

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 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
Wayne Butts, Commissioner

STAFF MEMBERS

Geri 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 7:00 a.m. Commissioner Shenton is absent from today’s meeting. Board members are attending this meeting virtually and it is being streamed live 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 14, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Dr. Barbara Nelson made a motion to approve the September 14, 2020, Board of Health meeting minutes.

SECOND: Mr. Leake

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Review of Public Comment

Chairman Reed reviewed and responded to the public comments and questions received. He noted that several of the comments were addressed individually through email and the others will be addressed today. Topics included concerns about the public not following the EIPH mandates, splitting county information by location on the dashboard, and the concern that large gathering are still taking place.

4. Reports from Hospitals re: ICU and Overall Capacity

a. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer (COO), reports EIPH is full with about 200 patients in the main hospital; they have 20 COVID-19 patients, with 7 in the ICU on ventilators. The adult Med/Surg beds are full but they do have a plan in place to open a 12-bed overflow unit, if needed. They are seeing patients from Bingham and Bannock Counties. They are holding steady but very busy.

b. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, (COO), reports IFCH is 50% full and have seen an uptick in the last two weeks, with currently 4 COVID-19 patients in the ICU, 3 of them on ventilators. They have seen a range in age of the COVID-19 patients, they currently have a 45-year-old patient and had a 22-year-old; the patients are typically older. IFCH is holding steady with resources.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachael Gonzales reports Madison Memorial is at 85% capacity with 2 COVID-19 patients. They had a death of a woman in her 50s this week from COVID. It has been a challenge for them to place individuals who need inpatient Mental Health Services in their area. The drive through COVID-19 testing currently being done at BYU has been helpful to meet demands for testing.

5. COVID-19 Update, Myth Busting, and review of Data

- Dr. Barbara Nelson, Dr. Martha Buitrago, and Dr. Lofgran provided information and answered questions concerning the confusion over mixed messages related to COVID-19. Information is evolving and we need to stay current and follow the science.
- Mr. Corbett provided information and clarification on the isolation period for people who are considered cases opposed to those who are close contacts. A person considered a COVID case needs to isolate for 10 days following symptom onset, with symptom improvement and no fever for 24 hours. The incubation period for COVID-19 is 14 days, so a person considered a close contact of a case should isolate for 14 days from the last contact from the case since at any time during the incubation period they could become symptomatic. He also reported that some school districts and other businesses have created their own isolation policies for cases and close contacts which is different than this guidance; however, they are not endorsed by Eastern Idaho Public Health.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed the data dashboard and EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan metrics and the active cases for the counties. Teton and Lemhi Counties have each broached the Moderate Risk Level threshold for one day.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed testing positivity rate for the health district (found at coronavirus.idaho.gov). She anticipates regional testing capabilities to improve with the addition of high throughput testing capacity at Express Labs in the very near future. The current average turnaround time for testing in our area is two days.
- Mr. Corbett and Ms. Rackow continue to work closely with the schools to help with their response plans but the decisions for school plans is up to the School Boards. School staff is aiding EIPH with contract tracing of students and staff.

6. Consideration of Rescinding Orders of Restriction in Custer County

- Review and discussion of the County cases.
- Custer County has been under the threshold of 15/10,000 for Active Cases for 8 days.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed the draft orders for lifting restrictions in Custer County.
- Commissioner Reed hopes everyone will continue to do all the mitigations strategies on their own.

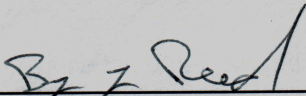
MOTION: Dr. Barbara Nelson made a motion to rescind the Order of Restriction for Custer County.

SECOND: Mr. Leake

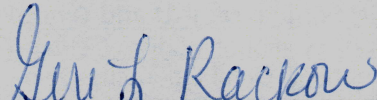
ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

Chairman Reed thanked Dr. Nelson, Dr. Buitrago, and Dr. Lofgran for providing information to help educate the Board and the public. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.



Commissioner Bryn Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary