

MEETING NOTES CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE 20OCTOBER2020

City Council Meeting

At the meeting last night, the dashboard was shown and mentioned during the Health Department presentation. A review of licensing activities suggests recent net loss in food services within the city.

Daily Life FAQ

A draft of “Daily Lives” was circulated this morning and members were asked to send specific comments directly to Stephanie by the end of this week. It was generally agreed that it is ideal to provide sufficient information to enable most of the reading audience to get what they need directly, and links for those who want further detail, and that redundancy relative to Health Department documents is acceptable. Given the overall emphasis on handwashing, the question “When to wash your hands” can be removed. Question – can we tell WHO is looking at these documents? No, only how many.

Public information

The weekly dashboard was discussed in some detail, specifically with regard to increasing local data and ensuring clarity regarding cases (for example, whether certain data points describe “new”, “current”, “active”, “total” or “cumulative” cases) **Stephanie** will revise the dashboard and the Task Force will be provided both with an explanation of the changes and the rationale.

- US data will be removed from the top right and replaced with regional positivity (percent positive), which will be in red if increased over the previous week.
- Case descriptive terms as above in parentheses will be modified and will match the term used in source data when possible.
- The MA dashboard will be deleted as similar data is available in the JHU section. Instead, in that space, a map showing NH Community Metrics, including hot spots within counties, will be provided.
- The number of cases in NH exactly equals active cases, deaths, and recovered cases. It seems unlikely that not a single case would be lost to followup, and that the State might make assumptions in order to close out all documented cases. **Kristin** will inquire next time she is in touch with them.
- **Ann** will make these additional points during presentation to the Task Force: opinions of Drs. Chan and Calderwood regarding the implications of current NH data (rising numbers are not simply “an artifact” of increased testing), a reminder of the influence of surrounding areas on the community within the city limits of Portsmouth, and the risk of community spread despite relatively low case numbers locally.

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

Health Department

The perception is that restaurant outbreaks often seem to track back to the bar area, but causes vary. City Health does not always get detailed information from the State, and cannot jump in on contact tracing which is the purview of the State. There are no new alerts this week directly related to Portsmouth on the state website.

No applications have been received by the Health Department for installation of rigid barriers between tables, although they have had questions. An application is required whether seating will change or not. There is a requirement for documentation of an HVAC consultation. The Fire Department will review for adequate egress. COVID-related reduced seating plans remain evident on the permit in case of a seating rollback. The Police Department conducts routine “bar checks” and this may include observations related to mask ordinance compliance and other pandemic related regulations.