

## **Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 3/25/20**

### Attendance:

Jeff Fore, County Commissioner  
Dara Worthington  
Don Kelton  
Allen Anderson  
Troy Cummings  
Bob Lott  
Marge Oblinger  
Sara Yoder  
JD Stewart

### Board of Health:

Dave Bagot  
Dr. Donald Hartman  
Dianne Markley  
Brienne Satorius

### 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 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Baggot with 4 BOH members present.**

**II. Motion to approve minutes; motion was seconded; approved by voice vote**

**III. Open Discussion and Q/A re: COVID-19**

Gail shared that several materials for the Menard web site had been shared this afternoon. Bill commented that these were guidelines and information for the public including, among others, helpful information for households generally and for observing isolation and quarantine.

Gail stated that for Menard County, there have been 17 total tests authorized through IDPH with 0 positives, 4 negatives and 13 pending.

Items discussed included:

If the Peterburg Observer is on the media list distribution list that the HD uses. HD to check.

The Facebook page that the Sheriff has where evening updates are posted.

Testing being expanded as private lab tests now are available, which has increased testing significantly.

Concerns expressed about people staying home as ordered by the Governor.

The issue of college kids returning from spring break was addressed in Tuesday 3/24 press release.

**During the questions and answers portion of the meeting:**

On testing in Menard Co., how conducted? Only 2 through SCDPH, 15 through private tests.

How long does testing take?

1-2 days through state lab; 4-6 days private. Memorial looking to get internal lab testing capacity.

Gail reported that an HD Inspector did approach gas stations about wiping down pumps, which was discussed at the 3/18 meeting. Gail offered for the Menard EMS Coordinator or anyone to see emergency operations center. If someone wants to come contact Gail/Carol.

More information about PPE?

The process for requesting PPE is that EMS/Law Enforcement in Menard make contacts through IEMA. SCDPH received some donations but some of the things are expired - gowns, masks. If Menard Co. needs something, send a request and the HD will see what it can do.

Gail reported that instructions went out to EMS providers that patients in an ambulance need to be masked to protect the healthcare workforce. They are using masks that SCDPH provided which may be old but still something to reduce respiratory droplets.

Can masks be irradiated?

Not sure. Videos about making masks are popular on YouTube; some well-made ones use cotton in a pocket between fabrics, which may provide some protection.

Risk of handling money? Hand wash and sanitize. Baggot's operation is making hand sanitizer.

Is the population taking the stay at home order seriously? A large number are.

What about stocks in stores? Not sure, some stores remain cleared out. Discussion about stores hours followed.

When will shelter in place order show pay off? Not known with any degree of confidence.

Is there a basis of where shelter in place will end? Wait to see what happens to numbers. Is it helping a whole lot? Wait and see what pending tests show. Perhaps there will be a random sampling of testing to see how disease is progressing. Probably be a few weeks...

Hotline will be manned through the week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days per week..

Private sector testing criteria? Yes - symptomatic and contact with a positive case OR senior / at risk / autoimmune, and symptomatic OR certain pregnant women. The private sector testing is not through IDPH protocols. IDPH criteria is symptomatic and either hospitalized only or in congregate setting OR symptomatic with contact to confirmed positive OR symptomatic healthcare workers OR immune-depressed or pregnant and symptomatic (see release). All current positives are home bound.

Where are tests acquired? LabCorp, Qwest and IDPH.

Are tests paid by private pay out of pocket? Likely billed through insurance.

What shows patient has recovered from COVID-19? Dr. Miller discussed two swabs in 24 hours that test negative; patient is isolated until 2 days of negative tests (required).

Shelter in place? Any talk of it being more specific/surgical? Dr. Miller indicated no, communities must endeavor to slam the door shut on infection now. Ideally, don't allow one case... Once virus is in, then infesting, start chain of infection begins running. Unless stay at home and similar orders are the same for everybody, else those under restriction will travel to other areas and spread it.

McLean expanding testing? Experiment in two counties to see if asymptomatic - test 1000 first responders. National Guard is going to staff these sites.

Testing asymptomatic? Shouldn't it be wider? Yes, surveillance screening would be helpful; with current constraints starting with first responders. Gross estimate is 40% of population will be infected nationwide.

There was a brief discussion of nonessential businesses. Discussion of people working with some noting that, for the most part, things don't seem to be shut down. Dr. Miller noted the unequal burden indicating that state/federal employees are staying home and getting paid but private employees like with restaurants etc will get no pay. Changes at the work place to make it cleaner/safer have been recommended widely. Dr. Miller notes that healthcare providers are eliminating payment to doctors since with no surgery there is zero income. Some physicians may resume seeing patients with telemedicine rolling out more widely and specifically if private insurance accepts claims for telemedicine encounters (Medicaid and Medicare will cover).

#### **IV. Unfinished business**

None discussed at this meeting.

#### **V. New business**

Farm business community would benefit from targeted signage or advertisement. Goal set to accomplish this with a strong, straight talk message aimed at farmers using Farm Bureau to circulate messaging.

**VI. Next Meeting**

The group decided to meet again on Wednesday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment**

At 6:25 p.m., the meeting adjourned.