



ASPR

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Fatality Management Tabletop Exercise

**For government, private sector,
and nonprofit organizations**

Instructions

- Exercise organizers should use as much or as little of the content within this slide deck as desired. Before conducting the exercise:
 - Identify one or more senior leaders to provide opening and closing remarks
 - Depending on the number of participants and length of time allotted for the exercise, determine whether there is sufficient time for participants to introduce themselves by stating their name and organization
 - Ensure that the objectives, outcomes, and scenario information presented in this slide deck aligns with the information presented in the Situation Manual
- **Once this slide deck has been modified as desired, delete this instructions slide**

Opening Remarks

Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Introductions
- Exercise Objectives and Outcomes
- Scenario Overview
 - Confirmed COVID-19 Cases
 - Hospitalizations and Deaths
- Facilitated Discussion
- Adjourn

Administrative Items

- Emergency Exit and Evacuation
- Restrooms
- Situation Manual

Introductions

- Name
- Organization

Exercise Objectives

- Discuss and determine how government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations will coordinate fatality management operations at the local, state, and national levels
- Discuss and determine how response partners will record and track mortality information during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Identify laws and regulations that may be altered or relaxed to expedite the process of managing large numbers of decedents
- Discuss and determine what resources localities will request from states and what resources states will in turn request from the federal government to support fatality management operations, and discuss options for mitigating resource shortages
- Discuss and determine what fatality management support, if any, state and local authorities could obtain from private companies.

Exercise Objectives (Cont.)

- Discuss and determine what infection control practices response partners will employ when handling human remains and what restrictions state and local jurisdictions may place on visitations and funeral services to mitigate the spread of disease
- Discuss and determine workforce protection measures government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations will implement to protect personnel involved in fatality management operations
- Discuss and determine behavioral health guidance and support government and nonprofit organizations will provide to family members of the deceased and responders
- Discuss and determine how governments and nonprofit organizations will develop and adapt public messaging regarding fatalities and fatality management operations as the number of deaths caused by COVID-19 increases

Exercise Outcomes

- Confirm the processes by which government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations will coordinate fatality management operations at the local, state, and national levels
- Better understand the decisions that elected officials will need to make during a mass fatality event, and what information officials will need to make these decisions
- Better understand the legal and regulatory landscape in which response partners will conduct fatality management operations
- Identify key resources that state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners will require to manage large numbers of fatalities during the COVID-19 pandemic and identify potential supply chains gaps or shortfalls

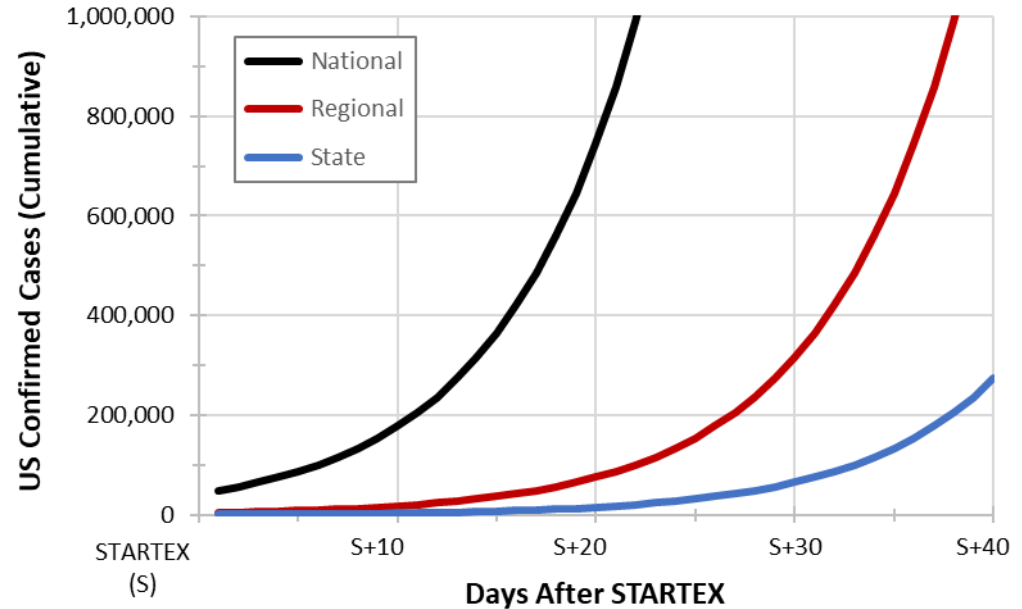
Exercise Outcomes (Cont.)

- Better understand how to protect responders and the public from exposure to infectious human remains and identify the channels available for local, state, and federal public health officials to disseminate infection control guidance
- Prepare SLTT and federal response partners to provide accessible public messaging and risk communications regarding fatalities and fatality operations throughout the COVID-19 response
- Better prepare government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations at the local, state, and national levels to respond to mass fatalities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

Scenario Overview

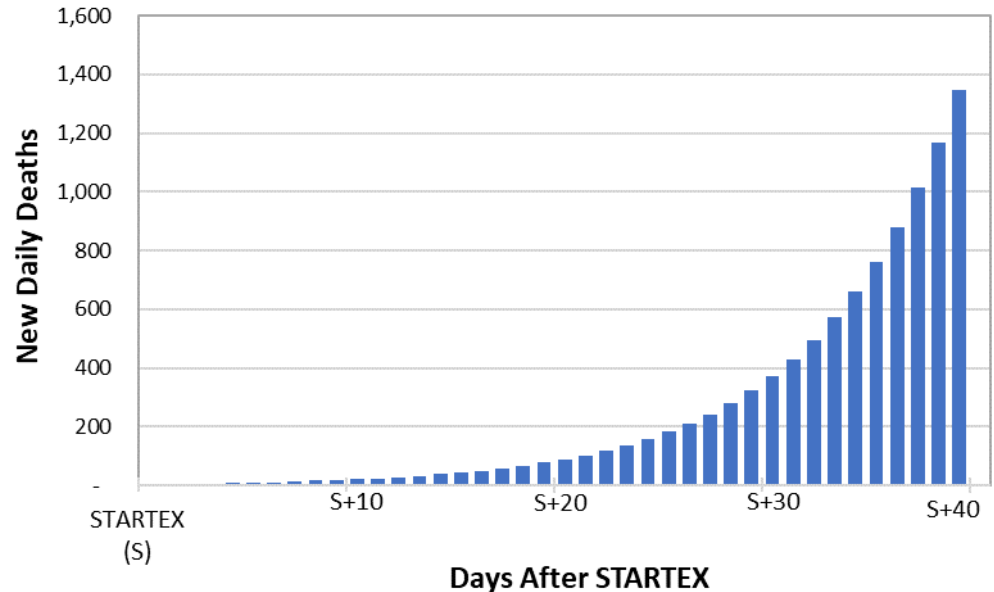
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- At the start of the exercise (STARTEX), there are 1,000 confirmed cases at the state level, 5,000 confirmed cases at the regional level, and 50,000 confirmed cases at the national level
- By STARTEX + 40 days, there are approximately 274,000 cumulative confirmed cases at the state level, 1.3 million cumulative confirmed cases at the regional level, and 12.6 million cumulative confirmed cases at the national level



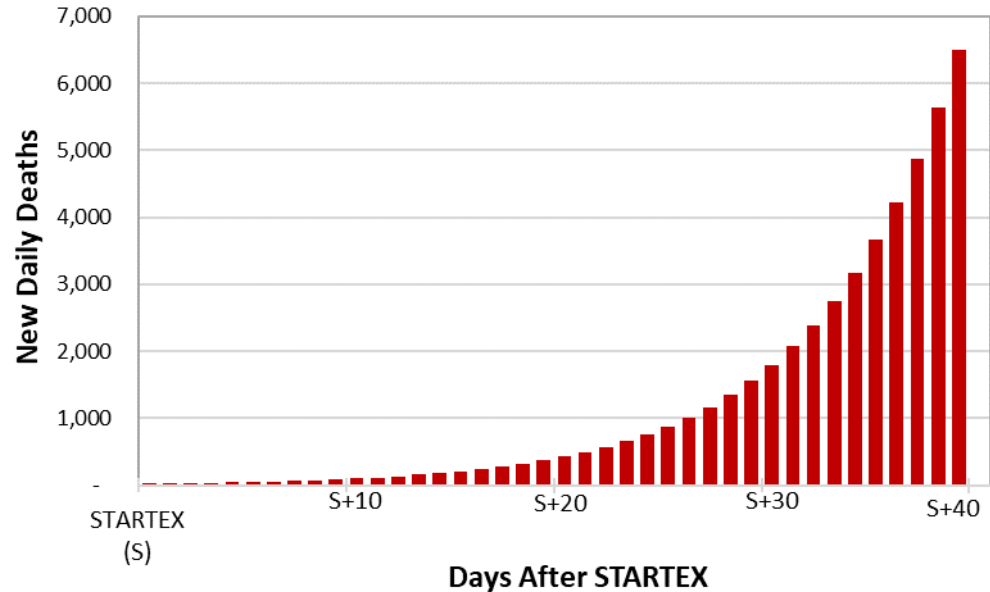
Daily New Deaths at the State Level

- As time progresses, the number of deaths caused by COVID-19 begins to overwhelm state and local resources
- With each day that passes, the daily number of new deaths increases, further straining resources
- By STARTEX + 40 days, there are approximately 10,000 cumulative deaths in the state, with approximately 1,350 new deaths on Day 40 alone



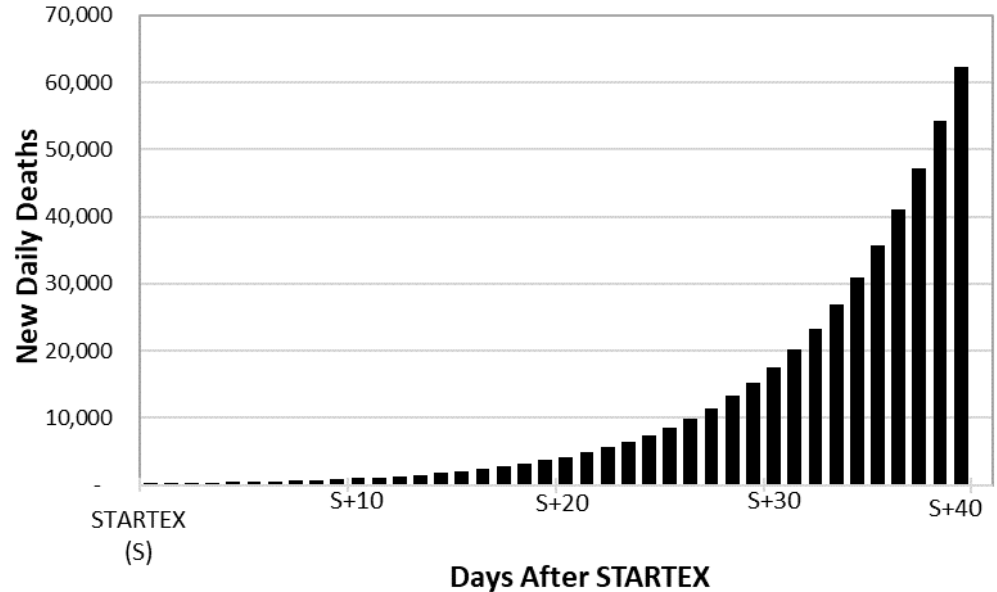
Daily New Deaths at the Regional Level

- Regional resources also become overwhelmed by the number of deaths
- By STARTEX + 40 days, there are approximately 49,000 cumulative deaths in the region, with approximately 6,500 new deaths on Day 40 alone



Daily New Deaths at the National Level

- By STARTEX + 40 days, there are approximately 475,000 cumulative deaths in the United States, with approximately 62,300 new deaths on Day 40 alone
- SLTT partners across the country report that they are overwhelmed by the number of deaths



Daily New Deaths at the State, Regional, and National Levels

	Daily New Deaths		
	State	Regional	National
STARTEX	5	24	242
STARTEX + 5	8	44	429
STARTEX + 10	18	89	878
STARTEX + 15	38	182	1,795
STARTEX + 20	77	372	3,667
STARTEX + 25	158	761	7,486
STARTEX + 30	322	1,555	15,250
STARTEX + 35	659	3,179	30,940
STARTEX + 40	1,348	6,491	62,249

Daily New Deaths at the City Level

- The table to the right shows the daily number of new deaths for cities that make up small, medium, and large percentages of their state's population
 - Small: Cities with approximately 5% of the state population
 - Medium: Cities with approximately 10% of the state population
 - Large: Cities with approximately 20% of the state population
- Please note that the actual number of daily new deaths within a city will depend on several factors, including demographics, population density, and health care system capacity.

	Daily New Deaths In Cities:		
	Small	Medium	Large
STARTEX	0	2	48
STARTEX + 5	0	1	2
STARTEX + 10	1	2	4
STARTEX + 15	2	4	8
STARTEX + 20	4	8	15
STARTEX + 25	8	16	32
STARTEX + 30	16	32	64
STARTEX + 35	33	66	132
STARTEX + 40	67	135	270

Facilitated Discussion

See the Situation Manual for a comprehensive list of discussion questions

Closing Remarks

Adjourn

If you have questions regarding exercise products, please contact:

ASPRExercises@hhs.gov