

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 3/18/20

Attendance:

Jeff Fore, County Commissioner
Mark Oller, Sheriff
Ann Gorman, Administrative Assistant to Sheriff
Dara Worthington
Dara Gilbert
Pam Bauser, Treasurer
Don Kelton
Ben Hollet, Chief Deputy
Kevin Tippey, attorney
Jason Helpman (?)

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Donald Hartman
Dianne Markley
Brienne Satorius

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart
Dr. Brian Miller, Chair, Sangamon Board of Health

I. The meeting was called to Order at 5:35 p.m. with 4 BOH members present.

II. Review of recent activities (last 7 days)

Director O'Neill discussed the rapidly unfolding events over the weekend and early part of this week, including the Governor's Executive Order limiting event size and closing restaurants dining in services. She indicated that messaging specific to Menard would be forthcoming as an immediate goal. She presented the number of tests pending and discussed recent hotline experience. Finally, the Director reported that a health department food inspector had visited food establishments in Menard in the current week.

III. Medical discussion related to COVID-19 led by SBOH Chair Dr. Miller

Dr. B. Miller, Chair of the Sangamon County Board of Health, led a discussion related to the medical side of the disease. He discussed medical aspects of COVID-19 infection; flattening the curve with social distancing to reduce virus spread; and testing, isolation and other medical response.

Several questions were asked and answered, including regarding:

- a. Testing - limited to those truly qualified and criteria;
- b. Patient - call, gets screened, authorization, swab, test flu, qualifying authorization #

- c. Medical providers & testing/quarantine
- d. Discussion of reinfection, prognosis of infection,

Brianne spoke about the importance of residents first calling their primary care physician; Gail commented about problems at ERs initially when residents/patients were bypassing the primary care physicians and going directly to the ER.

IV. Open Discussion related to COVID-19

The group sensed an issue with cleaning/cleaning supplies availability in gas stations, grocery stores, etc., but especially gas stations. The pharmacy can produce hand sanitizer. HD will bring message to gas stations.

Materials on SCDPH and Menard web sites were discussed.

Supplies to nursing home and other were discussed.

The need for clarity of how the emergency declaration would lead to funding communities for services was expressed. Gail will follow-up. The need to consider alternate housing if families need to split up due to isolation and quarantine was identified; the Menard EMS Chief has compiled a plan. SAO has templates for mandatory quarantine/isolation orders.

If bars/restaurants don't comply, licenses will be challenged. After one warning, then sanction may ensue for enforcement if necessary.

Brief discussion of thoughts on normalcy returning, when will that happen; this is unknown, perhaps 4-5 months.

The question of PPE for pharmacies was raised. N95 masks and face guard/goggles were identified as the proper PPE. Pharmacy is already doing curbside delivery. There may be other PPE needs for pharmacy if spread continues.

An inquiry about Sangamon County court operations and the number of staff reporting to work now was made; Gail will check.

Gail asked the group to think about where someone will go if arrested and needs quarantine and/or isolation. There was an interest in leveraging the agreement so that Sangamon might house such an arrestee. Gail will inquire.

Regarding community testing, if HD starts swabbing/sampling then someone will come to Menard; space outdoors could be identified.

Employees of the county and staffing levels were discussed. Gail suggested consider status of immuno-compromised staff. The HD will be doing WIC visits by phone for EBT and limiting immunizations to very young infants for right now.

Prospects for putting the guidance documents and HD hotline number on Menard letterhead for use was brought up. These will be shared.

Bill presented the county wide policy concerning employees and members of their household returning from vacations to high risk areas; these employees are sent home for 14 days with pay. Bill also mentioned the signage being posted about possible signs of infection and also that the county building started checking temperatures of entrants on 3/18 as is the Sangamon HD. The signage will be shared.

Brief discussion was had on enforcing quarantine if a person violated quarantine directives and proceeded to wander around others. There was not a clear answer but ankle bracelets were mentioned as perhaps a useful tool in this circumstance.

V. Next Meeting – March 25, 2020

Additional contacts for HD will be shared.

The group agreed that the next meeting would be Wednesday 5:30.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Concluded 6:50