

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
September 2, 2020
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: Charity Menefee, Danielle Davis (zoom host), Katharine Killen

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Gotcher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Dr. Gotcher requested Dr. Martha Buchanan take roll call to confirm the establishment of the quorum. All Board members were in attendance except Dr. O'Brien who joined the call late, therefore there was a quorum.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

- a. Charlotte Meyer-open up computer use at libraries
- b. Bill Watts-How is COVID different than other viruses and role of COVID-19 in deaths, wants health department to make information public
- c. Zack Nabors-revoke mask mandate and allow individuals to decide if they want to wear a mask
- d. Kevin Hill-spoke about lack of reliability of PCR tests
- e. Bryan Bonnyman-spoke about patients with COVID and impact on lives, question to the Board, "Where can the public find reliable local positivity rates?"
- f. Aija Purvis-spoke about mask wearing while exercising
- g. Elizabeth Murphy-spoke about lack of effectiveness of mask wearing
- h. Chrissey Stephens-spoke about her right to not wear a mask
- i. Marc Whitmire-county's handling of COVID, remove mandates
- j. Michael Murphy-spoke about potential harm from masks and their lack of effectiveness, questioned shutting down businesses and schools.
- k. Marcie Yadon-spoke about lack of integrity of Health Department and Board of Health

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 26, 2020 MEETING

Motion made by Dr. Drake and seconded by Mayor Jacobs, passed via roll call vote unanimously.

V. SET THE AGENDA

No additions, deletions or amendments were made. Motion to pass made by Dr. Shamiyeh, seconded by Dr. Drake, passed as written via roll call vote unanimously

VI. BENCHMARK PRESENTATION

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

- We have 104 new confirmed cases since yesterday's report.
- Giving us 6,746 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Knox County since March.
- Additionally, we have 241 probable cases.
- 4,611 of our cases have recovered, giving us 2,317 active cases.
- 269 individuals have been hospitalized at some point in their illness.
- 48 Knox County residents are currently hospitalized.
- Unfortunately, we had another death to report today, bringing our total to 59.

11- to 20-year-olds make up about 17% of total cases since March; however, when we compare this week to last week, they make up 36% of our new cases, which is a 158% increase from last week.

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

Both red and yellow flags were observed in the last 14 days, but they were not on three consecutive days per the benchmark definition. Because of this, KCHD is representing this benchmark as green. However, Dr. Buchanan called this 'cautiously green' because of the number of flags, while not consecutive, look to be an indication of things beginning to trend upward.

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

Over the 14-day evaluation period, KCHD saw some red flags for the number of tests conducted, but they were not on three consecutive days. Lab turnaround time continues to decrease to less than a two-day average. This benchmark is represented as green, but, just like the first benchmark, Dr. Buchanan called this 'cautious green' due to the testing flags.

Benchmark 3: Sustained or increased public health capability / Green

KCHD has initiated investigations of all new cases within 24 hours and close contacts within 48 hours; which is a hard-fast goal of KCHD's and has been consistent since March 16, 2020.

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

KCHD saw no flags regarding ventilators, ICU beds or hospitalizations. That said, hospitalizations are slowly trending up. After speaking with hospital partners, they stated their benchmark should be represented as yellow.

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

Over the past two weeks, Knox County has seen four deaths, which is down from the six we reported during KCHD's last update. Dr. Buchanan said she is pleased to say this benchmark is represented as green.

While KCHD is pleased with how the data is looking this week, they expect the first two benchmarks may change next week. KCHD will continue to closely monitor the data.

Dr. Buchanan then showed three slides of COVID data related to holidays, see attached PowerPoint.

VII. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MEDICAL CENTER AT KNOXVILLE DATA UPDATE

- a. Dr. James Shamiyeh presented data from the University of Tennessee Medical Center and some regional data on COVID hospitalizations, see attached PowerPoint.
- b. Brief discussion about comorbidities and COVID.
- c. Brief discussion about morbidity and mortality of COVID vs. Flu.

VIII. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PRESENTATIONS

- a. Dr. Plowman and Dr. Gregg from the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) spoke about the situation at UTK and their plans. See attached PowerPoint.
 - i. Discussed clusters in sororities and fraternities
 - ii. Plan to begin surveillance testing
 - iii. Will continue to review and update plans
 - iv. Working to educate students about compliance with 5 core actions in and out of the classroom
 - v. Exposures happen in groups that are socializing, consider reducing group size limitations
- b. Lisa Wagoner presented information about Knox County Schools' COVID data and their process. See attached PowerPoint.

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

- a. Brief update on complaints
- b. Dr. Buchanan presented an idea for using the current benchmarks to decide when the Board of Health could lift the mask mandate
- c. Dr. Gotcher asked what Williamson County used to decide to lift their mask mandate, the health department will follow-up

X. COVID-19 SUPPRESSION IN BARS REGULATION, REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF BOTH EXISTING NO. 2020-4 AND PROPOSED NO. 2020-5

- a. Proposed **Regulation 2020-5** was brought to the floor, motion to pass by Dr. Souza with a seconded by Dr. O'Brien. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Souza to withdraw Regulation 2020-5 and bring it back later for consideration, seconded by Dr. O'Brien, withdrawal of Regulation 2020-5 passed via roll call vote unanimously.
- b. Extension of **Regulation 2020-4** for two (2) more weeks, motion to approve by Dr. Souza with a second by Dr. Shamiyeh, after some discussion it passed via roll call vote 6 to 2, Drake and Jacobs being the two no votes.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Brief discussion of creating Board of Health Rules, Dr. O'Brien may be bringing a proposal to the Board soon.
- b. Brief discussion regarding open forum, Mayor Jacob's office will continue to facilitate and for now it will continue weekly.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Zoom meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 5 pm.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Dr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Dr. Drake. Meeting was adjourned

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 data related to holidays; PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Buchanan
- COVID-19 Update-September 2, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Shamiyeh
- University of Tennessee Knoxville Update- September 2, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Plowman and Dr. Gregg
- Knox County Schools Update-September 2, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Lisa Wagoner