

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

May 12, 2020 • 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7082128355>

Phone In: 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 708 212 8355

www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/PublicHealth/phac.cfm



Public Health
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AGENDA ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOMES	LEAD	TIME
Welcome	Welcome, introductions, review agenda, approve minutes from March meeting	Annie Paulsen	5:30
COVID-19 Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PHAC members receive an update on the current situation in Washington CountyReview successes and challenges in responding to this event	Tricia Mortell	5:40
Q&A (Community members may also submit questions and comments at this time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PHAC members are encouraged to ask questions about the County's response to COVID and its plans moving forwardPHAC members can provide feedback on what they have seen in their communities are areas where we may need to focus additional resources	Alex Coleman and Tricia Mortell	6:50
Closing		Annie Paulsen	7:25

Next Meeting: June 9, 2020

Future PHAC Meetings:

- No Meeting in July
- August 11, 2020

Future Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Subcommittee Meetings

If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, please email

vivianna_lindley@co.washington.or.us

All our CHIP committees are currently on hold due to COVID. As we make plans for how to continue moving this forward, we will let you know when and how they will reconvene.

Electronic information: www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/PublicHealth/phac-meetings.cfm

For assistance on the evening of the meeting contact:

Alex Coleman (971) 724-0089 or alex_coleman@co.washington.or.us

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2020



ATTENDING: Ann Marie Paulsen, David Eppelsheimer, Robin Bouquest, Hemi Pariyani, Jennifer McElravey, Larysa Thomas, Nicole Bowles, Sonja Ackman, Tom Engle, Karen Reynolds, Shabba Woodley, Dick Stenson, Leticia Vitela, Eileen Derr

ABSENT: Pam Treece, Larry Boxman, Andrea Lara Silva

STAFF: Tricia Mortell, Alex Coleman, Vivianna Lindley

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Jose Hernandez, Brian Decker

Welcome

Annie started the meeting with introductions and an ice breaker.

Approve March Meeting Minutes

March's minutes were reviewed. An amendment was made to note on the minutes that the COVID-19 information mentioned at the March meeting was current at the time. Sonja Ackman motioned to approve the minutes, and Dick Stenson seconded. All in favor and none opposed. The motion was passed.

COVID-19 Update

- Tricia gave the group an update on the County's COVID-19 reopening plan:
 - There is a reopening framework available on the governor's website for the public to view.
 - May 1st saw the reopening of non-emergency medical procedures hinging on enough PPE being available. One of the prerequisites to reopening is to have enough supplies to reopen. Many medical offices stayed closed because of this.
 - On May 5th recreational activities were opened with social distancing measures. (Boating, parks, campgrounds etc.)
 - On May 15th certain retail stores can open. Furniture stores, art galleries, and boutiques if they are standalone stores. This will happen across the state regardless if Counties are ready to reopen.
 - Each county will make the decision for when they are ready for phase one opening. There are 7 prerequisites to being ready to open. We are hoping to make the decision as a region instead of individually.
 - 1. Declining COVID-19 Prevalence
 - Hospitalizations measured by county declining for 14 days
 - Emergency department visits for COVID-like illness below influenza-like illness baseline measured statewide
 - 2. Minimum Testing Regimen
 - 30 tests per 10k population per week
 - Accessible testing for underserved communities
 - 3. Contact Tracing System

- 15 tracers per 100k population
 - Able to trace 95% of contacts within 24 hours
 - Cultural and linguistic competence
- 4. Isolation/Quarantine Facilities
 - Available room capacity
 - Response narratives for group living outbreaks
- 5. Finalized Statewide Sector Guidelines
- 6. Sufficient Healthcare Capacity
 - 20% hospital bed surge capacity
- 7. Sufficient PPE Supply
 - Required daily inventory reporting to OHA
 - 30-day supply required; 14-days for small and rural hospitals
 - Sufficient PPE for first responders in the county
- The county is concerned about high rates of positive cases in the homeless population and the Latinx communities. We are working to make testing and resources more available to these populations.
- Certain industries will be required to have their employees wear masks. These will be cloth face coverings as PPE is reserved for health care staff.
- Over the course of this response we have been fielding complaints about non-compliant businesses with COVID-19 regulations. We work with our staff to provide outreach and education to businesses we license and with OSHA for complaints that are in their purview. We will continue to do this after the reopening.
- The earliest date counties can reopen is May 15th, but Washington County is looking more towards early/mid-June for an open date. This is to ensure the safest reopening possible.
- Tricia gave an overview of current and future contact tracing procedures
 - First, we learn that someone tests positive for COVID-19.
 - We interview them to find out where they have been and who they have been in contact with.
 - Close contacts are defined as someone who was within six feet for at least 15 minutes
 - We let them know that they need to be isolated until their symptoms are gone. This is difficult because symptoms have changed since the beginning.
 - Then we talk to all the people the positive person has been in contact with. The virus can be passed from close contact within 15 minutes. This is a much shorter time than we originally thought at the beginning of this pandemic. As we reopen, we will be asking contacts of a positive case to isolate for 14 days.
 - Many people will need basic support for financial and essential needs. We are standing up a team to support these needs as we reopen.
 - There will be a large influx of staff for contact tracing positions to be able to handle the volume of contacts.
 - So far, we have provided support to 49 households in these first two months of the response, but this may not be sustainable with the number of cases we will see once we reopen.

- We will need 120-140 new temporary employees for contact tracing. We will be working to source these employees from the community.
- Isolation means the ill person stays away from everyone within their own home including household members. Quarantine means the person tries to stay away from other people outside their household.
- Alex Coleman gave an overview of disparities during COVID-19 and the work being done to mitigate them.
 - Public Health has dedicated staff to working on COVID-19 issues related to special populations including houseless individuals, jail and corrections, long term care facilities, and migrant and seasonal farm workers
 - Alex has been working with other staff to ensure communities experiencing disparities from the virus are receiving proper outreach, education and support.
 - There have been multiple outreach campaigns to connect with these communities in many languages.
 - We have been working with farm and labor camps on how they can implement the guidelines from OHA. We have been proactive about this work and still have two weeks to prepare before the large influx of workers.
 - There has been a lot of work done around equity in our Emergency Operations Center.
 - We made the decision to help supply non-medical PPE to businesses that needed the most support, like agricultural businesses.
 - The state has put together a team to help support counties during the reopening. We are asking the state to help us with the new contact tracing software.
- Alex Coleman gave an overview of successes and challenges during the County's response to COVID-19. The document listing the successes and challenges will be posted with the minutes on the county's website.
 - This pandemic became a community crisis and incredible amounts of work are being done to support the community in the Emergency Operations Center. We have really come together as a community during this pandemic.

Q&A

Q: Will testing for frontline workers become more available?

A: This is a controversial issue. Testing is expanding, but a test can only tell us if you are positive now. It will not help to identify if you become positive the week after your test. This is why monitoring for symptoms is key. This is not a perfect situation.

Q: What do you do if a person without housing tests positive?

A: We have contracted a hotel to house these individuals for isolation and recovery. The person is discharged from the hospital into the hotel and are supported by the County until they test negative. We are taking this opportunity to discharge these individuals into permanent housing to further support them.

Q: Why are health care providers sending people outside of Washington County for testing?

A: Not sure why this is happening. Some tests are not reliable, so the provider may be sending the patient to places they know testing is reliable.

Q: How do we support victims of child/domestic/sexual abuse?

A: There is a lot of work being done through the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and local police in the cities to provide as many resources and support as we can.

Q: Has the state published its protocol for contact interviews?

A: Yes, they provided this May 1st, but at this time we are not introducing it. We do not have the staffing currently to follow the protocol.

Q: Will the county be helping instruct positive cases how to isolate within your own home when you live with other people?

A: The county has guidelines for this which we will provide to positive cases, but isolation with other household members can be very difficult and new cases will develop despite best efforts.

Q: Will the recommendation continue to be for high-risk groups to stay at home?

A: Yes. We do not have a vaccine so it will still be important for high-risk individuals to stay quarantined even though we are reopening. It will also be important for individuals who are sick or have symptoms to stay home as well.

Q: Are we going to set standards or at least make educational resources for large buildings to increase cleaning with COVID precautions?

A: The best thing to do is secure the sanitation products that will work, but this might be difficult as many of these items are still hard to obtain. OR-OSHA is able to provide virtual consultations related to COVID and can help review policies and conduct risk assessments.

Q: Is monitoring in the County jail entirely left up to the Sheriff's Office? Any information about cases or suspected cases among inmates or staff?

A: We have met with the jail on their monitoring and physical distancing protocols. There is a taskforce working with correctional facilities in Washington County to make sure they have proper protocols in place for monitoring, sanitation, and distancing and to make sure they are receiving the support they need.

Q: What work has dropped off in Public Health since COVID-19 started?

A: Work on Tobacco Retail Licensure has paused, and we are not moving forward with pushing that through for Spring. We will revisit it in the fall. We've also pressed pause on Universally Offered Home Visiting Program that Washington County was an early adopter of. WIC services have been able to continue functioning which is great. Other diseases have also dropped off like salmonella and E.coli, but these will likely come back once we reopen which is another concern.

Q: Downtown Hillsboro (97123) has twice the rate of positive cases per population as the rest of Washington County and 2.5 times the statewide average. What is driving up cases there?

A: Zip code data does not tell you where the disease is. It only tells you where people who have the disease live. High case levels in certain zip codes are related to where those people work and how many household members they have that could then become positive.

Q: But Downton Hillsboro doesn't have a designated hot spot like a long-term care facility, so why are the cases so high in 97123? OHA said it has 18 cases per 100,000 people which is higher than other areas.

A: The confidence rate is missing from this picture which makes the data almost meaningless. We have also had very limited testing. Areas with more access to testing will have higher case rates than areas without access to testing.

Q: Are there concerns about delays in vaccinations once we reopen which could lead to more diseases?

A: We are putting out messaging to encourage children to return to their vaccine schedules once we reopen, but there is a lot of messaging out there so communication is not perfect.

Q: Are there guidelines for sports during the reopening? Like tennis courts?

A: The governor is working on a plan for activities and sports programs for children to open with physical distancing. We are still recommending to not engage in recreational sports with other people because we now know the virus can spread in 15-minutes of close contact. This is especially a concern for sports where you are sharing equipment and breathing heavily.

Q: What about going to the beach?

A: Counties with beaches are considering reopening them, but crowding is still a concern. There is also the concern about opening places that will draw tourists who could expend resources and further the spread of the disease.

Q: Do we have a plan for the next school year?

A: The governor's hope is that schools will reopen in the Fall, but there is not a concrete plan yet.

Q: How can the community get involved in helping to spread awareness to migrant farmworkers? Or to help with contact tracing?

A: There is already work being done to support migrant farmworkers through the County and community partners. We will be releasing the information about contact tracer hiring next week and we will make sure PHAC has this information.

Q: Will salons reopening be in phase two?

A: Salons are included in phase one with physical distancing and no more than 25 people served at a time.

Closing

We will be sending out a graphic of cases made by our epidemiologists and the County's reopening plan that was approved by the board today. June's meeting will be through Zoom because the recommendations for gatherings in phase one are very limited.