

Hill County Board of Health (HCBOH)
Friday April 10, 2020
GoToMeeting CoVid-19 update
1:00 pm

Present

Members:

Mark Peterson
Mike Wendland
Erica McKeon-Hanson
Kristi Kline

Advisors

Jessica Sheehy
Megan Wilkie
Nicole Hungerford
Karen Alley
Kim Larson
Clay Vincent
Will Loret
Bridget Kallenberger

Recorder:

Kristi Kline (Cortney Detrick was having connection problems, Kristi Kline took minutes in her place)

Absent:

Christen Obresley
Cortney Detrick

Public:

Mike Wendland, Hill County Board of Health Chair, opened the meeting and introduced Hill County Board of Health Officer Jessica Sheehy to provide update information on CoVid-19 in Montana currently has 354 cases as of 8 am April 10th with 5 Counties reporting Community Transmission of the Disease (coronavirus) in the new cases. Governor Bullock's Directive is in

place until April 24th and Hill County will follow that directive. Hill County has conducted 38 tests with 3 pending results as of today. The 1 case Hill County has/had is now listed as

Diane McLean (HCBOH) raised the question of Golf Course closure in Hill County when several across the state are open. Jessica replied that Courses are either Public Parks or Private Business Jessica and Health Department are keeping in close communication with both private owners. Diane disagrees with closure and believes this may be a “Draconian” measure bringing fear and anxiety to a community, feels that if “this drags on, people will not be complying “and “we may have a bigger issue.” Jessica Sheehy replied that the closure was not meant to be directed an any business just ensuring protection for all of Hill County. With the 1 case reported would like to keep that number with no new cases and seems that what we are doing is working and understands that compliance may become as issue, but has complemented the community with following the order so far. Diane M. replied that is may be difficult to say exactly what is being done that is resulting in no new cases. Kim L. (HCHD) noted the regulations vary from County to County, some have closed Parks and Tennis Courts due to people not complying. we haven’t seen this in Hill County/Havre.

Erica M-H. (HCBOD) asked Jessica S. to speak to the CDC CoVid-19 findings that asymptomatic people may spread the disease which cause a lot of concerns. Jessica S. replied that new data is being compiled and we are all learning as we move through this crisis

Kristi K. (HCBOH) asked about the Tests available for Hill County – are the supplies adequate? Jessica S. replied that protocol is being followed on who is tested and that the supply seems adequate for those needing to be tested. There is a constant communication occurring with State on these supplies - she feels it is OK now

Question from Public – Who does the testing in Hill county? Heard that Bullhook was going to do some testing? Jessica S. replied that only NMHC is doing the testing

Diane M. asked how long the tests were taking? Jessica S. replied 24-48 hours

Diane M. asked about the Rapid Test, was it just available for urban areas? Jessica replied that the Antibody testing is still in development – with the idea that if you test Negative you could go back to work/move about more data needs to b compiled and considered going forward.

Erica M-H. asked what the criteria was for a CoVid-19 case to be determined “recovered”? Jessica replied 2 negative tests, but since MT has a limited supply of test kits, MT is following the protocol of 14-day quarantine and no symptoms would equal recovered.

Mike W. asked for clarification of concerns from County – How do we protect County Employees? Karen A. gave specifics on what is expected and what is being done

Question from Public audience - Any citations being issued for non-compliance of directive? Karen A. replied “No, none have been issued”

Kristi K. (HCBOH) asked about how the National Guard staff screening folks departing Amtrak at Havre station was going? Kim L. replied that the staff member’s home base is the Hill County

Health Department; he is completing voluntary screenings that have been well received; staff is at station every day even if no travelers are recorded as disembarking just to be sure.

Question from public audience - about letter to Golf Course noting that no stops by Police are being conducted – Was there an issue to do this? Karen A. and Jessica S. replied that it was just included to emphasize that no stops are being conducted – no citations have been issued

Erica M-H asked Kim L to comment on support HCHD is offering for “snowbirds” returning from south. Kim replied she developed a Radio message – self quarantine for 14 days; self-report/volunteer call to HCHD; offering further understanding of Governor’s Directive; if you have signs or symptoms or question to please call HCHD or their medical provider.

Question from public - Comment/information on situation with Toole County (18 cases, 3 deaths)? Jessica replied, Montana State Health is quite involved, large number of people exposed (before they knew of CoVid-19 positive case) – all due to one case (travel related) at Nursing Home. Individual was moved to Marias Health Center which resulted in exposing several people and expect the number of cases to increase. Deep cleaning has occurred at both facilities and National Guard helping at this time.

Kim replied that Hill County WIC was helping Toole County – on-line

No further questions

Quarterly HC Board of Health meeting – April 15th at Noon – conducted by GoToMeeting format. Erica noted that April 6-12 is National Public Health Week – gave a shout out to Jessica, Kim and Hill County Health Department staff for their great work.

Mike W. noted that Senator Russ Temple was on the meeting call but unable to get his microphone to work – gave notice to Mike to let everyone know

Next GoToMeeting Call – April 17th – 1pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm