

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 3, 2020**  
**7:00 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**PRESENT:**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

Bryon Reed, Commissioner, Chairman (Zoom)  
Bill Leake, Teton County, Trustee (Zoom)  
Lee Miller, Commissioner (Zoom)  
Ken Miner, Commissioner (Zoom)  
Shayne Young, Commissioner (Zoom)  
Barbara Nelson, MD, Vice Chair (Zoom)  
Greg Shenton, Commissioner (Zoom)  
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner (Zoom)  
Wayne Butts, Commissioner (Zoom)

**STAFF MEMBERS**

Geri Rackow  
James Corbett  
Angy Harwood (Zoom)  
Cheryl O'Connell  
Amy Gamett (Zoom)  
Kellye Johnson (Zoom)

**1. Call Board Meeting to Order**

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 7:01 a.m.

**2. Approval of August 27, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Bill Leake made a motion to approve the August 27, 2020, Board of Health meeting minutes.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Mendenhall

**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. Review of Public Comment**

Chairman Reed reviewed and responded to the public comments and questions received. Topics included school activities and dances. Discussion followed.

**4. Reports from Hospitals re: ICU and Overall Capacity**

a. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer (COO), reports their ICU is half full with one COVID patient. They also have three patients on ventilators but none of those are COVID. They have had a 58% increase in overall patients over last week but most are non-COVID patients.

b. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

- David Hoffenberg, COO, reports that hospital-wide they are seeing less patients, with ICU occupancy just over 50%. EIRMC currently has 13 COVID inpatients. They are going to universal shielding as a precautionary measure to protect staff during the upcoming respiratory season.
- Dr. Krell reports they have been seeing a little relief but are busy in the ICU. The COVID ICU area is full. He contributes the decrease in COVID-19 patients to the measures being taken by the Board of Health.
- Dr. Krell reports the death of a patient in their 30's yesterday.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachael Gonzales reports Madison Hospital is at 50% capacity in the ICU and currently there are no COVID patients. They are busy with ER patients and testing.

**5. COVID-19 Update and review of Data**

- Dr. Krell explained updated provisional data on COVID-19 deaths released by the CDC last week. The data is showing that 94% of deaths associated with COVID-19 had co-morbidities, or other underlying health conditions, and that 6% of the deaths had only COVID-19 listed as the cause of death. Dr. Krell clarified information regarding COVID-19 deaths and stated that patients with co-morbidities would not have died if they had not contracted COVID-19. COVID-19 has 10 times the death rate than the seasonal flu and as a country we may be under reporting the deaths. One-third of Idaho citizens has underlying health conditions that make them vulnerable to more severe disease and even death related to COVID-19. As schools open and as we move into flu season, we need to maintain vigilance and stay on course with the mitigation measures that public health is recommending.
- Ms. Rackow provided information on the activity in nursing homes, assisted living centers, and long term care facilities. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services has established policies for testing of staff of these facilities during the pandemic based on positivity rates of the county. The federal government has provided Point of Care testing machines to seven facilities in our district; however, an ongoing adequate supply of testing kits/supplies may be an issue. Each Friday, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare releases a report of residential care facilities within the state that have experienced a positive case of COVID-19 in staff and/or residents.
- Schools are back in session and there have been some positive cases in staff and students throughout the health district. Mr. Corbett and Ms. Rackow are meeting with school superintendents each week to provide information and guidance.
- Mr. Corbett reviewed the data dashboard and metrics for each County. The number of COVID-19 deaths has increased in our health district, with 11 being experienced in the past two weeks.
- The COVID-19 testing positivity rate is slightly higher than last week. In the coming weeks, EIPH may be able to receive county-level positivity data from the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare.

**6. Discussion and Vote regarding potential actions to protect life, health, and safety within the District as to the COVID-19 pandemic, to include consideration of orders that include, but are not limited to, mandating face coverings and limiting social events and gatherings in Custer County**

Ms. Rackow reported that Custer County has exceeded the Active Rate of COVID-19 cases of 15/15,000 population for six straight days and recommended that an Order of Restriction be issued for the County effectively immediately. Ms. Rackow reviewed the draft Order with the Board.

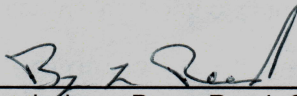
**MOTION:** Bill Leake made a motion to approve the Order of Restriction for Custer County, as presented, effective immediately.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Shenton

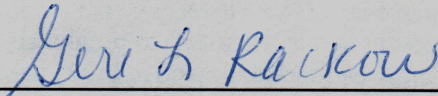
**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED; Commissioner Butts abstained from voting.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:01 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.



Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary