

Situation:

- EPI received notification on Friday, August 21st PM from an anonymous caller reporting a cluster of 5 confirmed covid-19 cases connected to the Golden Dawn Tabernacle Church.
- Three of five cases are now deceased.
- EPI conducted CI and attempted CT. Cases and family members of deceased declined to provide details on exposures.
- EPI continues ongoing monitoring and case finding. Only one additional case to date has been identified.

Background:

- Church is located at E. Los Reales Road and South Nogales Highway.
- Recent reports to CHFS re random COVID-19 compliance complaints estimate attendance around 200
- Medical record review indicated “everyone in the congregation was sick”
- PCHD Community Support Members made multiple attempts to establish a connection and gain church leadership trust. Attempts at providing education on prevention and control measures were unsuccessful.
- Reports in media that Church goers are discouraged from going to the hospital and seeking medical treatment
- 34% (2/5) Medical record reviews indicated treatment declined by case
- Church congregation seems to be private and not open to the neighboring community (see map of confirmed cases below demonstrating cases not connected by a common geographic area).

Assessment:

- cluster(n=6) of confirmed cases associated in time with reported Church exposure in the previous incubation period (14-days) provided by anonymous caller and one additional case
 - 2/6 cases confirmed exposure at Golden Dawn Tabernacle Church
 - 2/6 interviewed, declined to provide details on a specific church attendance
 - 2/6 lost to follow-up
- With an estimated congregation of 200, there are likely more cases in the community
- Case Fatality Rate: 50% (3/6), will likely rise with 2 additional hospitalized cases, now DNR
- 83% (5/6) of hospitalized and deceased cases represent ages ■—■.
- 17% (1/6) sought care at an Urgent Care, age ■
- Cases and/or next of kin declined to provide details on common church exposure. Most details were provided by an anonymous caller to PCHD

Recommendation:

- EPI will continue to do ongoing case finding for additional cases among church members via family, anonymous reporting or MEDSIS case investigations/CT
 - 2 incubation periods will be over on September 7th



Home addresses of 6 known cases in relation to the location of Golden Dawn Tabernacle.

Case Summaries

- [REDACTED]
 - Sx onset 7/28 per H&P, positive test collected 8/04/20
 - Admitted to BUMCS since 8/03/20
 - ICU and vented, DNR
 - Investigation was attempted by PCHD, multiple calls and letter sent
- [REDACTED]
 - Sx onset 7/28 per H&P, positive test collected 8/18/20
 - Admitted to St. Mary's hospital since 8/18/20
 - Critically ill, DNR
 - Per records—" PT FAMILY INFORMED PT AND ENTIRE CHURCH CONGREGATION HAS COVID AND PT HAS BEEN ILL FOR ALMOST 3 WEEKS"
 - "PT NOT CANDIDATE FOR REMEDESIVIR OR PLASMA - PT SICK FOR 3 WEEKS"
 - Case assigned to Maximus 8/21, case could not be reached
- [REDACTED]
 - Sx onset 7/30/20, positive test collected 8/07/20
 - Admitted to Carondelet St. Mary's 8/04-[REDACTED]
 - Per medical records—he refused Remdesivir and convalescent plasma, wife brought 'herbal medication' to him while hospitalized
 - Confirmed COVID death ([REDACTED])
 - Investigation conducted by PCHD 8/11 with case's wife while he was hospitalized
 - Wife denied him attending large gatherings, denies having sx herself and she was not tested
 - Follow-up interview attempted by MRCSA staff
 - 8/25 no answer, could not leave voicemail
 - 8/26 Wife answered, said she was too busy to talk and asked for callback tomorrow
 - 8/27 no answer, could not leave voicemail
 - Potential other exposures:
 - Case lives with only with who had no sx
 - No travel reported in 14 days prior to onset
- [REDACTED]
 - Sx onset 7/31/20, positive test collected 8/05/20
 - Admitted to Southern Arizona VA hospital 8/05-8/21/20
 - Treated with Remdesivir and convalescent plasma therapy
 - Interview attempted by Maximus, case could not be reached
 - Case's wife interview by MRCSA staff 8/26
 - Per interviewer: wife seemed forthcoming during interview, stated case only went out to grocery store and Costco during incubation period
 - Interviewer asked specifically if case went to church during that period, wife said yes
 - Interviewer states her tone changed, became withholding, and said she would not provide any details about church including name/location, dates of services attended

- [REDACTED]
 - Sx onset 8/06/20, never hospitalized
 - Interviewed by PCHD staff 8/24/20
 - When asked qx 'In the 14 days before onset did you attend any gatherings with more than 10 people?'
 - Case said yes, Golden Dawn Tabernacle church on Nogales Hwy
 - Said that the church is "really safe and has a special area for sick people"
 - States wife and daughter had sx first, but were not tested
 - Interviewer did not ask if wife and daughter attend same church, or what dates they attended
 - Would not provide wife and daughters names and DOB's because he did not want to violate their privacy
 - Follow up interview attempted by MRCSA staff
 - 8/25, 8/26, 8/27 no answer, left voicemail
- [REDACTED]
 - Unk sx onset, positive test collected 8/09/20
 - Admitted to Carondelet St. Mary's 8/09-[REDACTED]
 - Confirmed COVID death (DOD [REDACTED])
 - Per medical records—"patient initially did not want to be treated" but was convinced by MD, later was insistent again on discontinuing treatment
 - Interview was attempted by PCHD, case could not be reached
 - Case's son interviewed by MRCSA staff 8/27
 - Son was forthcoming throughout interview and stated case went to church 1 week before he had sx
 - Case and son believed he was infected by friend who visits frequently, [REDACTED], rather than from the church
 - ** [REDACTED] allegedly attends church as well, per anonymous tip
 - Son could not confirm this