

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 4/01/20

Attendance:

Jeff Fore, County Commissioner
Dara Worthington
Ryan Heavner
Allen Anderson

Board of Health:

Dave Baggot
Dr. Donald Hartman
JD Stewart

Health Department

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

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. 2 Menard BOH members were present.
- II. Minutes held pending quorum
- III. Latest developments.
There was some discussion of the positive case and rumors about positive being a close contact with teacher's aide. The group reviewed that the schools had dismissed on Friday the 13th. Time frames suggest there would have been minimal contact with positive case at the time of school. At the present time (April 1), more than 14 days have passed from the 13th. With the limited possibility of contact and the lapse of more than 14 days, this situation has diffused,

Discussion of employee of school district going to California. Dr. Miller instructs to tell him to quarantine for 14 days when he gets back. There was conversation about a Colorado county where it went on lockdown – no persons in or out for the most part.

Dialogue about increasing testing numbers due to more relaxed standards (outside of state labs) and more test kits available. Eventually, rapid test kits and machines will be in the hospital but there will still limitations based on swabs and other materials. This development will drastically improve turnaround time for getting results. Probably in fall surveillance testing will be available.

The group conferred about what drugs could be used, based on various national reports. Dr. Miller reported on three investigations: monoclonal antibodies, convalescent plasma infusion (plasma extracted from people that had recovered

from COVID) and an anti-Malaria drug + antibiotic + zinc, vitamins. No cures but some limited evidence these are helpful is reported.

The group reviewed the need to know, locally, the number of available ventilators and the utilization rates typically for ventilators. There have been discussions with hospitals about ventilators and about pulling in vents. Dr. Miller shared that a mask order was diverted at import and diverted to a high demand area of country.

Someone observed that there seems to be as many cars as ever in Petersburg coming and going. The prospect of innovative messages through phones to remind people to stay at home was brought up. In Greenview, parks closed but there is a track open where people can maintain distance and there is no restroom which is a plus. There was a sentiment expressed that this may go on into June but that without steps things would be way, way worse.

Dr. Miller departed at 6:02 pm.

SCDPH sent LTCs guidance to bring resident to ambulance rather than have EMT's go into facility. Also, instructed to reduce calls to EMS for falling out of bed. Hospitals asked that all patients in ambulances wear masks; SCDPH has provided some masks. Procedure masks at this point. Situation in Taylorville with senior citizens infections lends to reminders that congregate areas need to be managed with social distancing, clean and disinfected.

If people getting groups together repetitively, then report should be made to HD to show up. Meetings for substance abuse consultations, like AA, are allowed with ten people. For others, perhaps neutral person from HD letting them know it's a bad idea to congregate would help; HD is willing to contact these groups and do what we can.

With shelter in place happening, services still happening and trucks coming daily. Still, the public health measures seem to be helping. People need to continue to take situation seriously to assist the community. People eligible for priority testing now are most at risk - sick, elderly, healthcare workers, first responders.

The group discussed issues at Casey's, Dollar General, County Market and Walmart. HD will check in with Casey's and Dollar General for sure indicating the importance of maintaining six feet physical separation.

- IV. Additional members having joined the meeting, the minutes of the March 25 meeting were approved.
- V. No new business was brought up.
- VI. The group decided to meet again on Wednesday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m.
- VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at about 6:45 p.m.