

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 8, 2020**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**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  
Steve Thomas

**1. Call Board Meeting to Order**

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 7:33 a.m. Some 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 October 1, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020 BOH meeting.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Miner

**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. EIPH Division Updates**  
**Environmental Health**

- Kellye Johnson announced the Environmental Health Division has hired two new Environmental Health Specialists. Kathleen Price will be working out of our Driggs office and Christopher Ellis will fill a new position in our Idaho Falls office. Ms. Johnson is appreciative of her current staff who have been helping out while EIPH filled the positions.
- Ms. Johnson updated the Board on the shutdown of a food establishment and a child care facility.
- Environmental Health's Septic Program is schedule for an audit by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality next week.

**Clinical Services**

- Amy Gamett provided information on the 2019-2020 influenza season and Hepatitis C Treatment Program.
- EIPH's Immunization Program held a drive-thru flu clinic this week. Drive-thru clinics will be held each Tuesday in October from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Nutrition**

Angy Harwood reported the WIC program will continue providing remote services to clients. Many WIC staff are working from home to provide WIC and Peer Counseling services.

**4. Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report**

- Steve Thomas reported that for the three months ended September 30, 2020 the expenses were 45% under and revenue was 10.28% over budget for the District.
- Mr. Thomas provided information on the COVID-19 response spending and requested consideration of the Board to adjust the budget by \$1,863,495.20.



**MOTION:** Bill Leake made a motion to approve a budget adjustment of 1,863,495.20 as presented.  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Shenton  
**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**5. Review of Public Comment**

Chairman Reed reviewed and responded to the public comments received. Topics included support and opposition of mask mandates, concern over the rise in cases in Madison County and why they have not been moved to a higher risk level, and the Great Barrington Declaration. Discussion followed.

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

a. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, reports their ICU was almost full over the weekend with only 1 bed available. They currently have 5 COVID ICU patients and all are on ventilators. Their staffing is currently good but they are see some staff with COVID fatigue.

b. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports they currently have 26 COVID inpatients, 6 are in the ICU with 4 on ventilators. EIRMC experienced their highest number of patients over the weekend of 31 COVID patients. Staffing is currently good. They continue to communicate with other hospitals to coordinate care.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Kevin McEwan, Chief Nursing Officer, reports they currently have 6 COVID patients with 1 in the ICU, their ages range from 38-83. Madison does have a surge plan but staffing will be their biggest limitation. Personal Protective Equipment resources and staff are fair to good. They are busy with testing and are doing 40 a day at the hospital and 40 at the clinic. Since COVID began, Madison Memorial has transferred 4-5 patients to Idaho Falls hospitals. While the cases continue to rise in Madison County, they have had very few students admitted to the hospital.

Ms. Rackow asked the hospitals to explain their emergency management plan should they reach their capacity. All responded that they do have plans and would work together to continue providing patient care in our area.

- The hospitals are asking the public to be vigilant with mitigation strategies to protect resources.
- Total number of ICU beds available is not always a good number because there may not be staffing resources available to be able to fill the beds.

**7. COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Corbett and Ms. Rackow provided a review of the data dashboard and active cases in each county. Mr. Corbett thinks that the extracurricular activities within schools and busing may be why we are seeing an increase in cases. Social contact and family gathering are also contributing to the increase. Disease Investigators continue to have trouble contacting some of the cases, as some individuals do not respond to the health district's phone calls or texts.

**8. Discussion on Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19**

Dr. John Landers was unable to attend the meeting this morning. Ms. Rackow will reschedule Dr. Landers for a future meeting.

**9. Discussion and Possible Revision of EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan**

Ms. Rackow presented recommended changes to the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** Bill Leake made a motion to approve modifications to the EIPH Regional Response Plan as discussed and agreed upon by the Board of Health effective immediately.  
**SECOND:** Dr. Nelson  
**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED



Changes to the EIPH Regional Response Plan include:

- When the Plan was developed back in July, the key risk reduction strategies of staying home when sick and monitoring your health, washing hands or using hand sanitizer, maintaining physical distance of at least 6 feet from others, and wearing a face covering when not able to physical distance, were the backbone of the plan. These will continue to be core strategies in each risk level of our Response Plan. The Board chose to eliminate many of the unenforceable mitigation strategies and instead plan to focus its efforts on promoting and providing additional education on the everyday strategies people can adopt and follow that will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Two mitigation measures that will remain in the plan are Public Health Orders requiring face coverings and limitations on social gatherings and events outside of the Minimal (green) Risk Level. This is because these are two proven public health strategies that can help slow the spread of the virus.
- The Board of Health and EIPH Administration also feel it is imperative for local community leaders (elected officials, school officials, law enforcement, businesses, and others) to expand their role in helping their cities and counties reduce the spread of COVID-19 to protect the limited healthcare resources in our communities and region. EIPH will continue to collaborate with leaders to assist them in these efforts.
- The metrics (active cases/10,000 population) to elevate a county to the Moderate (yellow) Risk Level will remain the same and are based on the expected number of COVID-19 hospitalizations that result when cases reach that level. For an individual county to be elevated to the High (orange) Risk Level, the rate of active cases/10,000 population has been reduced from 50 to 30. For the region, we are currently at 27.3 active case/10,000 population which has resulted in increased hospitalizations and is placing an increasing burden on our hospitals and healthcare systems. When healthcare systems are stressed, it affects not only COVID-19 patients but all people seeking higher levels of medical care. Following the four key risk reduction strategies will reduce the impact on hospitals and help them continue to provide the medical care we have become accustomed to in our region.

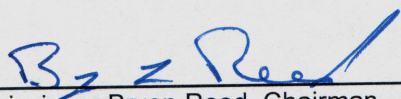
EIPH's COVID-19 Regional Response Plan document will be revised and made available on the health district's website as soon as possible.

**10. 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 Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties**

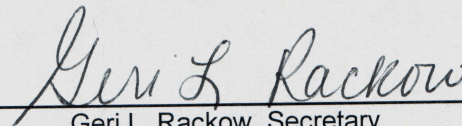
With changes made to the Region Response Plan today no action by the BOH is necessary.

Due to their dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases, Madison County has been elevated to the High (orange) Risk Level. Escalation to this level serves as a warning that the situation is becoming more serious and if a person hasn't adopted the four key risk reduction strategies, now would be a great time to start.

Commissioner Reed adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.



Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary