

Richardson County Board of Health

August 26, 2020

Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman, called to order the meeting of the Richardson County Board of Health at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 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 August 5, 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 District Health Department; **Kathy Messner**, Clinical Care Mgt—Infection Control from the Community Medical Center; County Board Chairman, **David Sickel**; **Brian Kirkendall**, Richardson County EMA Director; Gary Jorn of the Falls City Ambulance squad; and **Mike Dunn**, Attorney and Board of Health member for the City of Falls City.

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

- 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 District Health Department, provided an update on the coronavirus pandemic in the SE NE area. He reported on the case statistics of the district with 207 confirmed cases since the beginning of pandemic with 128 cases being reported in the last 30 days. Cases by county as of Tuesday, August 25 are as follows: Otoe-88, Johnson-21, Pawnee-10, Nemaha-59 and Richardson 29. The cases reported are updated on the SE District Health Dept website "dashboard" on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week and on Friday at the end of business day they post on social media what has happened from Saturday through Friday as far as new cases in the District.

Dr. Tramp addressed some questions to Mr. Brueggemann on the status of the schools with procedures and their plans when they have positive cases. Mr. Brueggemann explained that at the current time the procedures and plans in place with the schools are working out just fine, no huge outbreaks yet. The schools have been in contact with the Department with issues and questions that have developed and they are assisting to resolve these. During the last week Nemaha County had an increase rate of cases and to be very preventative and proactive a recommendation was made by the SEDHD to move up to the next element at the Auburn Public Schools. Peru State College and the positive cases reported from those students are generally reported to Nemaha County. If there is a change in the rate of positive cases happening in Richardson County he would reach out to the schools to review the situation and make recommendations. A majority of the cases lately have been tied to events of some sort including weddings, showers, golf tournaments and community events. The SE District Health Department strongly recommends to minimize the number of positive cases to practice wearing masks at events, social distancing, thorough hand washing, stay home when you are sick and don't send sick children to school. There have been some issues with contact tracing and corrections are being done to

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get these reports back in a timely manner. Sporting events were also brought up and the SE District Health Department have reviewed the plans and they are comfortable with the way that the schools are handling the sporting events.

Brian Krikendall, EMA Director stated that they continue to work with SE District Health Department on personal protective equipment distribution, continue to monitor recommendations put out by the NE EMA and Federal EMA. Recommend the social distancing and wearing masks in public.

The Sheriff's Office reported that the department is asking the screening questions before responding to calls and deputies are wearing masks, etc.

Kathy Messner of the Community Medical Center reported that they are still providing the drive-thru testing on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday that requires an appointment and a physician order. Wednesday testing is done through "Test Nebraska" and patients must register on-line at that website and the testing is between 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. with results going only to the patients. Turn around for test results is still varying but usually results are received within 24 hours but can take up to 48 hours being the maximum. The Community Medical Center began on Monday, August 24 the "Rapid Covid Tests" with a limited supply of these at this time. Dr. Tramp indicated that this test should be done with those showing signs of symptoms and done within the first 5 days. The rapid test is a nasal swab and not so invasive. Kathy also reported that there are currently no active cases within the hospital.

Mike Dunn reported that the City of Falls City would be having a Board of Health meeting at 5:00 p.m. on August 27.

Dr. Tramp thanked all who were in attendance and encourages everyone to practice the social distancing, thorough handwashing and wearing masks in public to avoid an outbreak.

Chairman, Sheriff Hardesty declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. and tentatively scheduled another meeting for Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman

Dr. Allan Tramp

Mary L. Eickhoff, Secretary
Richardson County Clerk