

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Board Meeting Date: May 18, 2020

Location: Webex Meeting

Members in Attendance: Anthony L. Schlaff, MD, MPH, Chair
David Hemenway, PhD
Pat Maher, APRN, MA MS
Peter Moyer, MD MPH

Agenda Items	1. Approval of minutes 2. Update on COVID-19
Call to Order	5:02 pm
1. Welcome	
2. Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of minutes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>April 21, April 27, May 4</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Schlaff asked everyone agreed to make appropriate changes to Dr. Gretchen Stoddard’s credentials on the minutes.▪ Dr. Schlaff moved to approve minutes from April 21, April 27 and May 4. Pat Maher motioned to approve and David seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the minutes for dates listed above.▪ Dr. Moyer included correction to May 4, addition of “PCR” before testing. Minutes passed correction.○ May 11 minutes and revisions approved during next meeting. Dr. Schlaff submitted corrections to all members to review before the next meeting.• Update on COVID-19 (as of Monday, May 18):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Global: 4,758,937 confirmed cases, 316,277 deaths○ USA: 1,525,646 confirmed cases, 90,263 deaths○ MASS: 86,010 confirmed cases, 5,797 deaths○ Global chart shows US peaking, starting to head down the curve○ Brookline: 341 positive cases (11 new cases since last report, only 15 new cases in the past 10 days), 288 quarantined, 210 individuals released from quarantine, 178 released from isolation, 75 suspect cases and 37 deaths (number of deaths has not changed)○ Small spike in the number of cases following the antibody testing. The highest number of cases occurred

before phasing in face covering requirement (from April 11-15).

○ **Antibody Testing**

- Thursday (1st day of testing) – First responders, Public Health and DPW employees were tested
 - 16 positive (some with antibodies)
 - 9 of 16 w/IgM, possibly still infected, instructed to follow up with PCR test
 - Total: 210 employees tested
- Friday (9 am – 1 pm) – randomly selected residents were tested, (1 pm) CERT & MRC members, free antibody testing opened to the community through Facebook post (due to concern that weather would force cancellation around 3 pm)
 - Random selection
 - 11 positive
 - Total: 141 residents tested
 - Additional residents
 - 31 positive
 - Total: 479 residents tested
- Dr. Jett thanked Mass General Hospital, Fallon, EOC, nurses, volunteers and all who assisted with this collaboration.
- 620 residents tested, antibodies detected in only 7% of the population, 93 % not infected. IgM cases will convert to IgG cases.
- Dr. Schlaff credited Dr. Jett, the town and the public health measures for the high percentage of population not infected.
- Dr. Moyer added how beneficial it will be to keep this up until a vaccination becomes available.

○ **Public Health measures for reopening**

- 3 day average of deaths by date of death (deaths have mainly occurred in nursing homes)
- 3 day average of hospitalizations
- 7 day average of positive test results (evaluation of influx: more testing or more people getting sick)
- **Test** - Increased testing capacity and number of people tested so people with COVID-19 are aware of diagnosis and can self-isolate

- **Trace** - Trace all contacts of people with COVID-19 to ensure safe quarantine and testing
- **Isolate** - Minimize transmission by isolating and quarantining individuals with COVID-19 and their contacts
- **Support** - Provide support so individuals can safely isolate and quarantine
- Dr. Jett stated that the Health Department has supported people in the past by providing meals and providing thermometers to cases, but nothing on a large scale. There was no assistance with housing.
- **Reopening begins May 25** lab space, office space, limited personal services: salons & barbershops, pet grooming, car washes, retail fulfillment: remote fulfillment, beaches, drive-in theaters, courts and fields, curbside pickup. **June 1** office spaces in Boston
- **Phase 2** retail, lodging, nail salons, restaurant (capacity limitations), campgrounds, playgrounds, pools and youth sports
- **Phase 3** bars, arts & entertainment, nightclubs
- **Phase 4** everything
- Dr. Schlaff inquired about capacity of Health Department to conduct inspections. Dr. Jett said inspections would be complaint driven, per state guidance. Public Health staff will conduct spot checks, weighed against the need for contact tracing. Violators possibly fined (up to \$300). Department receives high volume of complaints which has subsided some since the start of COVID-19 response, but have.
- Public Health will receive some support from the Department of Labor Standards. They will issue a cease and desist. Public Health staff will have to follow up if person is still in violation.
- **June 1** - Office space will begin to open with 25% of capacity of each business per state guidance. Dr. Jett expects some people will complain that this is not logical and will propose other solutions.
- Libraries will open during phase 3.
- Dr. Jett has received questions about reopening the senior center. He does not have a solution at

this time. Seniors have been isolated since the start of COVID-19. Pat Maher asked if there is outdoor space, they could open as a solution.

- Retail, restaurants and nail salons will reopen during phase 2. Dr. Jett stated that Florida has opened restaurants at 25% of their capacity. Campgrounds, playgrounds and swimming pools will also open. He has received lot of calls asking when pools can reopen. This phase will probably begin around June 15.
- Bars, arts & entertainment and nightclubs will reopen during phase 3. Phase 3 will probably open around July 1.
- Phase 4 could be around July 15 or August 1.
- Dr. Schlaff mentioned each phase beginning three weeks following the previous one. He asked if there would be regional variations based on influx in cases. Dr. Jett agreed with a regional approach. He is waiting for more information from the state regarding a regional approach. They discussed concerns about people traveling between places, from high risk areas with low risk areas.
- Dr. Jett is concerned about the ability to respond, especially once school resumes. He discussed private companies claiming to do contact tracing. Contact tracing is a detailed process, taking a significant amount of time, following up with people, not an easy process.
- Dr. Moyer reiterated the importance for people to be trained and ready to help with contact tracing.
- Dr. Schlaff asked about the reopening of daycares. Dr. Jett believes daycare operations will expand. Dr. Rudisch responded there are only four daycares open as emergency facilities for essential workers. She does not know of any cases in daycare. There was rumor of one suspected case. She will follow up with Joyce on the daycare resource team.
- Pat Maher asked if daycare staff is tested. Daycare workers have voluntarily tested.

- Dr. Schlaff added monitoring daycares for spread from asymptomatic children. Pat Maher added monitoring teachers also.
- Dr. Jett has spoken to people who tested positive for antibodies and were asymptomatic.
- Dr. Moyer discussed antibody tests. He mentioned people could pay to have antibodies tests in various places. They become curious and go to get the test. When they are positive and he instructs them to be COVID-19 tested, they do not want additional tests because they already know they have antibodies. They might have had symptoms months ago. The state guidance for a PCR following positive antibody test is a hard sell.
- **Questions about if you can contract COVID-19 twice.** Dr. Schlaff shared report finding healthcare workers were documented infected, tested negative for weeks (at least twice), and are sick again. The fear is that they were infected and cleared the virus, but were reinfected.
- Dr. Jett is waiting on more research on reinfection. He mentioned a veteran who caught COVID-19 twice, but he did not interview the person himself.
- Dr. Moyer spoke with the doctor (Dr. Lennerz) running the antibody tests. Biomed omics do the antibody testing. The test has 100% sensitive, 92% specific. The information on all of these different types of tests is confusing to him even with his experience. He suggested having experts in town explain the meaning of these tests and lend an opinion. He also added the importance of studying and standardizing these tests.
- The Council also discussed the possibility of false negatives and false positives in test results.
- Dr. Jett explained why he likes the antibody test used in Brookline because the IgG and IgM allow you to identify a weak positive, showing you are positive and which phase you are in. He researched the type of test they used in Brookline for antibody testing. The test was FDA approved before Brookline testing. He mentioned they would use data collected to publish papers. We were fortunate to have

testing on a community level in Brookline. Brookline is the only community to do a random sample. Other communities in Boston (Roslindale, Dorchester) and Chelsea have also taken part in antibody testing.

3. Other Business

- **Health Department Budget.** Dr. Schlaff asked about the Health Department budget before the close of the meeting. More resources through federal CARES Act becoming available. Dr. Jett submitted 10% exercise (budget cut) and expected to hear more during Town Meeting. There have been a number of furloughs. Dr. Schlaff asked Dr. Jett to keep the council informed on the budget and they will assist in any way possible. Dr. Jett went through the Select Board and Advisory Committee in March and still has to go through the town meeting process. Dr. Schlaff offered to go to Town Meeting to testify on behalf of ACPH for the Health Department budget.
- **Volunteer Recognition.** Pat Maher praised the volunteers who worked for antibody testing. She wants to draft a letter to recognize their dedication and effort. Pat will share the letter with the TAB, Town Administration and other organizations in town after the ACPH make suggestions and approve.

Meeting Adjourned 5:48 pm