

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 2020
7:00 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 7:01 a.m. This meeting is being held 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 8, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting.
SECOND: Commissioner Mendenhall
ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Reports from Hospitals re: ICU and Overall Capacity

a. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, reports a downward trend in COVID-19 patients. They currently have 10 COVID-19 patients, 3 in ICU on ventilators. Over the past weekend they had 10 COVID-19 patients with 7 in the ICU on ventilators. IFCH has purchased 2 new ventilators but will not receive them until December.

b. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports they currently have 37 COVID-19 patients with 6 in the ICU. The patients are from Bonneville, Power, Lemhi, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Bingham, Teton, and Fremont Counties as well as Wyoming and California. EIRMC is focusing on improving staffing and have hired 150 new employees in recent months; 60% of those hired are nurses. They will bring in traveling nurses to help out during the winter months. EIRMC is working with other hospitals to get some patients back to their local hospital to complete their recovery.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachel Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer, reports that Madison currently has 3 COVID-19 patients. One of the challenges is providing inpatient care to COVID -19 patients with other needs such as acute mental health issues and COVID positive mothers delivering babies.

Ms. Rackow reported that Steele Memorial Medical Center has experienced an increase in hospitalized COVID-19 patients over the past week.

4. Presentation of Mental Health

Dr. John Landers provided information on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health issues in the nation and then presented some strategies that the Board of Health, community leaders, organizations, and individuals can do to help mitigate suffering in our region. Dr. Landers' presentation can be viewed on the EIPH website under Board of Health meeting materials.

5. New Mental Health Resources in Idaho

- Shannon Fox, COVID-19 Crisis Community Resource Specialist for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, provided information on the Idaho Strong Program. The program is provided through a grant from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Ms. Fox is working with individual communities to provide resources addressing mental health issues.
- Ms. Fox can be reached at Shannon.fox@dhw.idaho.gov or (986) 200-9402. For more information, visit <https://ioem.idaho.gov/covidhelpnow/>

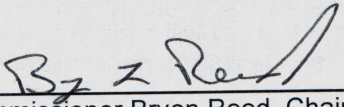
6. COVID-19 Update

- Ms. Rackow reviewed current active case counts for each of the counties in the health district.
- Lemhi County has exceeded the metric of 45/10,000 population for 3 days.
- Fremont and Bonneville Counties have exceeded the metric of 10/10,000 active case counts for 1 day.
- EIPH has added the total number of individuals hospitalized in our region to our data dashboard. Previously, only the number of individuals who reside within our health district were reported.
- Idaho has received a supply of rapid antigen tests from the federal government. The state has begun distributing these tests to the local health districts for use by priority populations identified by the State's Testing Task Force. The initial test supplies are for schools (teachers, staff, and students). EIPH is coordinating with local healthcare providers in each of our counties to make these tests available for the priority groups.

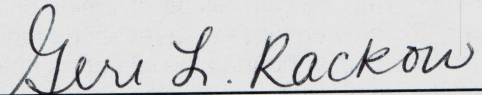
7. Discussion and Possible Revision of EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan

- Ms. Rackow is continuing to work on some additional proposed changes to the plan; however, is not prepared to present them to the Board today.
- Changes made to the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan at the October 8, 2020 meeting have not yet been posted on the website but a press release was sent out that day outlining the changes. Until all changes are made to the plan, a final document will not be posted; however, information about the specific changes to the plan made previously will be highlighted on EIPH's website.
- Chairman Reed and other board members would like to encourage community leaders and citizens of our communities to work together to find the best solution and also take personal responsibility with mitigation efforts.

Commissioner Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m. The next meeting as not yet been scheduled.



Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary