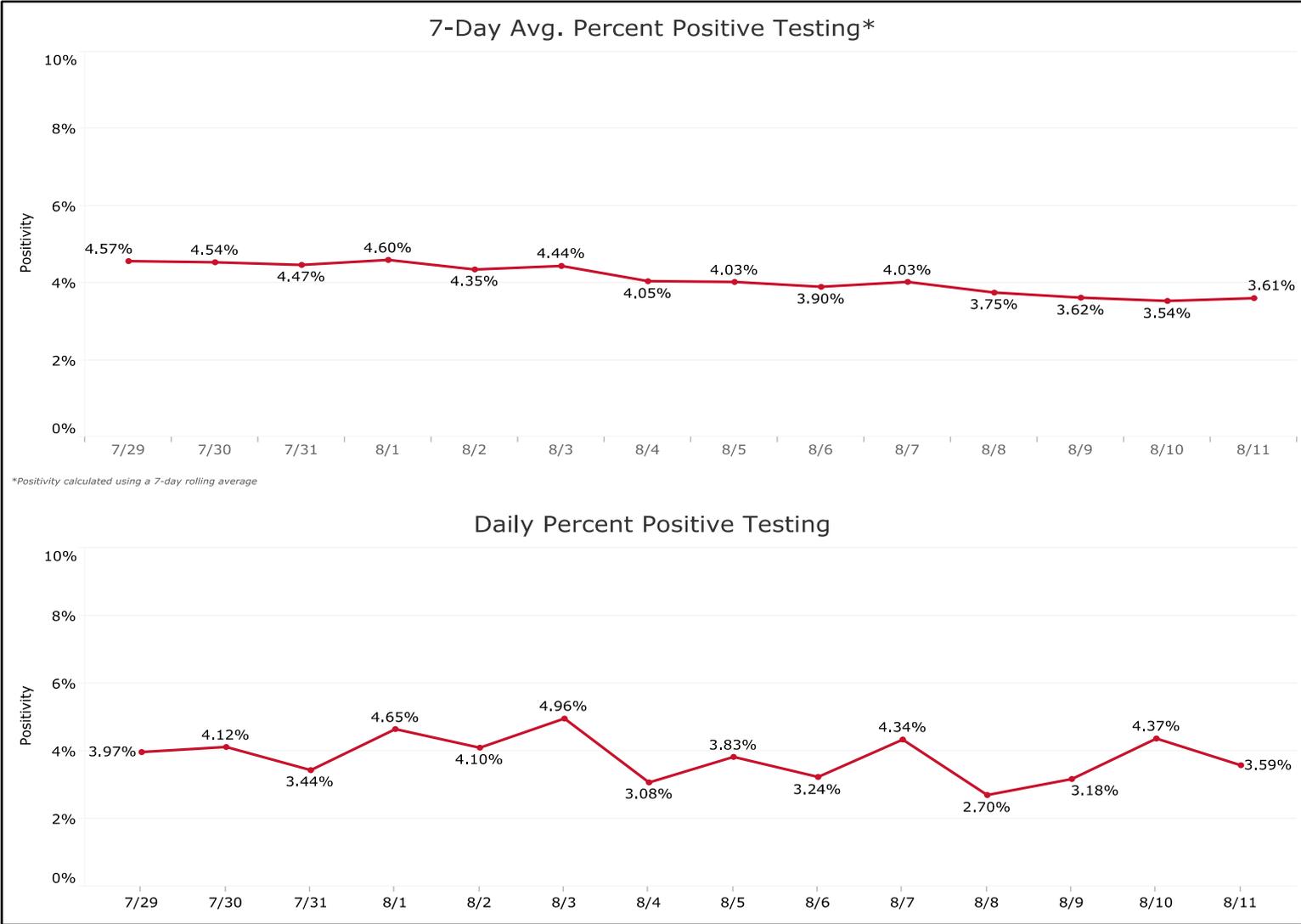
COVID-19 Statistics

Percent of Population Tested for COVID-19 in Maryland Counties

Data reported as of 8/12/2020

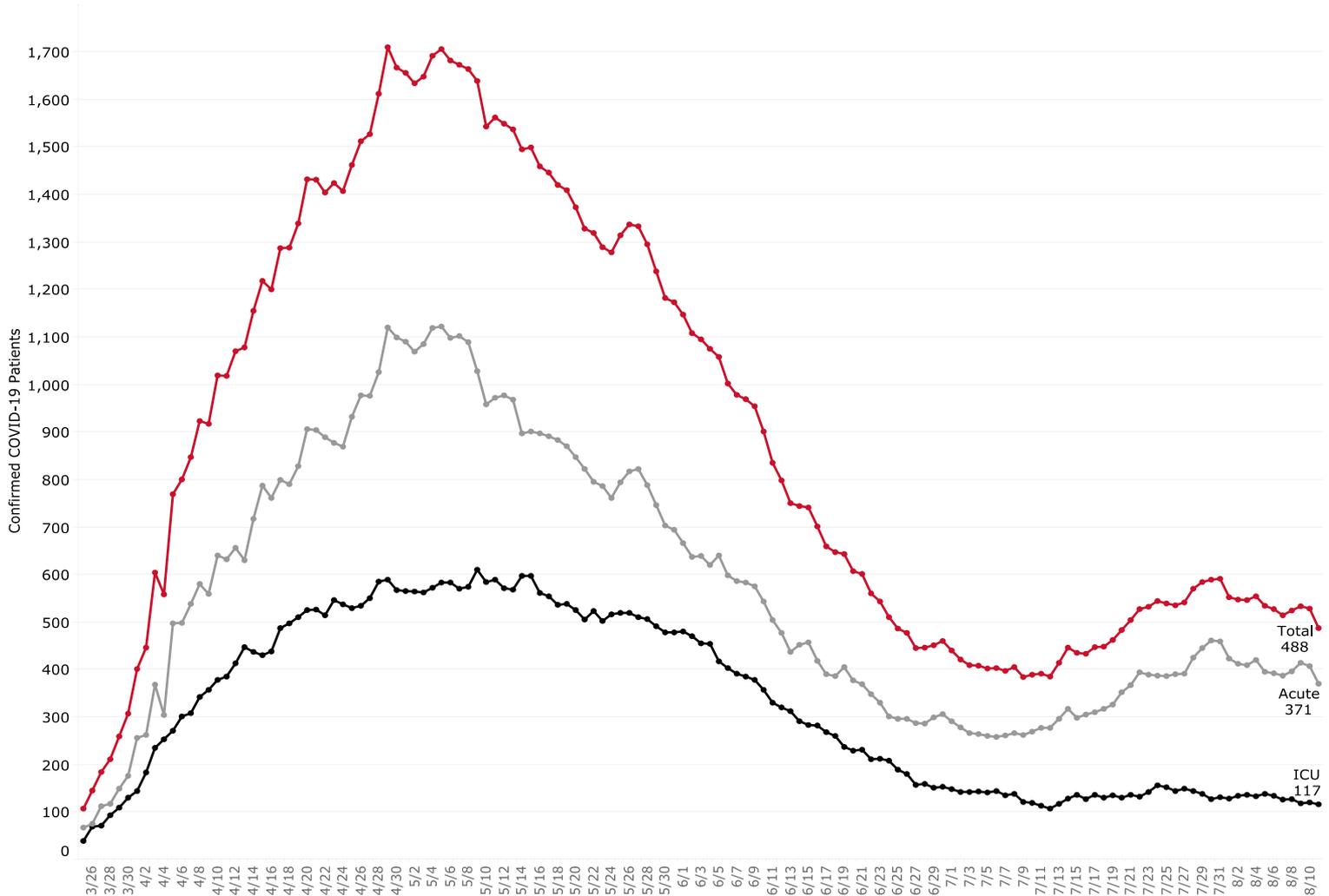


COVID-19 Statistics



COVID-19 Statistics

Statewide Acute/ICU Beds Occupied by COVID Patients



Contact Tracing Overview

COVIDLINK

Respond. Connect. Recover.



Maryland Local Health Departments (LHD)

- **Primary LHDs** - receive all COVID cases for full investigation and contact tracing
- **Secondary LHDs** - receive referral* cases and contacts only
- **All LHDs** - investigate outbreaks in their jurisdictions

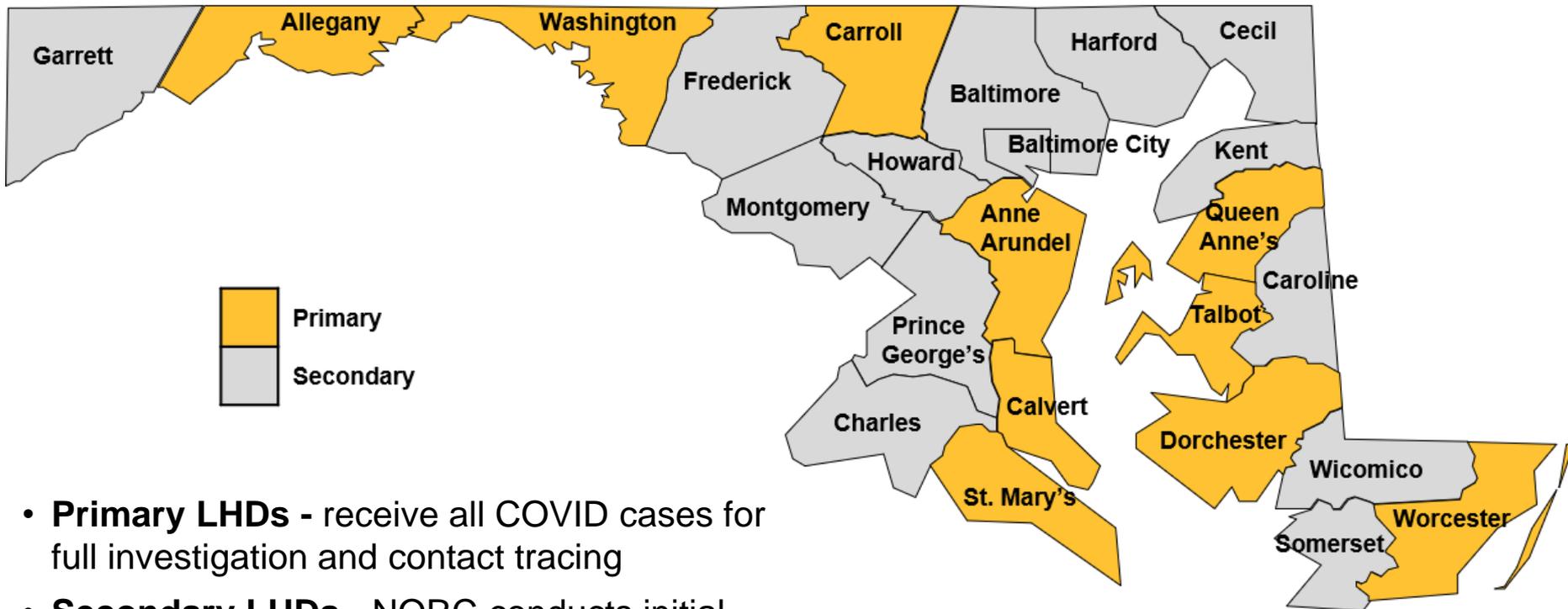
- Statewide Salesforce system provides transparent access to cases for LHDs and NORC
- Dashboards and Reports for LHDs and NORC
- Mutual goal of investigating and notifying 100% of COVID-19 cases and contacts
- Workload-balancing between LHDs and NORC
- Communication on high risk cases, vulnerable populations and local needs

National Opinion Research Center (NORC)

- Large workforce to support high volume of case investigations and contact tracing, as needed
- Receives all COVID cases for secondary jurisdictions for investigation and contact tracing

* Referral criteria: not identifiable, refuses to participate, deceased, language other than English or Spanish, high risk exposure requiring local outbreak investigation

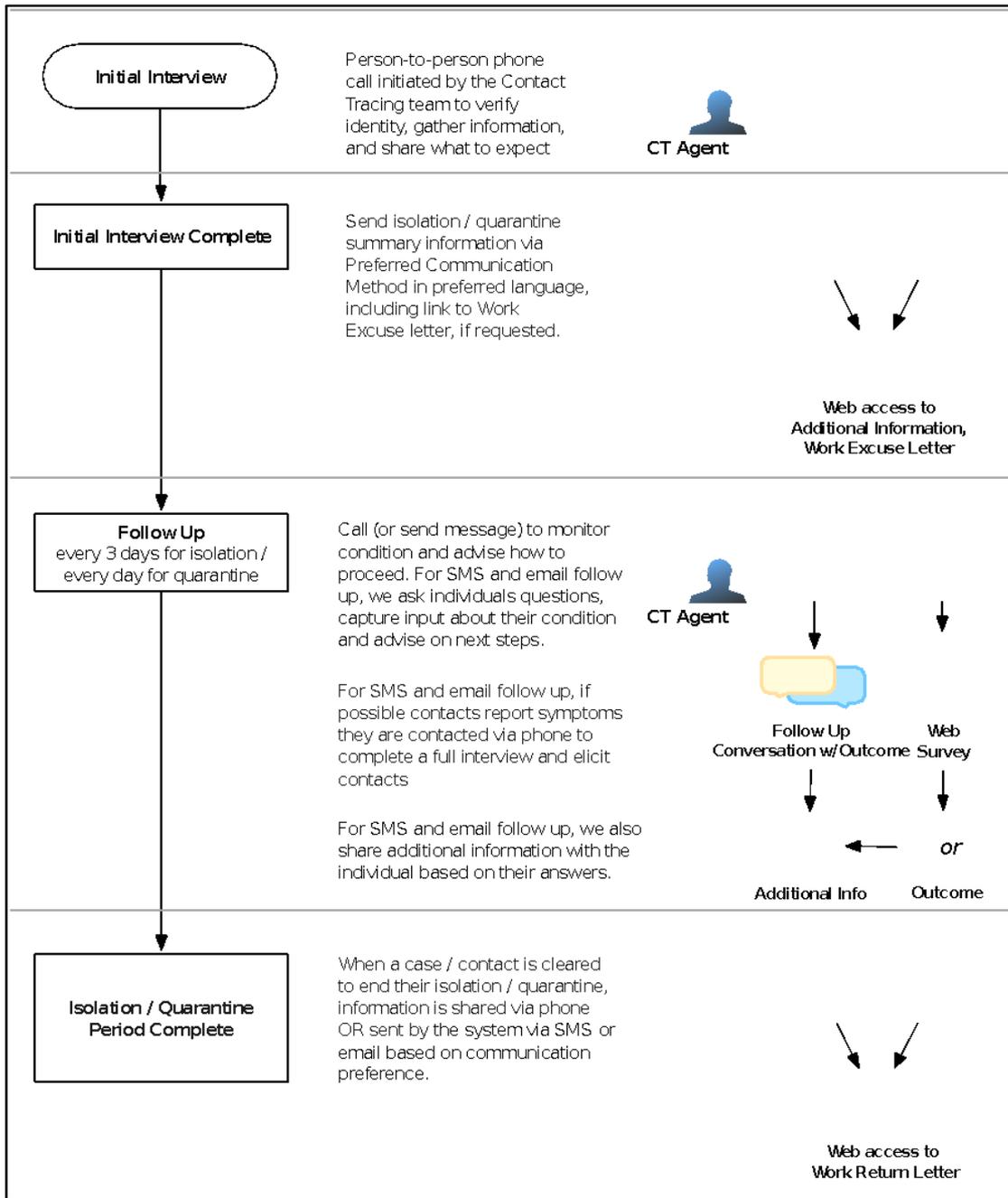
Maryland Local Health Department Contact Tracing Preferences



- **Primary LHDs** - receive all COVID cases for full investigation and contact tracing
- **Secondary LHDs** - NORC conducts initial investigation and contact tracing; LHD receives referral* cases and contacts only

* Referral criteria: not identifiable, refuses to participate, deceased, language other than English or Spanish, high risk exposure requiring local outbreak investigation

Contact Tracing Communications



Example SMS Follow Up Conversation

This is the Maryland Department of Health checking in on your condition. For each question: Reply Y for yes. Reply N for no.

Has Tara experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 72 hours: Cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell, or other symptoms? Y or N

In the past 72 hours has Tara been fever free? (3 days no fever without fever reducing medicine like aspirin/Advil, ibuprofen/Motrin, or acetaminophen/Tylenol.) Y or N

Tara, have your symptoms improved at all since they began? Y or N

COVID-19 Patient Capacity

Increased Patient Capacity

- We have worked with hospitals and local jurisdictions to identify 6,700 beds for COVID-19 surge; including
 - Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital with Hopkins and UMMS
 - Reopening closed hospitals at Laurel and Takoma Park
 - Installation of 50 ten-bed Advanced Medical Tents statewide
 - Additional 8-bed ICU modulars at Adventist Ft. Wash., Prince George's Hospital, and UMMC Downtown
- Measures to stay in place for remainder of year
- Monitoring Bed Utilization

Minority Health & Health Disparities

COVID-19: What We've Done

- Provided over 4,000 Kits of Essential Supplies and COVID-19 Information Sheets targeting African American, Hispanic, and Haitian communities.
- Provided consultation and guidance regarding reaching minority communities to contact tracing team and serology survey team.
- Led the effort within MDH to disaggregate and analyze COVID-19 case and mortality cumulative data by race and ethnicity.
- Updated MHHD website (<https://health.maryland.gov/mhhd/Pages/home.aspx>) with hyperlinks and information on critical updates such as the Maryland Health Connections open enrollment extension period, COVID-19 Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), COVID-19 related testing information, and the GOCI (Gov's Office on Community Initiatives) web page housing more translated information.

COVID-19: What We're Doing

- Launching a multimodal, multimedia, and multilingual communications and messaging campaign that includes PSA's airing on WMAR/Bounce TV, Urban Networks/Radio One, and social media.
- Utilizing a mobile public health education unit to provide COVID-19 education and messaging to minority communities by selected zip codes.
- Providing funding to assist with COVID-19 outreach to minority communities to the the five health departments with the largest jurisdictions.
- Providing support to HBCUs undertaking COVID-19 and minorities research projects.
- Utilizing transit wraps to communicate COVID-19 information.
- Utilizing printed information sheets distributed in minority communities to provide COVID-19 information.

Closing Remarks

- Check Hearing Schedule on Maryland General Assembly website for committee meetings
- Next meeting TBD