

Cambridge COVID-19 Expert Advisory Panel
3/24/2020 meeting minutes

Introductions (2:05-2:25 pm)

Dr Biddinger was invited to share his thoughts first because he had to leave call at 2:30.

Looking at where we are in the curve of infections. We have another 3 ½ weeks or so before we expect to get to the apex of the curve. This is the beginning of the steep part of the curve. We are seeing a geometric rise at this point (doubling of cases every 3 days locally). This is an unavoidable challenge that we all face. The only tools we have to disrupt the transmission rate in the community are:

- Social Distancing
- Personal and surface hygiene

Challenges are many, but I am currently thinking about:

- The cascade of effects on those with limited mobility
- People who are socially isolation
- Single-parent households and the overall childcare/daycare crisis
- Homeless, precariously-housed and other vulnerable populations
- How do we accommodate housing-challenged cohorts?
- We need staging areas for testing, quarantine and isolation outside the hostpitals

(Dr. Biddinger had to leave the call)

Dr. Hanage introduced his concern about establishing patient population cohorts.

We have seen R-zero (transmission efficiency) rates going up in the US and the doubling-time for cases going down due to poor social distancing policies and behaviors.