

Richardson County Board of Health

July 15, 2020

Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman, called to order the meeting of the Richardson County Board of Health at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman of the Board and Dr. Allan Tramp the appointed physician/medical advisor and the Secretary, Mary L. Eickhoff, Richardson County Clerk were all present.

Sheriff Hardesty made note that due to this meeting being offered through a teleconference that the Open Meeting Laws were posted at the entrance to the meeting room and were also available for public review on the Richardson County website, www.co.richardson.ne.us.

The minutes of the June 17, 2020, meeting were forwarded to the members and were thereby approved.

The agenda was provided to the media and was posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.co.richardson.ne.us.

Several persons from different agencies and departments requested to participate in the meeting and those present were: **Grant Brueggemann**, Executive Director, SE NE Health Department; **Kathy Messner** Clinical Care Mgt—Infection Control from Community Medical Center; **Brian Kirkendall**, Richardson County EMA Director; and County Attorney, **Doug Merz**; County Board Chairman.

Because of the need to offer teleconferencing, the ground rules of the meeting to prevent talking over others:

- 1) Request to mute phones
- 2) Chairman will give everyone an opportunity to speak by calling on you in list form.
- 3) State name prior to speaking, Chairman will then repeat your name so that everyone will know who is speaking.
- 4) When a person is completed speaking they should indicate they are finished.

Grant Brueggemann of the Southeast Nebraska Health Department provided an update on the coronavirus pandemic in the SE NE area. As of today, there have been 21,717 positive cases confirmed in Nebraska since the pandemic began and of that number 286 were deaths. Southeast Nebraska Health Department have had 48 cases with 1 of those resulting in death: Johnson-7, Nemaha-5, Otoe-26, Pawnee-1, Richardson-9. He reported that "Test Nebraska" will be establishing permanent testing sites and that an application has been submitted by the Falls City Community Medical Center. With the increase in the positive cases in Richardson County, the Southeast District Health Department is recommending that masking should be promoted as it's one way to curtail the transmission or contain the virus and continue to practice social distancing. With more and more events happening and public congregation of people, maintaining the practice of social distancing, wearing masks and thorough hand washing as public practices will assist to lower the disease burden. With an increase in the amount of travelers coming through the area now, which definitely played a part in some of the most recent cases, we all still need to be very vigilant on the public practices to maintain a lower disease burden. The Southeast District Health Department has been working with the schools to encourage students and faculty to wear masks when schools begin, but that decision is ultimately up to the school district. The Southeast District Health Department staff are helping with some of the school plans, creating the risk assessment for the districts in each county, preparing a color coded risk factor chart—green, yellow, orange and red, to assist with the type of risk factor on where we are at in each county anticipating that this will help the schools to see what they need to implement based on their plans. This information will be sent out to the schools in the near future. He also reported that current State of Nebraska Department directive health measure states that events that will have an attendance of 500 or more must submit a plan for approval to the local health departments. That includes any event or venue indoor or outdoor, to hold a capacity of 500 people. This is separate from the rated capacity limitations, if the event or venue will be able to hold 500 people a plan must be submitted to the SEDHD for approval. Results from National labs are about a 5 day turnaround, with "Test Nebraska" being about 2-3 days which has increased in the past week from about 26 hours.

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director did not have any current update on the work that is being done by the Richardson County COVID19 Planning Committee

Kathy Messner of the Community Medical Center reported that there are currently no positive cases in the hospital. They continue to do drive-thru testing with results having been received within 24 hours. Testing supplies and personal protective equipment is currently in an adequate supply.

Chairman Hardesty declared the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. and tentatively schedule another meeting for August 5, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman
Richardson County Board of Health

Dr. Allan Tramp

Mary L. Eickhoff, Secretary
Richardson County Clerk