

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 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 10, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting.

SECOND: Dr. Nelson

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Public Comment

Commissioner Reed reviewed and discussed public comments received up through 5:00 p.m. December 16, 2020. Many people had questions and comments regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

4. Reports from Hospitals and Emergency Medical Services

a. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports they currently have 40 COVID patients, 13 of the occupied 25 ICU beds are COVID patients, 16 of the total ICU patients are on ventilators. Tuesday evening and yesterday they administered the COVID vaccine to staff. They will provide 2,500 vaccines over the next few weeks. They report no adverse reaction to the vaccine. The staff was very grateful to be able to receive the vaccine and feel like they are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. EIRMC continues to hire new staff but are still concerned about the nursing staff.

b. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, reports that for the first time in two weeks they have more non COVID patients than COVID patients. They currently have a total of 19 COVID patients, 8 in the ICU, all on ventilators. With the purchase of 4 new ventilators, they now have 14. They currently have patients from Bonneville, Bingham, Jefferson, and one from Oregon. They also started administering vaccines this week. They report one minor reaction of a fever. Physicians and employees were excited to get the vaccine. They do still have staffing shortages but were able to acquire a couple of travelers and hire some nurses in the past couple of weeks. With COVID cases trending downward and staffing going up, they are breathing easier for now.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachel Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer, reports they are currently at their typical census for this time of year and have no COVID inpatients. The last two COVID patients were transferred to Idaho Falls and Utah for a different type of care. They continue the monoclonal antibody infusion and physicians feel it is helping. They have completed their COVID vaccinations for the staff and physicians.

- IFCH and EIRMC agree they did see a spike in case about 5-6 days after Thanksgiving and expect to see another spike after Christmas.
- The hospitals report they have a good supply of the monoclonal antibody, they have not given as much as anticipated due to the inclusion criteria. It is a small group of people who qualify.

5. COVID -19 Vaccine Update

- Amy Gamett provided information and updates on the COVID vaccine. This week EIPH received 975 doses of the Pfizer vaccine for distribution to the hospitals in our District. On Monday, the first vaccines in the state were given at Madison Memorial Hospital. Additional shipments will be received next week, vaccine is being distributed to priority groups determined by Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC).
- Additional vaccine is expected next week for Long Term Care Facilities. EIPH may assist with giving vaccine at facilities who have not signed up with the Federal Pharmacy Partnership program.
- Moderna's vaccine is being reviewed by the Vaccines & Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) today. Once approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the vaccine will start shipping to states.
- Both vaccines require a second dose—Pfizer at 21 days; Moderna at 28 days. The vaccines are not interchangeable.

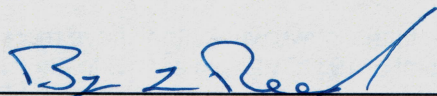
6. COVID-19 Update

- James Corbett reports a decrease in cases and is hopeful it continues. He reminds people to be vigilant through the holidays to avoid a spike in case.
- Mr. Corbet reviewed the cases for the counties.
- Death demographics by county were reviewed. The death rate is .8%, the flu death rate is .1%.
- Ms. Rackow update the Board on the drive-through testing for COVID. EIPH has partnered with U.S. Department of Health and Human Service to make this service available. The free testing will continue through the end of December.
- Express Labs closed their Rexburg testing site on 12/16/2020 and will not reopen until 1/4/2021 and the Idaho Falls location will be closed several days over the Christmas and New Year's holidays.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed the Isolation Period Guidance located on the EIPH website.

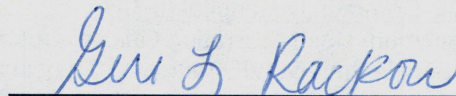
It was noted that in 2021, both Fremont and Lemhi Counties will appoint new Board of Health members.

Commissioner Reed expressed thanks from the Board of Health to Ms. Rackow and the staff at EIPH. The next meeting will be held on January 7, 2021 at 7: 00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.



Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary