

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 4/29/20

Attendance:

Dara Worthington
Allen Anderson
Dawn Kelton
Mike Berg
Bob Lott
Sarah Yoder

Board of Health:

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

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:35.

II. Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of April 15 meeting - minutes approved by voice vote.

III. The status of testing in Menard County was discussed including desire to see more serological testing for antibodies. A case where plasma and serum helped a hospitalized patient was cited as adding to importance of antibody testing. One Menard positive is in the hospital.

Members discussed the status of compliance with stay-at-home order and that the state was not at the peak for cases. IDPH is going to reach out to nursing homes and make efforts to test persons widely in the state's nursing homes. Sunny Acres has a few test kits sent by SCDPH; when used, these would be sent to IDPH lab for testing and results.

Younger people showing up now in the reports because more being tested - more family members of persons positive cases are being tested. Director O'Neill cited recent reports of 7 and 10 year old positive cases in Sangamon; these children had no symptoms. This led to conversation about younger persons suffering strokes as a result of COVID-19 infection. The members were interested in learning, if in this area, younger people might be having strokes because of other co-morbidities.

The outbreak at Villa East was discussed and number of positive cases and deaths reviewed.

Members asked if we know how many employees at the Villa are from Menard County. The Health Department does not have that information but will check. Contact tracing for positive staff from Villa East is proceeding. Staffing at the Villa East facility and whether the facility has enough staff was discussed.

The group asked for suggestions on how to communicate with people that think COVID-19 is a conspiracy. This message is heard on the street and in rallies/protests. No real suggestions as this time; breaking through with messages to this group is very difficult. Perhaps the positive results from younger people will dissuade people.

The Board expressed appreciation to Director O'Neill and strong support. Concerns were also expressed about stressors on the Director.

The final topic was the # of healthcare workers displaced as a result of the pandemic; surprise and concern that RNs are being furloughed or laid off in the healthcare sector was expressed.

IV. No unfinished business.

V. No new business

VI. Chair Bagot, County Coordinator Worthington and Director O'Neill will confer on the next emergency meeting. The next regular meeting is May 26, 2020.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

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