

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 8/12/20

Attendance:

Dara Worthington
Allen Anderson

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Brienne Satorius
Diane Markley
JD Stewart
Jeff Fore

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart
Fiscal Officer Toni Perry

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

II. The minutes from the 6/24 and 7/224 and July 22nd meetings were approved on a roll call vote of 6-0.

III. Discussed new numbers, HD with physician consultants has developed guidance for schools - guidance going to school districts from ROE, also posted on web site.

Discussed how each school is unique which makes direction most difficult.

There is no general indication when schools would close based on community conditions; depends on school situations. The plans that schools have developed seem well conceived and seem to be working already when engaged. As situations develop, the schools can use the guidance and also reach out to LHD. In general,

Discussed positivity numbers. Numbers still going up but more evenly distributed age-wise than past weeks. There is a brush fire outbreak in Auburn Nursing Home. Keep in mind that a 51 in Sangamon is about the same as a 3 in Menard County.

The group discussed how things were in the community and most felt that they are not terribly engaged in community. Whether businesses were enforcing masking and social distancing was brought up. Casey's corporate put out mask wearing mandate in IL; that was effective 8/12. Social media was posted to this effect and a social media brawl ensued. Athens was identified as a Casey's that would not be complying with that corporate order. Casey's corporate followed-up with a go light communication.

Group from NH went to restaurant and walked out when they found masks weren't being worn

inside. Consensus that face coverings are a peer pressure thing where people conform with the location's norms (wear/don't wear).

Talked about local enforcement especially as the new masking regulations promulgated by IDPH were just authorized by the JCAR (legislative body.) LHD's and law enforcement can enforce the rule for face coverings. The rule is under review for means to produce effective enforcement. Also, intense circumstances can come about for health inspectors looking to enforce in businesses. The new rules will be distributed for further discussion. Local owners probably will be best positioned to put pressure on customers.

Discussion of IDPH commenced. Toni discussed the recent conference with Heritage Corporation. There will be a training program for several staff at Sunny Acres to be ready to do contact tracing. Payroll data will be shared to submit reimbursement to IDPH for grant reimbursement. The group further discussed the IDPH grant award.

The group then discussed ongoing efforts to acquire COVID-19 testing. Several point-of-care testing vendors were contacted but without success. The federal government has pledged to deliver POC testing to nursing homes but the timetable is unknown. Sunny Acres had had some contact on this but not recently. Other possibilities for testing in Sunny Acres nursing homes were discussed besides POC tests.

IV. The HD staff reported that the state's certification requirements for a community health assessment and community health plan, aka IPLAN, has been deferred for six months. Despite the on-going pandemic, this plan needs to be written as most of the work has been completed.

V. New business

The use of simple things as preventative measures was reviewed. For example, bathrooms access with means to keep hand off door knobs and waste cans to make sterile accessibility a priority. There was agreement that this kind of simple measure is worth future consideration.

VI. Future meetings will be scheduled for Wednesday as a regular meeting and cancelled as may be needed. The next meeting will be August 19 @ 5:30.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.