

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2021
7:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Bryon Reed, Commissioner, Chairman
Bill Leake, Teton County, Trustee
Blair Dance, Commissioner
Leah Madsen, Commissioner
Shayne Young, Commissioner
Barbara Nelson, MD, Vice Chair
Greg Shenton, Commissioner
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner

STAFF MEMBERS

Geri Rackow
James Corbett
Angy Harwood
Cheryl O'Connell
Amy Gamett
Kellye Johnson

1. Call Board Meeting to Order

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 7:00 a.m. This meeting is being held virtually and it is being streamed live through EIPH's YouTube channel. EIPH staff is present at the Idaho Falls office where there is also a space for the public to view in person.

2. Approval of the January 14, 2021 and January 25, 2021 Board of Health Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the January 14, 2021 and January 25, 2021 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Commissioner Young

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Reports from Regional Healthcare Partners

a. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports that while things are getting better, most cases are going to the larger facilities. EIRMC currently has 14 COVID inpatients, 3 are in the ICU. They are still facing staffing challenges in the ICU and PCU. He also reported that 95% of EIRMC staff has taken the vaccine, with second doses being completed this week. EIRMC is making plans on how to incorporate a permanent COVID unit at their facility.

b. Idaho Falls Community Hospital

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, was not available this morning but provided Ms. Rackow with an update. They currently have 7 COVID inpatients, 1 in the ICU on a ventilator. They are finishing up with providing vaccine to staff and also assisted in administering vaccines to Bonneville Joint School District 93's teachers and staff.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachel Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer, reports that while things are slowing down, we should stay diligent in efforts to keep the numbers down. Going forward they are planning on how to care for COVID patients on an ongoing basis. They have an 80% vaccine uptake rate at their facility and are finishing up the administration of the last of their second doses.

4. COVID-19 Situational Report

a. COVID-19 Data Review

- Mr. Corbett reviewed the Data Dashboard. We currently have 368 active cases and 26 hospitalizations in our District. Cases have been slightly higher this week than in the previous two-week period.
- Ms. Rackow reported that Governor Little move the state to Stage 3 on Tuesday. Gatherings went from 10 people to 50 people. Healthcare clinics are exempt from the mass gathering limitations. The exemption was extended for other gatherings over 50 but will require the completion of a Large

Gathering Plan Attestation and submitted to the appropriate Health District. The plan does not need approval of the Health District.

b. Vaccination Rollout Update

- On February 1, people 65 and older became eligible to receive the vaccine. On Saturday, January 30, EIPH had a plan in place to allow this group to either call in or go online at 9:00 a.m. to schedule one of 2,000 appointments. The response was overwhelming and within 20 minutes all the appointments were filled. While many were glad to get appointments, many more were anxious, frustrated, and confused with the process. EIPH quickly revamped its appointment scheduling plan to make the process easier going forward, especially for the senior population. An overview of the new process was shared. There are approximately 40 providers in our Health District providing the vaccine; the list of providers is available on EIPH's website.
- Through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership, Idaho received additional vaccine due to the inability of pharmacies to full fill their contractual obligations. The additional doses will be allocated across the state. This additional vaccine allocation allowed EIPH to provide additional doses for Teton and Lemhi Counties at their regularly scheduled clinics as well as schedule two new mass vaccination clinics—one in Bonneville County for Bonneville and Jefferson County residents and the second in Madison County for Madison and Fremont County residents.
- Ms. Gamett provided updated information on two additional vaccine trials and provided an update on how the clinics have been going. EIPH has given over 7,000 first and second doses. They have hired additional staff and are using many volunteers at the clinics.
- Mr. Corbett provided information regarding the logistical challenges faced by the Preparedness Team in managing the allocation of vaccine to providers. They work with partners daily to distribute vaccine equitably through our district. The team also works to coordinate volunteers and secure venues for clinics.

c. Budget Request for Additional Vaccine Rollout Support

Ms. Rackow reports that EIPH will be utilizing grant funds, insurance reimbursement for the administration of the vaccine, and subgrant funds received through the Department of Health and Welfare to help with the increased costs of staffing and operating costs. She estimates the total amount needed for additional staffing is estimated to be \$350,000. These changes will likely require a budget adjustment at a future meeting.

5. Discussion and Vote Regarding Rescinding Orders of Restriction in Bonneville, Custer, Jefferson, and Madison Counties

- Custer and Jefferson Counties have been under the threshold of 15/10,000 cases for 14 consecutive days and could be moved to the Minimal Risk level.
- Bonneville County, if they continue on their downward trend under the threshold of 15/10,000 will be eligible to move to the Minimal Risk level on February 8, 2021.
- Discussion followed.
- Ms. Rackow reviewed the Draft Order of Restrictions and stated that even though we are moving in a positive direction and may begin lifting orders, it is still the recommendation from Public Health that face coverings be worn when physical distancing from people outside of one's immediate household members cannot be maintained.

MOTION: Commissioner Young made a motion to lift the Orders of Restriction for Custer and Jefferson Counties and move them to the Minimal Risk level and move Bonneville County to the Minimal Risk level, on February 8, 2021, if they meet the 14-day criteria.

SECOND: Commissioner Shenton

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED.

6. Legislative Update

Bill Leake, Ms. Rackow, and Chairman Reed traveled to Boise last week for presentations to the Legislature on the role of Public Health in Idaho. They were also able to meet with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, senior leadership at the Health and Welfare Committees for the Senate and the House, and many other representatives to provide information and answer questions.

Mr. Leake reviewed the following legislation:

- A bill will be introduced this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. to address overall powers and authority of the Boards of Health.
- House Bill 33 - Review of any Health Board actions by the appropriate Board of County Commissioners.
- House Bill 67 and 68 - These bills are going to show that the only authority to close schools is the School Boards or Governor. The Board of Health, cities, and Department of Health and Welfare would not be able to close schools and universities.
- House Bill 63 – Prohibits the mandate of vaccinations.

7. Announcements

- EIPH has received the affirmative votes from the majority of the County Commissioners for the appointments of Commissioner Leah Madsen and Commissioner Blair Dance.
- Public Health Districts will be presenting their FY2022 Budget to the Legislature's Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee on Monday, February 15, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting and Ms. Rackow will be the spokesperson for the Public Health Districts presentation.
- Ms. Rackow sadly announced the passing of Southeastern Idaho Public Health Chairman and Trustee and former Power County Commissioner, Ken Estep. He committed a lot of years to the support of Public Health.

Chairman Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:28 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2021 at 7:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman

Geri L. Rackow, Secretary