

March 21, 2020

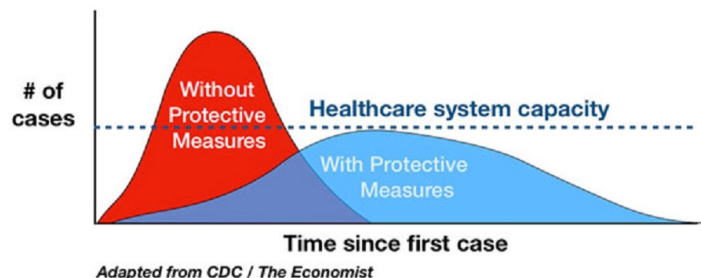
As you are likely aware, COVID-19 was declared a United States public health emergency on January 31, 2020. Yesterday, March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic.

It is impossible to predict the timeline or the outcome of this pandemic. Many or all of the STEP Conference attendees are front-line healthcare workers. After great deliberation, the STEP Board of Directors has decided to cancel the 2020 STEP Conference which was scheduled for April 2-4, 2020. We are grateful for the understanding of our partner, the Hilton Garden Inn at College Town and we will be issuing full refunds to those already registered for the conference. Please give us appropriate time to issue these refunds. Sharon Chiumento is the conference chairperson. You can contact her at [Sharon.Chiumento@stepcouncil.org](mailto:Sharon.Chiumento@stepcouncil.org) with questions or concerns.

The CDC states “There is risk of being exposed and getting sick from this virus and there is risk of getting very sick or dying from illness with this virus. This virus is capable of spreading easily and sustainably from person to person based on the available data.” The CDC is now recommending that older people and those with underlying illnesses avoid crowds and settings where people congregate because those are the settings with the greatest risk of transmission of respiratory diseases.

There is reasonable concern that more cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the coming days and “Widespread transmission of COVID-19 would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time.” “Other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and sectors of the transportation industry may also be affected. Healthcare providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed.”

Thank you for your understanding. As healthcare providers, we will continue to do our part to #FlattenTheCurve.



Reference:

1. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>. Published 2020. Accessed March 12, 2020.

## Society for Total Emergency Programs

*The mission of STEP is to educate and promote innovations and opportunities for the improvement of emergency services.*

**STEP** Council of the Genesee Region, Inc. PO Box 18023 Rochester, NY 14618-0023  
Websites: [www.STEPEMS.org](http://www.STEPEMS.org) [www.EmergencyServicesDirectory.org](http://www.EmergencyServicesDirectory.org)