



OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

August 26, 2020; from 5:00 p.m. to 6:46 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 (arrived at 5:30 p.m.)
James Shamiyeh, MD
Marcy Souza, DVM
Lisa Wagoner, RN; representing Superintendent Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools

Absent:

None

Others Attending:

KCHD: Katharine Killen, Danielle Davis (zoom host), Charity Menefee, and Mark Miller (recorder)

Knox County: David M. Sanders, Esq. representing Knox County Law Department

Knox County Information Technology: Rob Link, Daryl Hobby, Jon Guymon

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gotcher called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Charity Menefee called the roll and all members were present, except for Dr. O'Brien, who arrived at 5:30 p.m.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Dr. Gotcher established a quorum, with 8 members present when the meeting was called to order.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: AUGUST 19, 2020 MEETING

Motion was made by Dr. Drake and was seconded by Mayor Jacobs.

Vote #1: Roll call and the August 19, 2020 minutes passed unanimously. (Dr. O'Brien was not present for this vote)

Add item to agenda

At the request of Mayor Jacobs, a discussion item was added to the agenda to review the mask mandate.

Motion was made by Dr. Shamiyeh and seconded by Dr. Souza, to add a discussion item to review the mask mandate on a weekly basis.

Vote #2: Roll call and the vote was unanimous. (Dr. O'Brien was not present for this vote)

Set the Agenda Motion was made by Dr. Shamiyeh and seconded by Dr. Souza, to set the agenda.

Vote #3: Roll call and the vote was unanimous. (Dr. O'Brien was not present for this vote)

V. BENCHMARK PRESENTATION BY KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY CHARITY MENEFEE

Charity 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:

- 34 new confirmed cases since yesterday's report
- 6,063 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Knox County
- 223 probable cases
- 4,116 of our cases have recovered, giving us 2,115 active cases
- 255 individuals have been hospitalized at some point in their illness
- 31 Knox County residents are currently hospitalized
- 55 is our total number of deaths due to complications from COVID-19
- No additional deaths to report

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

The 5 Core Actions are noticeably working.

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

Trends heading in right direction. Average turnaround time now just under 2 days.

Benchmark 3: Sustained or increased public health capability / Green

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 / Green

This rate has remained steady and has not increased, this is encouraging.

Following the report, it was noted that all benchmarks are currently green, except for health care system capabilities being yellow. There was also discussion about the recent change in CDC guidance to not recommending COVID-19 testing asymptomatic persons, even if they

have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. KCHD is awaiting guidance from TDH and has not changed recommendations.

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

Dr. Shamiyeh presented **COVID-19 Data Update-August 26, 2020**, a PowerPoint presentation (attached) 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.

Dr. Shamiyeh concluded that the data that we are currently seeing is consistent with what we have been seeing for the past couple of weeks, with hospitalizations leveling off. Hospitalizations are at approximately 40-43 cases per 1,000 cases.

VII. REVIEW MASK MANDATE, REGULATION 2020-1

There was a discussion about what it would take to rescind the mask mandate that went into effect on July 3rd. The slowdown in growth of new cases was discussed. There was discussion about what data points could be used for ending the mask mandate. Dr. Buchanan offered that she could have her staff investigate what data points that are out there that could be used. There was a consensus that it was too early to ease up on the mask mandate currently. Some board members were also concerned about the possible impact to have more cases, with UTK and KCS reopening last week and this week. There was also concern expressed about the upcoming flu season.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Concern was shared about UTK student's compliance with anti-COVID-19 measures and the challenges of communal living on campus, as well as discussion about the BOH's jurisdiction on UTK's campus or state-owned property. UTK's reopening plan was praised and was thought to be very well thought out. After further discussion, it was decided to invite UTK Chancellor Plowman or a designee to provide an update on campus COVID-19 developments on a weekly basis. Knox County Schools board member Lisa Wagoner, who is the health services supervisor, agreed to also provide a weekly update. The board also discussed reviewing the bar curfew order next week.

Dr. Gotcher reported on the Joint Government Operations meeting that he and Dr. Buchanan attended earlier in the day.

It was decided that a public input session would be a part of future BOH meetings, under advice from Senior Deputy Law Director David Sanders. Dr. Buchanan's staff will work with county IT to arrange for a way to hold a public input session via electronically via Zoom.

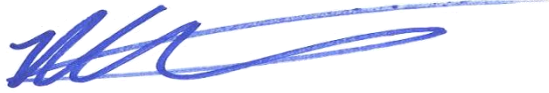
IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Zoom meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2020; from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mayor Jacobs motioned, and Dr. Drake seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 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:

- COVID-19 Update-August 26, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Shamiyeh