

**Lincoln County**  
**City-County Board of Health Emergency Meeting**  
**5:00 PM, July 16, 2020**  
**Commissioner's Office Meeting Room**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**

Attendance: Jan Ivers, Mark Peck, George Jamison (via phone), Deb Armstrong (via phone), Laura Crismore (via phone), Maggie Anderson (via phone)

Jan Ivers, Board Chair, welcomed the group of 80+ participants and went over BOH meeting operating procedure 2; individuals will get one turn of three minutes duration for their comments or questions, they will be respectful of each other and allow others their chance to speak.

**4. Public Health Covid-19 Update**

- Jennifer McCully reported a cluster of positives in Libby. Contact tracing has been ongoing, showing community spread at this time. Community spread is determined when the source of spread cannot be identified. Lab results had been taking up to 14 days to get back. Asymptomatic testing will halt until the labs can get caught up and can handle those numbers again.

**Public Health Public Comments:**

- Heather Handy, owner of Heaven's Peak in Eureka: Heather expressed her stance against Governor Bullock's new mask wearing mandate put in place July 15, 2020 and local Health Department enforcement concerns. She felt it was against her rights.
- Carla Westbrook: Carla stated she read the Health Officer's Draft. She asked for clarification on what 'imminent threat' meant exactly. Carla expressed her stance against Governor Bullock's new mask wearing mandate and local Health Department enforcement concerns.
  - Deb Armstrong stated that in acute situations, there are valid concerns for those being under a mask for a long period of time.
- Genevieve Rohrick: Genevieve expressed her stance in support of Governor Bullock's new mask mandate. She asked if we could all wear our masks for a few weeks and be responsible and prudent residents. She would like more educational information available and asked if the Health Department could provide that.
  - Laura Crismore reminded the group (there are 100 on the zoom call, some unmuting themselves and talking over the one whose turn it is) that the mask order was a mandate from the Governor. As a county, we can be more restrictive, but not less than restrictive than what the Governor released.

## 5. Health Officer Update

- Dr. Black thanks everyone for being on the call and sharing their input. There are a lot of challenges in our county, with a large number of aging population and extensive lung disease present. We have reason to believe the virus is spreading throughout the community and the tool of quick turnaround testing is not available at this point. He expresses this is our responsibility to keep the virus down for our children and the schools, etc. Dr. Black believes the most important thing we can do as a county is use masks to control spread. Social restriction also reduces contact and, in turn, the spread of the Coronavirus.
- Dr. Black discusses the extensive literature of mask use in the last year. There are no known adverse effects of wearing a mask for long periods of time unless there is serious underlying issue such as lung disease. He shares global workgroup information regarding the use of masks as well as epidemiological data on the importance of face mask use. This is not going to go away. The virus is here, and we need to deal with it now.

### Health Officer Public Comments:

- Dee Boyles: Dee expressed her stance against Governor Bullock's new mask wearing mandate.
- DJ Syris: Expressed her stance against Governor Bullock's new mask wearing mandate.
- Marcia Fantozzi: Marcia asked if other labs were available to send specimens to for testing. She asked if they would be able to hear his proposal tonight regarding events and who will enforce those. Marcia asked if his plan mimics the Governor's, who enforces that?
  - Dr. Black stated his order does mimic the Governor's order and the challenge of enforcement is what is being worked out now.
- BreeAnna: BreeAnna expressed her stance against Governor Bullock's new mask wearing mandate put in place July 15 and local Health Department enforcement concerns. She stated concerns with the Pediatric Society. Wanted answers as to why the US is the only country trying to keep kids out of schools.
  - Jan explained that school closures/openings are up to each individual school board, no the county.
  - Laura reiterated that the Governor's order is already in place.
- Kevin Peck with Igniter's Club: Kevin stated we have to respect the Governor's order, but does have issue with the Health Officer's draft order. As a community and Igniter member, he feels it would be detrimental to have to cancel Ignite the Nights. With a plan in place, events can be held safely.
- Kevin from Rexford: Kevin expressed his belief that with nobody knowing what the virus does, the best thing to do would be to shut it all down at this time.

- Helene Robinson: Helene expressed her stance in support of Governor Bullock's new mask mandate. She stated that social distancing is what works and masks are necessary.
- Patty Rambo: Patty was representative of the Kootenai Stampede Rodeo event coming up the following week. She relayed that events are economically and psychologically helpful for residents and is not in favor of cancelling activities and events.
- Summer asked if there were actual studies regarding children and transmission and if not, what would keep them from coming home from school and transmitting it to their families?
  - Dr. Black discusses research from Germany regarding children and schools.
- Dawn Peterson: Dawn shared her stance in support of the Health Officer's Order. She believed that relaxed guidelines would cause more spread and would like to see the 14 day travel quarantine reinstated.
- Gary Beach: Gary asked if an individual tests positive, and they go against quarantine, what is in place to enforce them staying home and out of the public?
  - Jennifer McCully, Public Health Manager informed group that the Health Department is aware of the situation, there are orders that the county attorney can share the MCA regarding powers of the Health Officer.
  - Marcia Boris, Lincoln County attorney, explained this is a public health order within the meaning of MCA 50-1-103(2) and 50-2-118, which states that it is enforceable by Attorney General, DPHHS, the county attorney, or other local authorities under the county attorney. The governor's directive states that 'local public health agencies are directed to assist in the administration of this Directive, consistent with 50-2-202(2)(a), MCA. All officers and agencies of the state are directed to assist in the administration and enforcement of this Directive, consistent with 10-3-305(2), MCA.' She goes on to explain Health Officer's role and authority.
- Pierce Barney: Pierce believed guidelines are a good thing if serious cause of concern is necessary, but did not believe the government should overreach in this case. He went on to discuss his stance against the Governor's mask order and enforcement of the order.
- Troy Douthit: Troy asked for clarification on outside events. He asked if there were guidelines or metrics to use in order to establish next steps.
  - Dr. Black replied that opening would be based on the results of tests and movement of the virus within the county.
- Luanne Lafleur: Luanne asked about testing and hearing that results are out a couple of weeks. She asked how many tests have been done in Lincoln County and if we have adequate tests available with the current rise in cases. She shared using Facebook group for providing support for those in quarantine or worried about going out and exposed.
- Brian Zimmerman: Brian asked when the Directive will take effect.
  - Dr. Black reiterates the Health Officer Order would be effective July 20, 2020.
- Claire: Inquired as to how the mask mandate is going to be enforced.

- Kathi Hooper, Health Department Director explained the focus will be on education. If there is direct violation after education, than notice of violation will be served. If the violation persists, closure order for that business could be sought. If you notice a business is in need of education, you can call the COVID Information Line at 293-6295.
- Danielle Maiden: Spoke in support of the 50 people or less at gatherings and events, thanking Board of Health and Health Department.
- Debbie Tribble: Debbie expressed her support for Governor Bullock's new mask wearing mandate and the Health Officer's Order.
- Karla Westbrook: Asked Dr. Black what made this a pandemic and if he took into consideration the social and economic impact of his order.
  - Jan replied that Dr. Black and the Board of Health members took all of that into consideration and will modify orders as needed.
- Brittany Vinson: Brittany thanked the Board for their efforts. She believed this pandemic has met imminent need and is in full support of the Health Officer's order for masks and cancelling of events having 50 or more participants.

## 6. Board Member comment

- Jan Ivers: Jan noted that since there were more people wanting to comment and the meeting already being t 2 hours, there will be a continuation zoom meeting on Monday at 5 pm. Same call in number and code, so that everyone who would like the opportunity to comment can. There will be Board of Health meeting first, and then open to public comments.
- George Jamison: George commented that when test results are given, minimal information is given on each case. He would like the maximum amount of information to provided when releasing result details to the Board of Health and the general public. Information such as where the positive was exposed, ie: weddings, etc. George also inquired as to other testing resources available. In the beginning the issue was with test kit availability, now it is with the tests being bottlenecked at the labs. He asked if the hospital could be utilized. George also would like to see the zoom upgraded for more than 100 participants. George stated that the Governor's order is out of the Board's hands; the question is whether to be more restrictive with events. He would like to pass the mirrored plan and discuss on Monday the details surrounding being more restrictive.
- Deb Armstrong: Deb would like to make sure that people are questioning the information they are given. The World Health Organization (WHO) has a great myth buster site where they can fact check before sharing with others.

## 7. Adjourn

George makes the motion to adjourn, Laura seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Janet Adams, Chair  
Board of Health  
8/12/2020