



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH**

SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

June 15th, 2020

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IN ATTENDANCE

Benton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Beaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Zaccaria, Administrator & BOH Executive Secretary
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Delvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Small	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Wight, Sr. Human Resources Manager
Franklin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Didier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Jones, Sr. Finance Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Koch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rick Dawson, Sr. Surveillance & Investigation Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Peck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carla Prock, Sr. Healthy People & Communities Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Janae Parent, Administrative Services Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Medick, Administrative Assistant
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kyle Stoddard, Systems Analyst

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order at 2:09p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of county plans submitted to State Department of Health – Jason Zaccaria & Dr. Amy Person

1. Jason Zaccaria stated that the Benton County application was submitted on June 9th, 2020 and Franklin County’s application was submitted on June 10th, 2020. A number of Health District staff were on a call with Dr. Kathy Lofy, the state Health Officer, on June 12th, 2020. Dr. Lofy expressed concern with the community’s status quo and some key areas that need to be improved in order to move forward. Dr. Lofy is concerned that neither county is coming close to meeting the metrics to be able to reopen.
2. Dr. Lofy asked for the Health District as well as other local electeds to join a conference call this last Saturday on June 13th, 2020 where a number of Health District staff heard from the modeling community about the dangers of not taking the new intervention steps to improve the overall situation. J. Zaccaria explained that Dr. Lofy has concerns not just with Benton and Franklin counties but also with Yakima and Spokane.
3. Local elected officials on the call from Saturday were vocal about the need to reopen as soon as possible due to economic hardships and other stressors and concerns. The Department of Health (DOH) did offer up support to help with contact tracing and testing resources to the Health District. As already identified, the National Guard will be providing testing here locally in two locations, one in Benton County and the



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other in Franklin County. It is the Health District's intent to work with DOH to get support for contact tracing as quickly as possible.

4. At this time the Health District is waiting for a follow up call from the Governor's office for a follow up discussion. The Health District had a conference call this morning with counties and cities to discuss increasing available contact tracers for the long term. Benton County also offered up technology and a location for contact tracers to be housed. In the meantime, DOH is working on getting a new software up and running designed specifically for contact tracing, which includes normal interview questions, but also the ability to due data entry, all remotely. DOH is hoping to have this software up and running by the beginning of July, if not sooner.
5. Dr. Person added that the concern the state is expressing, is not just where the counties are with metrics. Transmission appears to be increasing in eastern Washington, and primarily in the areas where it is increasing the most is Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties. The concern is that if rates do not start decreasing there will be a significant increase in hospitalization rates and deaths. There is a concern that as individuals in the community are outside of homes, and not taking the steps to stop transmitting the disease to one another, the question becomes how to stop this, so that the transition to Phase 2 can be successful. Need to flatten rates, and increase community use of face coverings, maintaining physical distance, and staying home when sick.
6. Commissioner Small asked how hospitals are doing in regards to COVID cases and those that are hospitalized/on respirators. Dr. Person stated that hospitals rates for those with COVID-19 has been increasing, and there is some concern from local hospitals about the slight uptick. There is capacity in area hospitals, but with the increase in cases, there is an increase in the number of people hospitalized. Commissioner Small expressed concern with the impact to local, small businesses, and the need for the community to come together to wear masks to protect everyone.
7. Commissioner Peck expressed concern with the way positive test results are reported, and not providing the number of tests administered or the populations to which the tests were administered. Commissioner Peck asked why positive test results continue to be reported without further context. Dr. Person agreed and stated that the challenge is that there is a significant backlog of negative results at DOH that do not have address or county information. The Health District can track positive and negative tests for testing events where the Health District has overseen the testing event, but the Health District cannot track all the of the tests that have been performed by all the providers across the community. This situation has improved over time, but there has not been a good way to account for the 80k+ negative tests that have not been attributed to counties.



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8. Commissioner Peck asked how the Health District is determining whether or not the infection rate is going up or down. Dr. Person stated that right now the Health District is using information that DOH is reporting.
9. Commissioner Koch expressed concern with the reporting of the number of positives at Coyote Ridge for inmates and guards in Franklin County's numbers. Dr. Person stated that DOH is looking at that information to see what cases are attributed to Coyote Ridge versus those within Franklin County.
10. J. Zaccaria stated it is the hope of the Health District to walk away from the follow up discussion with the Governor's office and Dr. Lofy with actionable items that the Health District and local officials can help with. It is not known when DOH will make a final decision to either move to a Phase 2 or a modified Phase 1. J. Zaccaria reassured the BOH that the Health District will do everything in its power to ensure that DOH understands the importance and livelihood of citizens in Benton and Franklin counties.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Koch adjourned the meeting at 2:44p.m.

Signature on File

Commissioner Bob Koch
Chairman of the Board

Signature on File

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

