COVID-19 Challenge

The Impact & How Telehealth Is Helping

Introduction

Kevin Stephan, MD, FACP

Director of Strategy and Planning

Nod Specialists *(formerly eInfectionMD)*

Board-Certified Infection Specialist
Ranked Top 10% ID physician by peers

Lt. Colonel, Air Force (ret.)

Active with patient care, leadership, education, and humanitarian efforts
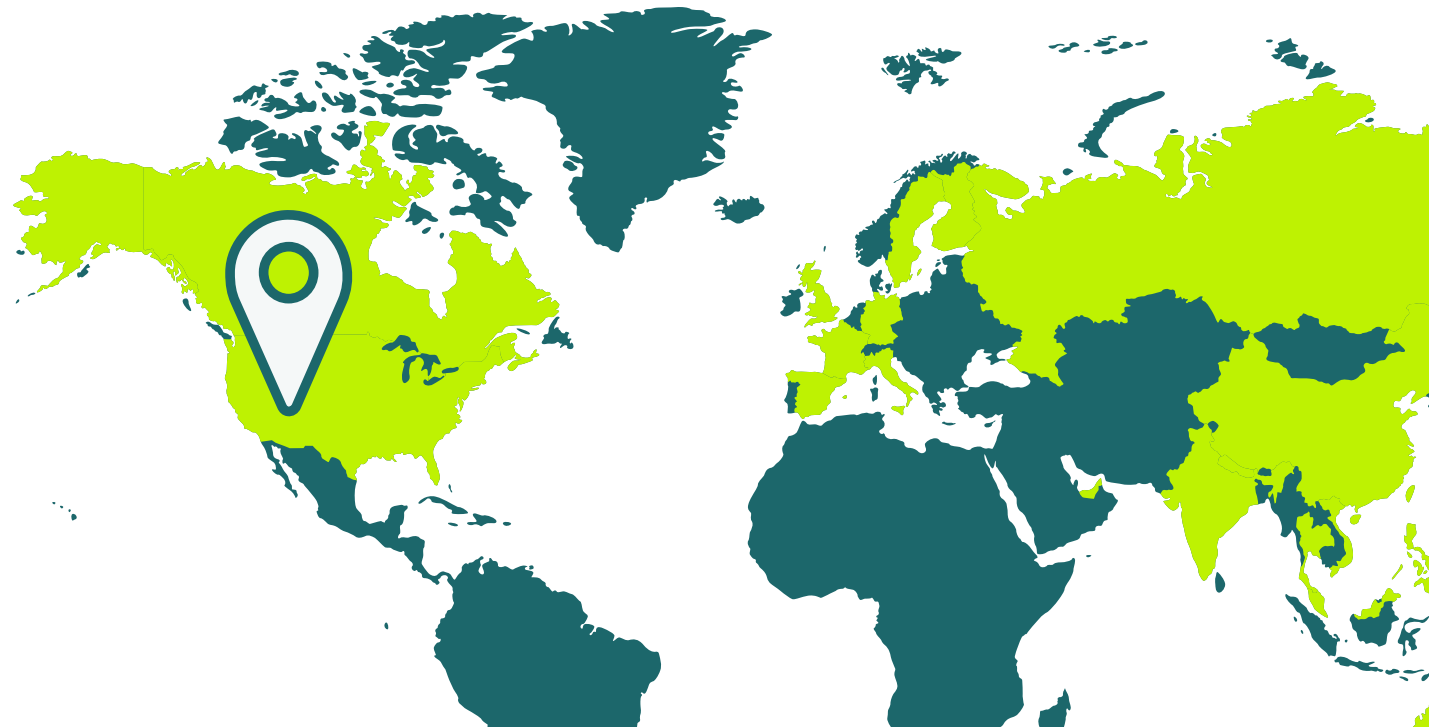
Background

- First reported as pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan China

- Chinese scientists identify strain as coronavirus and shared genetic sequence with world

- Rapid development of tests results from shared data

Initial Spread

Action based on data from previous coronaviruses.

Asymptomatic infection & spread felt unlikely

Latest Knowledge

200,000+
Known Cases
As of 3/18/2020

Asymptomatic Spread
Is Common

More Cases out of
China than in China

Community Spread
(not imported by travelers)

Challenges

No Vaccine

No Medication

Shortage of Test Kits

Leadership Challenges:

- Delayed response & protection precautions
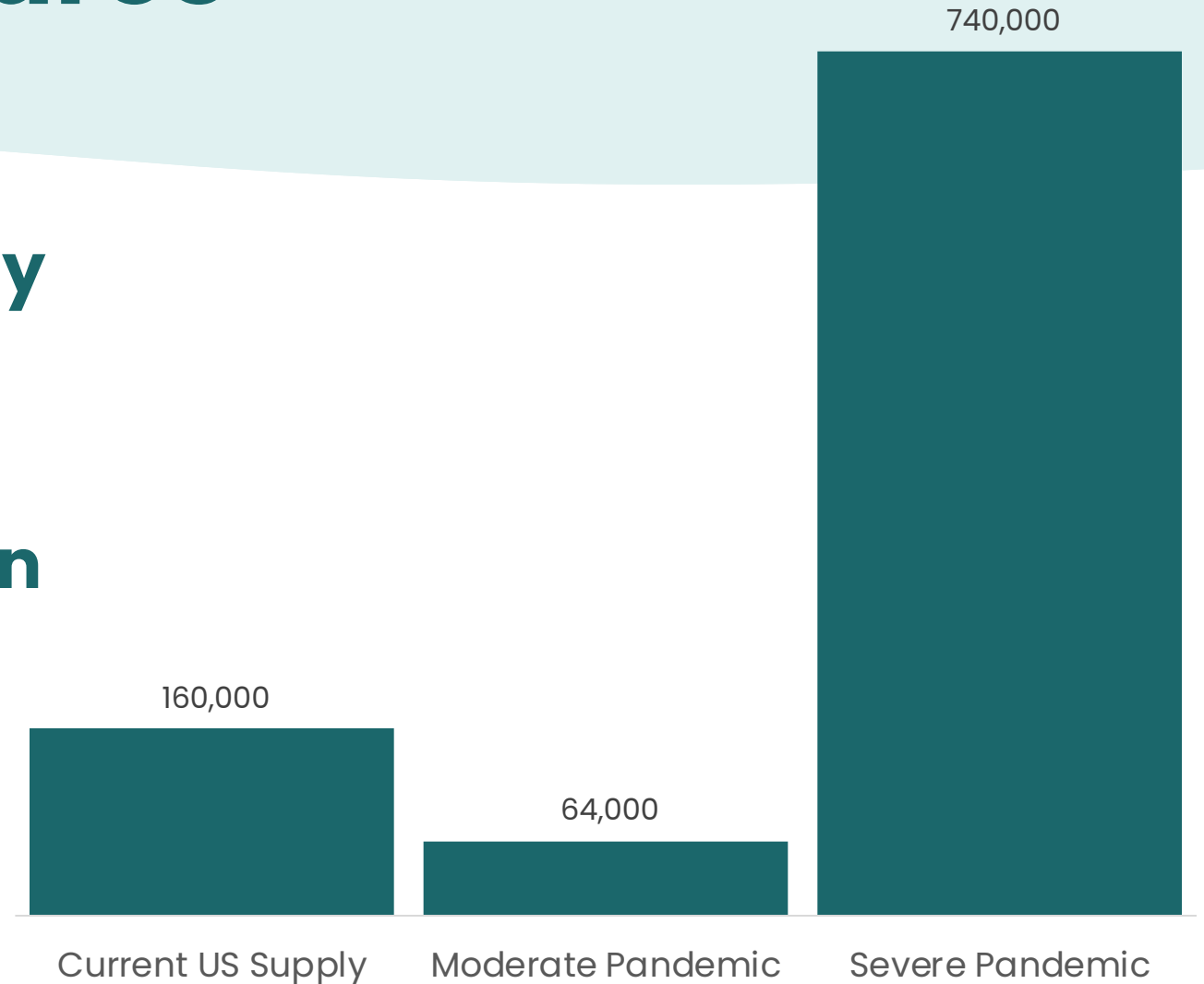
- Conflicting Messaging

Concerning Figures

740,000

Current Ventilator Supply

United States   160,000

Past Pandemic Utilization

1957 Influenza   64,000
1918 Spanish Flu   740,000

160,000

64,000

Current US Supply   Moderate Pandemic   Severe Pandemic

Concerning Figures

Compared to the US...
China has 53% more hospital beds per 1000 people yet ran out of beds during COVID-19 spread

USA 2.8 Beds / 1,000 People

China 4.3 Beds / 1,000 People

Problems with Traditional Care

- Call to schedule
- Drive to appointment
- Expose waiting room & staff
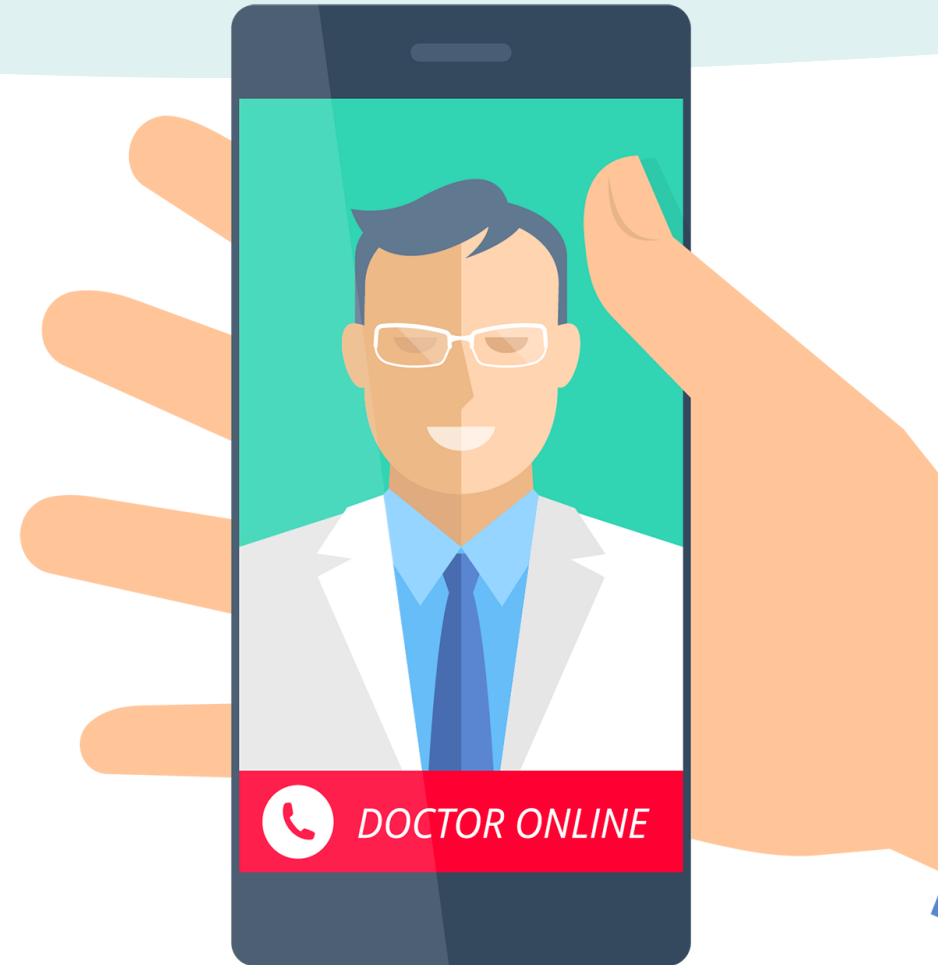- Elderly is at risk
- Limited specialist knowledge
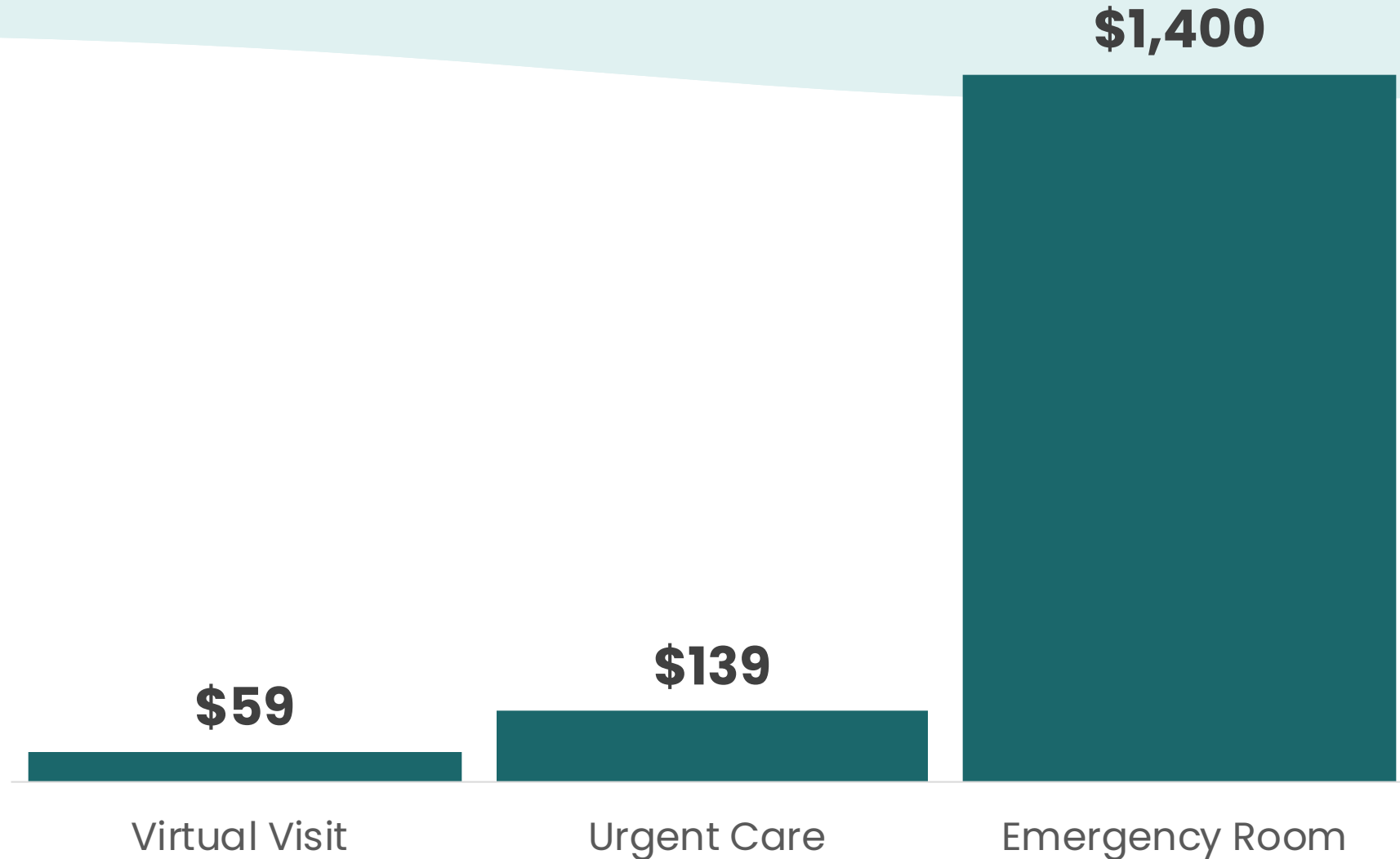
Telehealth to the Rescue

Cue the Super Hero Theme Song!

Benefits of Telehealth

- Real Time or Scheduled
- No need to travel
- Comfort from home
- Access in remote areas
- Avoids exposure from other patients

Telehealth is Cost Effective

$59 — Virtual Visit
$139 — Urgent Care
$1,400 — Emergency Room

Quality is High

Patient studies show that virtual care is equal to or better than in-person care

How We Are Helping

Giving Fast Access to Infectious Disease Specialists

• Improved access for appointments

• Rapid, accurate diagnosis (eg, COVID-19 vs influenza vs URI vs allergies)

• Evidence-based suggestions

Remote Triage

With COVID-19, limiting exposure is key. Virtual care allows us to direct patients to facilities only when needed. This keeps urgent cares and ERs from being overrun.

Telehealth Challenges

- Reluctance toward technology
- Lack of access to high-speed internet
- In-home testing is limited
- Physical exams are limited
- Payors and regulators are rapidly changing

COVID-19 Needs

- Access to testing kits
- Home testing
- Adoption of Infection Control best practices
- Effective vaccine for herd immunity
- Effective antiviral medication

Accurate, Consistent Information

What is hysteria and what is fact?

As a community, we need consistent messaging to combat mis-information in social media, hysterical talking heads, and group think.

COVID-19 Screening

If you are being overrun, we have a screening service at:

NodMD.com/quickscreen

Remember

Flu, SARS, MERS, Ebola...

We have been here before,
We will all get through this together.

How to Contact

www.NodMD.com

kstephan@NodMD.com

Search LinkedIn for

Kevin Stephan