



OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

Knox County Health Department • 140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

August 12, 2020; from 5:00 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.

Knox County Health Department

Via Zoom Meeting

Present:

Martha Buchanan, MD, Secretary
Dianna Drake, PharmD
Jack E. Gotcher, Jr., DDS, Chair
Maria Hurt, DNP
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Patrick O'Brien, MD
James Shamiyeh, MD
Marcy Souza, DVM
Lisa Wagoner, RN; representing Superintendent Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools

Absent:

None

Others Attending:

KCHD: Katharine Killen, Charity Menefee, Danielle Davis (zoom host) and Mark Miller (recorder)
Knox County: David M. Sanders, Esq. representing Knox County Law Department

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gotcher called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Dr. Buchanan called the roll and all members were present.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Dr. Gotcher established a quorum was present, as all members were present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: AUGUST 5, 2020 MEETING

Motion was made by Dr. Souza and was seconded by Dr. Drake.

Vote #1: Roll call and the August 5, 2020 minutes passed unanimously.

V. SET THE AGENDA

Motion was made by Dr. Souza and seconded by Dr. O'Brien, to set the agenda.

Vote #2: Roll call and the vote was unanimous.

VI. BENCHMARK PRESENTATION BY KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY DR. BUCHANAN

Dr. Buchanan reviewed the current local situation and the benchmarks, available on the health department's website as follows:

As of the official update to the website today:

- 68 new confirmed cases since yesterday's report
- We have 4,936 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Knox County
- Additionally, we have 171 probable cases
- 2,855 of our cases have recovered, giving us 2,207 active cases
- 223 individuals have been hospitalized at some point in their illness
- 29 Knox County residents are currently hospitalized
- 47 is our total number of deaths due to complications from COVID-19
- 1 additional death to report

Benchmark 1: Sustained reduction of stability in new cases for 14 days / Yellow

Benchmark 2: Community-wide sustained and increased diagnostic testing with consistent or decreased test result reporting turnaround time / Green

Benchmark 3: Sustained or increased public health capability / Green

KCHD has initiated investigations for all new cases within 24 hours and close contacts within 48 hours. Dr. Buchanan indicated that today KCHD became aware of one case that had not yet been contacted. This case was among other cases that had been referred to Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) for the initial interview and subsequent monitoring. KCHD will temporarily suspend these referrals to TDH and conduct the interviews locally, until the matter is investigated and resolved.

Benchmark 4: Health care system capabilities remain within current and forecasted surge capability / Yellow

Benchmark 5: Sustained or decreased COVID-19 related death rate for identified positive or probable cases / Red

Dr. Shamiyeh asked about possible impact and capacity on contact tracing, once Knox County Schools reopen and Lisa Wagoner replied that with additional school nurses receiving contact tracing training today, that she was confident that they could handle contact tracing within the schools.

Dr. Buchanan stated that KCHD has reviewed the number of deaths due to COVID-19 and discovered 2 cases that were reported twice. She explained that KCHD receives reports of deaths from multiple sources, which can lead to an occasional discrepancy. Therefore, KCHD reviews the data to ensure accuracy.

The death rate or case fatality rate by age group in Knox County was discussed. It was noted that the highest case fatality rate in Knox County was at 10.64 in people 75 years and older. There was also discussion about the current leading cause of death in Knox County. Since

January 1, 2020, it was noted that deaths due to complications of COVID-19 is currently the 4th leading cause of death in the United States and the 7th leading cause of death in Knox County.

**VII. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MEDICAL CENTER AT KNOXVILLE DATA UPDATE
BY DR. SHAMIYEH**

Dr. Shamiyeh presented COVID-19 Data Update-August 12, 2020, a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. The information was compiled from real regional data, from UTMC, Knox County and THA (Tennessee Hospital Association) Knoxville District, which includes eight surrounding counties to Knox County.

Data related slides included:

- UTMC – Confirmed Case Age Demographics by Age Group, Knoxville & TN
- Hospitalization Correlation: Knox County and THA Knoxville District
- New Cases: Pace, by Week/Month
- Evidence that Mask Resolution Effective
- “Big 4” Comparison: Shelby, Davidson, Hamilton and Knox
- Hospitalizations by Week/Month
- THA Knoxville District: Census and Projection thru Labor Day, 2020
- COVID-19 Deaths, and various similar symptoms

A question and answer session followed. See attached PowerPoint Presentation.

VIII. COVID-19 FACE COVERING REGULATION NO. 2020-1, REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Buchanan reported that KCHD continues to observe compliance overall with this regulation in the community. Others agreed that the community was cooperating, and area businesses were doing a good job. KCHD continues to distribute masks to individuals and to our partners to ensure that there is an adequate supply of masks for use in the community. It was decided that this regulation would be reviewed on a biweekly, or every 2 weeks, going forward.

**IX. PROPOSED REGULATION NO. 2020-5-COVID 19 SOCIAL GROUP TRANSMISSION
SUPPRESSION REGULATION**

Dr. O'Brien remarked that he didn't think we needed to pursue this regulation at this time, because our numbers have looked favorable for the last two weeks. He explained that he drafted this regulation, so that it would be ready, in case we need to consider it. Discussion followed and it was agreed that this regulation would be tabled at this time.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion about the Social Group Transmission Suppression Regulation that may need to be considered if things get worse and that having a draft regulation ready ahead of time makes sense. There was also discussion about scientific articles that studied public gathering and COVID-19 variables.

After discussion about determining the frequency of future meetings, it was decided that the Board would meet next week, since it had an obligation to meet. After that, the board will determine the frequency of future meetings.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Zoom meeting: Wednesday, August 19, 2020; from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Dr. Souza motioned, and Dr. Drake seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha, Buchanan, MD, Senior Director and Public Health Officer
Knox County Health Department
Secretary, Knox County Board of Health

List of Attachments:

- Draft Proposed Regulation No. 2020-5-COVID-19 - Social Group Transmission Suppression Regulation, proposed by Dr. O'Brien
- COVID-19 Update-August 12, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Shamiyeh