

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 9/30/20

Attendance:

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Diane Markley
JD Stewart
Jeff Fore

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. with a roll call vote. With five members answering the roll call, a quorum was established.

II. Motioned and seconded to approve the minutes from the 9/16 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III.

Discussion of positivity rate in Menard and that it's improving. Press showing interest in Menard. Questions about cases in schools from press but not any story there. Contract tracers may not be getting information about event attendance, like the event at the fairgrounds. People may not want to admit where they had been.

Discussion of testing site that would be conducted on October 8 and 9. This testing would be by an IDPH contractor, free to any who would come. Outreach will be a challenge but the Sheriff's Facebook might be a way to spread the word to a large following.

The latest demographic data for cases in Menard County was discussed, including villages and ages where latest cases have been identified. Revised guidance document for the schools was recently distributed; this one was about two pages while a longer one had been shared previously. The Regional Office of Education was the conduit for distribution.

IV. & V.

Addresses for about 370 businesses have been compiled for circulating a letter targeting businesses.

The letter regarding Sunny Acres staff was approved for placement in the papers. Also, the last conversation with Heritage staff was discussed; Heritage staff is working to set up the staff with emails and computers for contact tracing. The emails costs and other costs can be worked into the grant budget as direct costs to Heritage for setting up the contract tracers.

Heritage has the BD Veritor+ system. Some materials were shared about this testing system. The early feedback from the home says they liked the machine but ran out of supplies. New supplies are on order. Sunny Acres returned to previous COVID testing protocols. Sunny Acres is one of only two Heritage Homes that hasn't had a case yet.

Looking at placing a billboard as part of messaging about simple prevention measures. Also considering ads delivered via social media targeted by geography.

The funding status of the grant programs were reviewed. The local cures program can be distributed across the county government to compensate for expenses brought about by the COVID pandemic. These would include payroll costs, medical and public health costs; also, new projects at Sunny Acres. One example would be the highway maintainers using separate vehicles where they used to ride together.

At an upcoming meeting, we need to review the status of these grants.

VI. Next meeting to be called by the Chair.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:28.