

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 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 7:02 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 22, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Shane Young made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting and requested to have the link to Dr. Lander's presentation added to these minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Nelson

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Breast Cancer Donation Presentation

Savanna Nelson, as part of a school project, started a Go Fund Me campaign to support breast cancer awareness and early breast cancer detection. A total of \$5,000 was raised through this effort and it is being donated to Eastern Idaho Public Health's Mammogram Voucher Program. The Board thanked Ms. Nelson for her efforts in supporting breast cancer awareness and the donation to EIPH.

4. Reports from Hospitals re: ICU and Overall Capacity

a. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, reports they have had several instances where all of their available ventilators were in use. With the assistance of Idaho Office of Emergency Management, they have acquired two additional ventilators for a total of ten. They currently have 4 COVID patients in the ICU and 6 on the medical floor. Patients are from Bonneville, Fremont, Bingham, and Jefferson Counties. They are seeing several people through the ER who are being treated and then sent home. Staffing is better but in the past two weeks they have had to send two patients to EIRMC due to a shortage of staff.

b. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports they currently have 33 COVID patients in their facility, with 8 in the ICU. The overall census of the hospital is up at 243. Staffing is always a concern and they will continue to hire and train new staff; over the next few months they will have 6-10 ICU nurses, not including the travelers. They are seeing patients from Lander, WY; Twin Falls County, Sun Valley, and throughout Montana, as well as patients in our region. They are continuing to allow elective surgeries.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachel Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer, reports they currently have three COVID inpatients. They are busy with other patients. They have transferred one patient to Idaho Falls for a higher level of care. Training nurses is challenging.

d. Steele Memorial Medical Center

Lisa Loughran, Chief Nursing Officer, reports they have had as high as six COVID patients on the Med/Surg floor this week; they have two today. They are relying on surrounding hospitals to accept transfer patients from them. They transferred 10 COVID patients this week to Kalispell, Boise, and Missoula. They have one Emergency Department (ED) doctor and one ED nurse, all other nurses are working additional shifts. They continue to work on educating the public regarding mitigation strategies to slow the spread.

Dr. Nelson reports the primary reasons for COVID hospitalizations is the inability to maintain oxygen saturation, altered mental status, and high fever.

5. COVID-19 Update

- Ms. Rackow update the board members on a meeting held last week with Dr. Deborah Bix, the White House's Ambassador and Coronavirus Response Coordinator in Idaho Falls. , Governor Little, Dave Jeppesen, Elke Shaw-Tulloch. Discussions included messaging to targeted audiences and testing. Following this discussion there was a round table discussion with other community stakeholders. The group felt it would be helpful if the hospital partners would put out more public messaging to communities in order to help them understand what is happening at the hospital level.
- Idaho is continuing to receive supplies of rapid antigen tests from the federal government. The State has been distributing these tests to the local health districts for use by priority populations. The most recent shipment is targeted to corrections populations. Shipments will soon come designated for universities.
- The number of people presenting for testing in the region has declined over the last two weeks.
- Ms. Rackow asked for guidance from the Board regarding the Governor's statewide Public Order and limitations on gatherings. In the Order it states that people may request an exemption by submitting a plan to the Public Health District for approval for gatherings over 50 people. The Board members agreed that exemptions should follow our current COVID-19 Regional Response Plan's guidance on gatherings which is 28 square feet per person to determine the maximum number of participants allowable.
- Mr. Corbett reviewed current active case counts and for the counties in the health district. Cases are mostly reported on the day they come in but we do have a cut-off point in the afternoon in order to validate and post the information. Reported cases that come in after 4:00 p.m. are not on the website that day. Not all providers are reporting positive cases and EIPH continues to educate providers regarding reporting requirements.
- Mr. Corbett reports the overall hospitalization rate is 3.8% of known cases. In early November, this number decreased to 3.1%, which was primarily driven by Madison County as their percent of hospitalizations is at 1.01%.
- There is continued concern over the community spread of the virus. We need to remain vigilant with mitigation strategies and follow recommendations for gatherings, especially going into the holiday season and colder weather.
- Dr. Nelson reminds everyone the importance of getting your flu shot to help protect hospital resources.

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

Ms. Rackow reviewed previously discussed changes to the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan for review by the board. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Commissioner Butts made a motion to approve the revisions and wording to the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan.

SECOND: Commissioner Mendenhall

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The COVID-19 Regional Response Plan is available on the website at EIPH.Idaho.gov

7. Rescind Order of Restriction for Custer County

Ms. Rackow reviewed Custer County case rates; they have been below the metric of 15/10,000 for 18 days, qualifying them to move to the Minimal Risk Level; however, for the past two days, rates are increasing and she is concerned that the County will rise to the Moderate Risk Level again soon. She reviewed the draft Order Lifting Restrictions in Custer County.

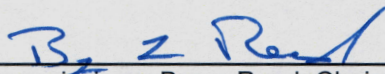
Commissioner Butts had a chance to talk with the other Custer County Commissioners and they are recommending the Order be rescinded.

MOTION: Commissioner Shenton made a motion to approve the Order Lifting Restrictions for Custer County.

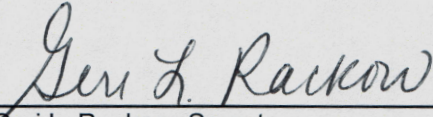
SECOND: Commissioner Butts

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:41 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.



Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary