

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
September 9, 2020; from 5:00 p.m. to 8:10 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
Lisa Wagoner, RN; representing Superintendent Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools

Absent:

Marcy Souza, DVM

Others Attending:

KCHD: Charity Menefee, Danielle Davis (zoom host), Narda Cappuccilli (recorder)
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.
Dr. Buchanan stated the public forum will not be held as there were not any calls from citizens requesting participation.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Dr. Gotcher requested Dr. Buchanan take roll call to confirm the establishment of the quorum.
Dr. Souza had previously notified the Board she would be absent, eight Board members were attending, therefore there was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING

Motion made by Dr. O'Brien and seconded by Dr. Drake, passed via roll call vote unanimously.

IV. SET THE AGENDA

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

V. BENCHMARK PRESENTATION

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

- We have 100 new confirmed cases since yesterday's report.
- Giving us 8,033 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Knox County since March.
- Additionally, we have 277 probable cases.
- 6,171 of our cases are inactive, giving us 1,798 active cases.
- 294 individuals have been hospitalized at some point in their illness.
- 47 Knox County residents are currently hospitalized.
- 64 deaths in Knox County.

Update: Effective Sept.4, “Inactive” cases will be reported instead of “Recovered” cases. “Inactive” cases include those who are 14 days or more beyond their illness onset date (or, for asymptomatic cases, their specimen collection date). This is an alignment with the Tennessee Department of Health, better reflects what is now understood about infectious period of COVID-19 and is a better reflection of the meaning of this category. Recent data from CDC show most patients with COVID-19 are no longer infectious after 10 days, although they may have lingering symptoms for some time. While we require that all cases isolate at home for at least 10 days, the additional four days in this definition account for those cases who experience symptoms for a longer time frame and require isolation until the symptoms resolve. This change from reporting “Recovered” to “Inactive” does not affect isolation and quarantine requirements for individuals.

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

Increase in cases, five consecutive red flags within the last 6 days, indicating a statistically significant increase in age groups, 11 to 20 and 21 to 30 years. The 11 to 20-year-old age group has had a 279% increase in growth since July 28, 2020; with much of that growth within the last few weeks, now that local schools and colleges have reopened, this is a concern.

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

Over the 14-day evaluation period, lab turnaround time continues to trend down at less than a two-day average, which is really a positive movement. But the volume of tests conducted isn't rebounding as we had hoped.

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. We are looking to expand this team based on the larger volume of new cases that we are experiencing. We will have two dedicated teams, one dedicated to Knox County Schools, managing cases, contact tracing and managing cases around quarantine and isolation; and the other team would be same in conjunction with UT, as they make the difficult and complicated decisions to quarantine and all the nuances to that with their current case load.

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

KCHD saw no flags regarding ICU beds or hospitalizations, although we did see four consistent days of yellow flags for ventilated patients. Our hospital partners stated this benchmark should be represented as yellow.

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

Over the past two weeks, Knox County has seen ten deaths, with seven of those reported within the last seven days.

VI. 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.

Key data points:

- 2 weeks of increase case growth
- 2nd worst week of case growth, driven clearly by the 11 to 20 age group
- Hospitalizations trending in same direction as case growth, but manageable

- Worst case growth of four major counties (Knox, Davidson, Hamilton & Shelby)
- b. Brief discussion about the correlation between cases and hospitalizations.
- c. Brief discussion about all COVID-19 tests done in Knox County, are reported and included in the data presented by the Health Department.

VII. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PRESENTATIONS

- a. Chancellor Plowman from the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) spoke about the situation at UTK and their plans. See attached PowerPoint.
 - i. Data comparisons to one week ago, the number of active student cases has doubled, to 616, and the number of self-isolating students has tripled, to over 2,000.
 - ii. Evident must make changes to both environment and behavior
 - iii. Massey Hall, with 580 beds, and some rooms reserved in the Holiday Inn; will be converted into isolation recovery locations
 - iv. Plan to test every student vacating Massey Hall; upcoming systematic testing campus wide
 - v. All options are on the table for future plans per UTK; Goal is for students to stay on target to graduate, stay health and happy
 - vi. Approximately 30,000 students attend UTK; 7,700 students live on campus; 6,700 in dorms, and 1,000 in Greek housing
- b. Lisa Wagoner presented information about Knox County Schools' COVID data and their process. See attached PowerPoint.
 - i. Increases are noted in all data points: active, recovered and isolation/recovered cases
 - ii. Red indicators for both metrics: Custodial support staff attendance and Substitute teacher availability
 - iii. Bonuses will be offered to incentivize substitute teaching of \$300-500 per month
 - iv. Cedar Bluff Middle School moved to online learning 9/8/20; will return to in-person instruction on 9/15/20, due to substitute teacher availability
 - v. Attendance rate will be provided at the next meeting, for students and staff, including online learning vs. in-person learning
 - vi. When a student is sent home, due to a contact, greatest concern is COVID-19 spread within the home; instructional letters are sent home

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

- a. Health Department continues to distribute masks, respond to complaints, which have leveled off
- b. Statewide survey indicated that the majority is in favor of wearing masks
- c. Vanderbilt study was mentioned comparing hospitalizations of counties wearing masks vs. hospitalizations of counties not requiring masks, showed significant differences

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

- a. Brief discussion regarding the legal choices of enforcement and compliance of regulations.
- b. Brief discussion how to strengthen support to UT administration. UT has authority with their Code of Conduct compliance with enrolled student body with safety as the foundation.
Dr. Buchanan had attended a meeting with Chancellor Plowman and others, requesting an order to close bars in the local geographic area to UT campus. Nashville has enforced such an order recently.
- c. Motion made by Dr. Drake and seconded by Dr. O'Brien, to resend **Regulation 2020-4**, vote failed via roll call vote 4 to 3; with Hurt, Shamiyeh and Wagoner, being the three no votes.
- d. Mr. Sanders stated for an affirmative vote the Board needs a majority of the membership voting affirmatively; with nine Board members, five affirmative votes are needed to take an action.
- e. Motion made by Dr. Shamiyeh and seconded by Dr. Hurt to discuss **Proposed Regulation 2020-5**, enactment of the curfew regarding the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverage in certain establishments, with the current expiration date of September 24, 2020; and may be extended.
The **Proposed Regulation 2020-5** would replace **Regulation 2020-4**, if it passes.
After further discussion, including Dr. Shamiyeh withdrawing the amendment, Mayor Jacobs asked to call the question vote, when Dr. Drake stated she needed to depart the meeting. Vote passed unanimously, via roll call, to vote immediately.
Vote to accept Proposed Regulation 2020-5, as written, failed via roll call vote 3 to 4; with Drake, Gotcher, Jacobs and O'Brien, being the four no votes.

X. PROPOSED KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH RULES

- a. Discussion regarding naming a specific location for the Board of Health meetings, which would put the public on notice, as to where and when those meetings will be. Mr. Sanders stated consideration for the first Wednesday of every third month, at 5:00 p.m.; with a location that is secure, accessible to CTV, large enough to accommodate folks, including the public forum and social distancing of all meeting participants. Both the Large and Small Assembly Rooms at the City County Building were suggested, whereby the room availability will need to be explored and report back to the Board, later.
- b. Dr. O'Brien made a motion to accept the Board of Health Rules, as written; seconded by Mayor Jacobs. Discussion continued regarding Sections D, O, P, R, and N.
- c. Dr. Buchanan requested a revision to Section N-1. regarding the submission of agenda items, currently written as "3 p.m. on the Monday before each meeting", to be revised to an earlier time, suggested either 10 a.m. or 12-noon submission deadline, in order to publish the agenda by the 5 p.m. deadline, 48 hours prior to the meeting.
Dr. O'Brien suggested a friendly amendment to Section N-1., that board

members shall make agenda item requests electronically, five hours before the agenda is to be published. And a friendly amendment to revision to Section N-3., stating the availability of the agenda to the Board as 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Mayor Jacobs was agreeable to both friendly amendments.

- d. Dr. Buchanan suggested on page 9, Rule 3, Section A – Minutes of the Board, an addition to Secretary of the Board, “or designee”; also to Rule 3, Section B – Roll Call Vote, the same addition the Secretary, “or designee”.

Mayor Jacobs was agreeable to both additions as friendly amendments.

- e. Dr. O’Brien suggested also adding, no longer that 48 hours before the following regularly scheduled board meeting, to replace “Monday”.

Mayor Jacobs confirmed his agreement with all friendly amendments.

- f. Dr. Shamiyeh requested clarification on the rules regarding voting, it takes a majority of the membership to enact something; not just a majority of those present.
- g. The vote passed unanimously, via roll call, to approve the Knox County Board of Health Rules. Dr. Drake had left the meeting therefore did not vote. Dr. Buchanan voted also, resulting in the seven affirmative votes.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Mayor Jacobs made a public announcement, due to the request received at the public forum, at the September 2 meeting from Ms. Meyer, starting Monday, September 14, the computers in the Knox County’s Public Libraries will be available, with limited usage and some requirements. He appreciated Ms. Meyer bringing this concern to his attention.
- b. Mr. Sanders explained Dr. Buchanan’s position as an ex-officio member of the Board, meaning she holds her position by virtue of her office and a voting member, should she choose to exercise the vote.
- c. Dr. Shamiyeh presented his slide, referring to how to approach challenges in upcoming months, with potentially worsening data.

Points of attention:

- i. Finite number of items we can discuss, based on the last six months
 - ii. Tennessee Pledge
 - iii. Accomplishments include masks and curfew
- h. Dr. Shamiyeh suggested a non-binding recommendation of an indoor gathering size of 25 people in 900 square feet space, without being a regulation, considering the worsening data; he then made a motion and Dr. O’Brien seconded the motion. Dr. Hurt confirmed the recommendation literally puts people at a six-foot distance, which is the same as the Five Core Actions. Dr. Buchanan was concerned how the public would interpret this information. The vote passed unanimously, 7 to 0, via roll call, to approve the recommendation.

XII. ANNOUCEMENTS

Next Zoom meeting: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 5 pm.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Dr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Dr. Gotcher. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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-September 9, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Shamiyeh
- University of Tennessee Knoxville Update- September 9, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Chancellor Plowman
- Knox County Schools Update-September 8, 2020; PowerPoint Presentation by Lisa Wagoner
- Single Slide by Dr. Shamiyeh
- COVID-19 Face Covering Regulation, No. 2020-1
- COVID-19 Suppression in Bars Regulation, No. 2020-4
- COVID-19 Proposed Regulation, No. 2020-5
- Proposed Knox County Board of Health Rules