

CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 08DECEMBER2020

Present (members and City staff): Kathie Lynch, Ann Birner, Bianca Monteiro, Kim McNamara, Stephanie Seacord, Toni McLellan, Kristin Shaw.

Members of the public: Rich DiPentima

The City Council met last night and proposed an end date of June 30th for the mask ordinance, pending further reading, public comment, and vote.

Ann has rescinded her resignation from the Task Force but will leave her position as chair. As discussed with Co-Chair James Petersen and if the City Council extends the charter into 2021, the Task Force and the HSC should add another representative health care expert to replace Mary Morin and Ann's decision will not change this.

The weekly dashboard looks dismal, with rising cases in the state, county, city and rising hospitalizations. Community transmission is categorized as "substantial" statewide. NH, MA and ME are all categorized as having "uncontrolled spread". Data may continue to be influenced by the holiday and post-holiday process variations, but trending is clearly in the wrong direction.

Daily Life FAQ was reviewed. Most of the proposed revisions are necessary based on changed recommendations from the CDC and NH DHHS regarding quarantining. In addition, there were a few minor changes to verbiage in the version presented. Suggestions from the group will be incorporated into a new document by **Ann and Stephanie** and circulated to the CRTF this afternoon, including:

- Keep the reference to consideration of 14-day quarantine for high risk populations
- Add a statement regarding the potential benefits of 14-day quarantine (vs 10 days as per current minimal recommendations)
- Remove reference to "overnight" travel outside of NH as state guidance is not consistent with this language
- Add a statement regarding thoughtful approach to decisions around whether to continue extracurricular activities in the era of rising cases and extensive transmission, with a reminder that New Hampshire's "Stay at Home 2.0" guidance remains in place.

Is there a place for a Vaccine FAQ? Yes, but too much remains TBD to start writing it at this time.

Kim McNamara instigated a discussion on communication, out of concern for the current extremely dangerous situation and in anticipation of potential for worsening during the forthcoming holidays. We (Health Department, Public Information, and/or the HSC/CRTF) need to put forth clear, forthright messaging and pure, evidence-based information emphasizing the seriousness of the current situation. For example, does the public understand the potential severity of post viral syndromes? Do they understand that the full benefit of the eagerly anticipated vaccines will roll out over months, and must include time for a 2-dose series and further time for full immune response? Comments and ideas included:

- Endorse curbside pickup and on-line shopping (at local business when possible)
- The Chamber of Commerce has a list of resources r/to local on-line shopping
- Take out is less risky than being in restaurants and bars
- Stephanie listed outlets currently in use for getting information out to the public including the SeacoastOnline, Channel22, social media, streetside electronic message boards, etc.

Public Health welcomed the ideas and can act independently on them. At this time there is no action item for the HSC pursuant to this agenda item.