

CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 6 OCTOBER 2020

Present: Bianca Monteiro, Ann Birner, Kathie Lynch, Stephanie Seacord, Toni McLellan, Kristin Shaw, Kim McNamara

Public information

The TexasMed activity rating chart did not go to a motion at the CRTF last week, based upon concerns expressed by TF members during discussion. Further discussion by the HSC during this meeting resulted in a decision against putting forward a Portsmouth-specific alternative. This decision is based on our level of expertise and the highly variable and diverse nature of Portsmouth businesses, organizations, buildings, and clientele.

Review of the weekly dashboard was preceded by a discussion of data sources. Methodology, time lags, and other factors may lead to results from different sources that do not appear to align. MA has recently changed its methodology regarding reporting of percent positivity, which likely contributed to a misalignment with JHU data last week. The group agreed to continue to rely primarily on the JHU data after considering the reputation of Johns Hopkins and the need for consistency. The recently increased availability of rapid testing in NH may have contributed to increased case numbers in the state. Kristin clarified the NH reporting methodology (notably, PCR results are auto-reported but rapid antigen tests are not; daily data cutoff is 8 PM). Stephanie has begun to review local data based on a request from a city councilor as part of a discussed ways to enhance the dashboard. Ann showed statewide data from UNH (<https://chhs.unh.edu/institute-health-policy-practice/nh-covid-19-cases-hospitalizations-deaths>) with cumulative case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths. **Stephanie** will explore modifications to the dashboard to increase local focus, for discussion at next week's HSC.

Letters to Governor and surrounding towns remain on hold.

Public Health

Kim did not hear back from the State Epidemiologist regarding her request for data to support changes to restaurant guidance (r/t use of plexiglas or plastic dividers). Without hard, data-driven evidence for or against these changes the decision of the HSC to neither endorse nor debate the state's guidance stands.

FAQs

Ventilation has been posted and a "live" google doc remains for TF-suggested revisions.

Kathie will update the testing FAQ with the Portsmouth location for rapid antigen testing of symptomatic patients. Overall availability and distribution details for these tests are still not entirely clear as yet, but a NH site list has been released. Ann reviewed the Mask FAQ and did not find any need to revise at this time.

The "Household Readiness" FAQ will now be known as "Daily Lives". Ann proposed that the HSC agree upon the questions to be addressed in an FAQ and request a green light from the CRTF before further working on the FAQ document itself. The group agreed and reviewed the proposed questions. **Ann** will update the list, check for a few resources as suggested during the call, and have the list ready for next week's CRTF meeting.

City Council Meeting/AOB: Stephanie reported that a work session has been proposed for November 9th by the Mayor, to discuss the future of the CRTF.