

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 10, 2020**  
**7:00 a.m.**

**Virtual Meeting – Streamed Live on EIPH’s YouTube Channel at**  
**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaiWpioiGwhF95yxXgM01VA>**

**PRESENT:**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

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

**STAFF MEMBERS**

Gerri Rackow  
James Corbett  
Angy Harwood  
Cheryl O’Connell  
Amy Gamett  
Kellye Johnson

**1. Call Board Meeting to Order**

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 7:03 a.m. Commissioner Butts is absent from today’s meeting and has appointed Commissioner Shenton as his proxy. Board members are attending this meeting virtually and it is being streamed lived through EIPH’s YouTube Channel. EIPH staff is present at the Idaho Falls office where there is also a space for the public to view in person.

**2. Approval of September 3, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Dr. Barbara Nelson made a motion to approve the September 3, 2020, Board of Health meeting minutes.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Miner

**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. Review of Public Comment**

Chairman Reed reviewed and responded to the public comments and questions received. He noted that there were just a few this week and all of them were addressed individually.

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

**a. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)**

- David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer (COO), reports they have had an uptick in COVID-19 cases and they are seeing a higher acuity in the cases. EIRMC currently has 22 COVID patients which has created a strain on staff and PPE. As an added level of precaution, the hospital has implemented universal shielding for staff. Resources are adequate.
- When asked about the higher acuity of patients, Mr. Hoffenberg responded that it may be caused because of comorbidities.

**b. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)**

- Casey Jackman, (COO), reports they have seen an uptick in cases and in the acuity of patients as well. They currently have 7 COVID-19 cases; none in the ICU at this time. Resources are good.
- They currently have 3 employees who are quarantined due to community exposure.
- They are allowing one designated visitor for the duration of a patients stay.
- Patients are being asked to wear masks, as appropriate, to help protect the staff.

**c. Madison Memorial Hospital**

Dr. Rachael Gonzales was unable to attend the meeting this morning but reports to Ms. Rackow that their ICU is 50% full. They have 3 COVID-19 inpatients, 2 in the ICU and 1 on Med/Surg.



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

- Ms. Rackow reported that Bonneville County has dropped to its lowest rate in the past two weeks of active cases at 15.9/10,000. Unfortunately, Madison County reached its highest active rate ever yesterday.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare's redesigned COVID-19 dashboard and specifically pointed out the data for lab testing. Statewide, as well as in EIPH's region, there has been a downward trend in the demand for testing. Statewide, the test positivity rate is 8% as of 8/29/20 and our district is the highest at 14.3 percent which is down from a high of 19 percent the first part of August. The reason for this may be the recommendation to only test symptomatic individuals.
- District 6 and 7 are working with ISU and Express Lab to set up a regional testing facility in Idaho Falls. Equipment from ISU will allow Express Lab to do onsite processing of COVID-19 test within 24 hours. Ms. Rackow is hopeful this facility will be up and running within the next two weeks; once fully operational, it will allow up to an addition 600 tests per day to be run in our region.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed CDC recommendations for isolation after close contact; negative COVID-19 test results done within the 14 days would not change the isolation time period.
- Mr. Corbett reviewed the data dashboard and Regional Response Plan metrics and the active cases for each County.
- Commissioner Mendenhall noted that Madison County numbers have increased but it is not due to BYU-I because they have not opened yet.

**6. Consideration of Rescinding Orders of Restriction in Teton and Jefferson Counties**

- Review and discussion of the County cases.
- The Teton County order has been in place since July 16, 2020. The County's Active Rate has been below the metric of 10/10,000 for past 11 consecutive days.
- Ms. Rackow reports that she met with the Victor City Council yesterday and they shared concern about the Order being lifted.
- Mr. Leake asked the Board to consider keeping the order in place. He is concerned that some people will stop wearing masks. An increase in cases could jeopardize the schools' ability to remain open.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed the draft orders for lifting restrictions in Teton County.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Shenton made a motion to move Teton County to the Green Minimal Risk Level, of the COVID-19 Regional Response Plan, effective immediately.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Miller

**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

|                      |     |                         |     |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Young   | Yes | Commissioner Mendenhall | Yes |
| Commissioner Miller  | Yes | Bill Leake              | No  |
| Dr. Nelson           | No  | Commissioner Miner      | Yes |
| Commissioner Shenton | Yes |                         |     |

- Jefferson County has not yet met the metric for being under the rate of 10/10,000 population for Active Cases for seven days but they have been trending downward. Ms. Rackow reviewed the draft Order Lifting Restrictions which could be effective September 12, 2020, if the County's cases continue to be under the rate of 10/10,000 for the next two days.
- Dr. Nelson recommends tabling this until the next meeting to actually see what happens following the Labor Day holiday and school openings.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Young made a motion to move Jefferson County to the Minimal (Green) Risk Level, of the COVID-19 Regional Response Plan, effective September 12, 2020, if their numbers remain down for the next two days.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Miner

**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

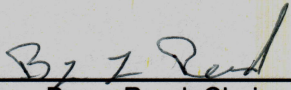
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|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Young   | Yes | Commissioner Mendenhall | Yes |
| Commissioner Miller  | Yes | Bill Leake              | No  |
| Dr. Nelson           | No  | Commissioner Miner      | Yes |
| Commissioner Shenton | Yes |                         |     |

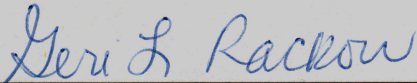


Commissioner Mendenhall is concerned that Madison County will go over the 10/10,000 Active Case rate over the weekend and requested to schedule a Special meeting of the Board of Health on Monday, September 14, 2020, to which the board members agreed. The meeting will be held at 7:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:23 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

  
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Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman

  
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Geri L. Rackow, Secretary