

MEETING NOTES CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE 13OCTOBER2020

FAQs

“Ventilation” has reached status quo with James making approved changes. “Testing” has been updated with information regarding availability of rapid antigen testing. Stephanie needs a copy of the updated document with changes highlighted when revisions occur (**Kathie** will send Testing update to her). These documents exist in a dynamic form as well as a pdf (to allow downloading). Ideally, both will be updated in a timely fashion by **Stephanie** when revised.

“Daily Lives” questions were reviewed, and changes incorporated in real time. **Ann** will add a question on what to do if exposure is suspected e.g. after dining in a restaurant. The questions will go out to the Task Force for review prior to tomorrow’s meeting and give feedback at that time. Aim is to keep the community healthy and open by helping individuals to understand best behaviors and practices. Graphics will be added later.

Public information

The Weekly Dashboard has been reformatted to increase the focus on NH, Rockingham County, and Portsmouth. Cases are up in these areas. Percent positivity is approaching 2% in NH. Case locations are based on residence so, for example, a person who commutes to Portsmouth for work and is COVID positive will not be counted as a Portsmouth case.

Letters to the Governor and to surrounding towns currently on hold will remain as a standing agenda item until/unless status changes.

Stephanie replied to the subcommittee’s request for information on how often COVID-19 information is accessed on the city website. Of about 800 pages, the Health page was ranked #31, accessed 11,000 times, for an average of 3 minutes according to a recent report (date range not specified). Other sites providing COVID-19 information were also accessed to a robust degree. Overall, the information appears to be of use to the website’s target audience.

Public Health

COVID-19 cases and “scares” at area restaurants have been publicized and will be summarized for the Task Force tomorrow. Members reviewed procedures and clarified the roles of Portsmouth’s Health Department and the state’s Department of Health and Human Services. The state bears responsibility for contact tracing, including cases at restaurants; the city Health Department is not routinely notified.

Positive cases by the PCR method are automatically reported to the state, whereas point of care test results such as rapid antigen testing are called in. The recent increase in case numbers locally is not unexpected given increased community transmission observed around the state.

AOB

James report an interest in extending outdoor dining later into the fall.

Health reported that applications are available for revised dining based on the use of rigid dividers between tables but none have been filed as yet. The Health Department is writing an FAQ on this topic.