

HEALTH BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE (BRC) MEETING MINUTES 2 MARCH 2021

Voting members present: Kathie Lynch (Chair), Ann Birner (Minutes), Kim McNamara, Richard DiPentima
Absent: James Petersen. NOTE: Bianca Monteiro has submitted her resignation from the committee.
Non-voting city staff present: Stephanie Seacord, Kristin Shaw

Action items below identify name of responsible party in bold font.

Kathie read the approved waiver for remote meeting participation during the pandemic and participants identified location and any others present at that location. A motion to approve the minutes of February 23rd was made Kim, seconded by Rich, and the minutes were approved without comment or discussion.

The weekly dashboard as provided by Stephanie was reviewed by **Kathie**, who will present it to the Reopen BRC on 3/3/21. Of note, the plateau continues at a relatively high level, with hospitalizations down more than cases. Positivity in NH is higher than in ME or MA. It remains critical to emphasize that attention to safety strategies must continue. **Stephanie** will change the statement about recent outbreaks on college campuses to refer to the NH DHHS map, not the CovidActNow map. There was a discussion about the current status of contact tracing in NH, recently described as “universal” yet possibly limited to variants or suspected variants? **Stephanie** will seek further detail and clarify prior to Kathie’s presentation to Reopen.

Kathie presented a draft of the “Post-vaccination FAQ” document. Major discussion points included:

- whether and how to present efficacy data (consensus: no percentages, no direct comparisons)
 - emphasis on the remarkable achievement of delivering these vaccines to the public
 - how to present opinions (consensus: experts/evidence rather than committee)
 - how best to address the possible impact emerging variants have had on vaccine study results
 - how to describe the relative safety of dining in different settings (indoor, open outdoor, semi-enclosed outdoor, household members only in “igloo” and other small group structures)
 - addition of a reminder to travel section that NH and the CDC still discourage non-essential travel
- Kathie** will send out a link to the source(s) of the current content of the travel section

Kathie incorporated suggested language into the FAQ an ongoing fashion and will work with **Stephanie** to edit and recirculate for review. Keeping in mind the target audience of people who have already been vaccinated, a suggestion to emphasize taking any vaccine offered (rather than resisting, requesting, or waiting for a specific product) will be incorporated by **Kathie** into the “Vaccine” FAQ.

Kathie asked for any additional suggested questions to be included in this FAQ. After a brief discussion it was decided that gatherings such as religious services and weddings, while not specifically mentioned, can be considered as covered by the general recommendations for safe gathering post-vaccination.

All are requested to send to Kim any new information they may have or find regarding transmission of the virus in outdoor settings especially where food is served.

There were no public comments. Ann made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Kim, all agreed.