

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 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

1. Call Board Meeting to Order

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 7:00 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 December 3, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Barbara Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Shenton

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Public Comment

- Commissioner Reed reviewed and discussed public comments received up through 5:00 p.m. December 9, 2020. Topics included concerns about school policies and after school activities, Teton residents asking for more restrictions, face mask requirements, disrespect of persons expressing opposing views, and enforcement of public health orders.
- As a follow up to last week's meeting, Chairman Reed and Ms. Rackow met with EIPH's legal counsel to discuss the enforcement of Public Health Orders. The Board has the authority to issue orders for the protection of public health, which in and of itself is an act of enforcement of the powers and duties of the board in accordance with Idaho Code 39-414. From there, enforcement of a public health order falls under the jurisdiction of mayors (via the Chief of Police) and the sheriffs, and eventually the Judicial branch of government.
- Chairman Reed thanked the public for their comments and reminds everyone to have respectful conversations.

4. Crisis Standards of Care Presentation

Dr. Aaron Gardner and Dr. Ken Krell, local physicians and members of the State of Idaho Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, provided information on Crisis Standards of Care and how it would effect the healthcare system. Information can be found here:

- Crisis Standards of Care Document
https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Crisis-Standards-of-Care-Plan_Final_Posted_Signed.pdf
- Patient Care: Strategies for Scarce Resource Situations
https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/2020_ID_CSC_Strategies_v2_Final_Posted-1.pdf

5. Reports from Hospitals and Emergency Medical Services

a. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports high census at 230 patients with 37 COVID patients (had a high of 40 this week). They report 10 deaths since the first of December. This is taking a toll on the staff; they offer support and counseling to try and support the team members. They are currently working to implement a plan for vaccine priority based on who is most at risk. They are also educating the staff regarding the risks and benefits of the vaccine.

b. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, reports they currently have 25 COVID patients, down from 28 earlier this week; 10 of the patients are in the ICU with 9 on ventilators. The patients are from Bonneville, Bingham, Teton, and Jefferson Counties and one patient from Oregon. IFCH has 10 total ventilators, they have purchased 4 more; 2 will arrive tomorrow and 2 next week. They have created COVID wards to help facilitate the nursing staffing. Operating Room and Cath Lab nurses have been reallocated to help on the floors and they have hired additional travelers. Their ICU is currently on divert due to the shortage of staff. IFCH has initiated Incident Command and they meet twice a day and have also initiated a physician committee to review requests for elective surgeries to make sure they have enough resources. They report 5 COVID deaths since December 2.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachel Gonzales was unable to attend today's meeting but reported to Ms. Rackow that Madison Memorial has been averaging 2-4 COVID inpatients the past week.

d. Steele Memorial Medical Center

Jeanie Gentry, Chief Executive Officer, reports they have no COVID inpatients. She feels that because of the number of deaths experienced in their community, more people are taking things seriously.

e. Teton Valley Health

Keith Gnagey, Chief Executive Officer, reports they do not have any COVID patients. Their positivity rate has declined from 20% down to 11% last week. He feels the change is due to communication and education.

6. COVID -19 Vaccine Update

Amy Gamett provided information and updates on the COVID vaccine. On December 10, the Vaccines & Related Biological Products Committee (VRBPAC) will review Pfizer vaccine data; and on December 17, the Moderna EUA vaccine data. Immediately following the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approval and recommendations, the first shipments of vaccine will be sent to providers identified by the State. EIPH's first allocation of Pfizer vaccine will be 975 doses for our first allocation of Pfizer vaccine. The vaccine will be distributed to priority groups identified by Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee.

7. COVID-19 Update

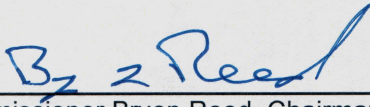
- Ms. Rackow reports the case numbers are increasing; yesterday in our health district we hit a record number of cases at 312 and 2,298 statewide. We have had an increased number of deaths reported this week. Deaths are reported when we receive confirmation through the Department of Health & Welfare's Bureau of Vital Statistics. It can be days or even weeks before the deaths are reported to us.
- Mr. Corbett reviewed the data dashboard highlighting hospitalization demographics and county level response information. EIPH's hospitalization rate is around 4% of known cases. The new data dashboard is updated daily but does take some time once the information is entered. Mr. Corbett recommends reviewing the information at around 6:00 p.m.

8. Consideration of Rescinding Orders of Restriction in Lemhi County

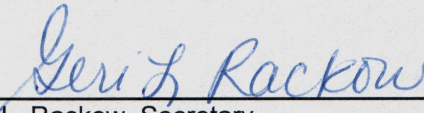
Ms. Rackow reports that for 13 days Lemhi County has been below the case rate of 15/10,000 and could be considered to be moved to the Minimal Risk Level and the Public Health Order rescinded.

Commissioner Miner commended the citizens of Lemhi County for doing the right things to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community. They experienced a rough patch a few weeks back when the hospital was overrun and the EMS workers were consistently on the go. He believes that due to the actions by the citizens, things have slowed down. The County has experienced 8 deaths, which is a high death rate per capita. Commissioner Miner asked the Board to consider leaving Lemhi County in the Moderate Risk Level through the first couple of weeks into the new year to get them through the holidays. Discussion followed. No action was taken to rescind the current Public Health Order for Lemhi County.

Commissioner Reed thanked the Board of Health for their work and efforts. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.



Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary