

CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 3NOVEMBER2020

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

DAILY LIVES FAQ:

Draft has been sent to the Task Force for consideration during the November 4th meeting and HSC members were asked for final comments. The HSC is not ready to endorse the MyCovidApp as included in that draft. **Ann** will notify Task Force members of this fact.

What can/should business owners do in the case of a customer who refuses to wear a mask, stating a medical exemption, and can this be addressed in the Daily Lives FAQ? A business being considered private property, the owner or designee should be able to refuse entry. We need to be certain there is legal backing for this before adding to the FAQ. A statement from the State Attorney General would be useful but meanwhile, **Kim** will discuss with the City Attorney.

Public Information

Stephanie provided a new version of the dashboard, replacing JHU state snapshots mid-page as these have not provided full positivity data the past few weeks. In their place are graphics from covidexitstrategy.com. Following discussion, **Stephanie** offered to revise further as follows (and will update some data at same time):

- Add Rockingham County positivity data to the upper left regional summary
- Replace identifiers for blue and orange lines on graphs (COVID-19 infections and NH Hospitalizations)
- Add caption to map in upper right to identify it as pertaining to “Community Transmission” status

There were suggestions to add HSC recommendations to the dashboard but it was decided to keep it data-focused. Caveats and advice regarding how to use the data, for example, in planning a safe approach to celebrating holidays, could be circulated in other ways (press release from the TF or Health Department, within a Public Information “special advisory” from the City, etc).

During last week’s TF meeting it was suggested that a press release be created to publicize available FAQ documents developed in the subcommittee – no action to report as yet and tabled for now.

Health Department – community spread control measures

Toni described current response to violation complaints received by the Police or Health Departments. First followup, by call or visit, is always educational. If undertaken by Health, they report it back to Police Department where a log is maintained. Subsequent complaints may be handled similarly but eventually a citation will be in order if there is a repetitive trend at any location.

Kim has provided background for Senator Clark to support her outreach out to Governor Sununu as requested. Aim is to request further regulation to support safe practices in restaurants and bar areas.

Communication between City Health and DHHS continues to be subpar. City Health Officers have contacts at DHHS but not necessarily directly to individuals with the answers they seek, leading to some delays. Proactive speedy alerts regarding local cases indicative of community spread would enable local Health Officers to follow up quickly and stem the spread.

Stephanie contacted the Fire Chief and subsequently reached out to Portsmouth Hospital to discuss the Task Force’s ability to obtain and publicize local COVID-19 data. She awaits their reply.

Ann reported a call from a concerned restaurateur regarding the worsening pandemic situation. MA is restricting hours of operation which could lead more MA residents to travel to NH for dining and drinking. A general discussion of how best to reach out and education or advise the public, started earlier, continued. Press releases from City departments (e.g. Health) are not limited by the scope of the Task Force charge. Stephanie publicizes information on the city website and social media as well as in regular email advisories.