

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)
 Tuesday, October 13, 2020 • 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
 Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7082128355>
 Meeting ID: 708 212 8355
 Phone: (253) 215-8782
www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/PublicHealth/phac.cfm



Public Health
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.



AGENDA ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOMES	LEAD	TIME
Welcome	Welcome, introductions, review agenda, approve minutes from September meeting	Annie Paulsen	5:30
COVID-19 Vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members receive background information on COVID-19 vaccine planning 	Melissa McKinney and Adrienne Donner	5:45
COVID-19 Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members receive an update on COVID-19 data and metrics 	Eva Hawes	6:15
COVID-19 Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members receive an update on the current situation in Washington County 	Tricia Mortell	6:55
Q&A (Community members may also submit questions and comments at this time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members and community members are encouraged to ask questions about the County's response to COVID and its plans moving forward 	Tricia Mortell and Alex Coleman	7:15
Closing		Annie Paulsen	7:25

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Future PHAC Meetings:

- No meeting in December
- January 12, 2021

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

Most CHIP committees are still on hold due to COVID. As we make plans for how to continue moving this work 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

October 13, 2020



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ATTENDING: Ann Marie Paulsen, Larysa Thomas, Nicole Bowles, Sonja Ackman, Tom Engle, Andrea Lara Silva, David Eppelsheimer, Hemi Pariyani, Dick Stenson, Pam Treece, Robin Bousquet, Jennifer McElravey, Karen Reynolds, Leticia Vitela, Eileen Derr

ABSENT: Larry Boxman, Shabba Woodley

STAFF: Tricia Mortell, Alex Coleman, Vivianna Lindley, Alicia Lee, Bernardino De La Torre

GUEST PRESENTERS: Melissa McKinney, Adrienne Donner, Eva Hawes

Welcome

Annie started the meeting with introductions and an ice breaker.

Approve September's Meeting Minutes

September's minutes were reviewed. Tom Engle motioned to approve the minutes. Andrea Lara Silva seconded. All in favor and none opposed. The motion was passed.

COVID-19 Update

Tricia reviewed the County's response to COVID so far and challenges that were faced early on. See PowerPoint for more details.

- COVID did not follow what we expected. It was thought to be comparable to the flu. This quickly changed and we found this disease was like nothing we had seen before and the knowledge of it would change daily.
- Communication was a challenge in the beginning. Our knowledge was constantly shifting, and it was hard to give out "right" information to the public when it could sometimes change in a 24-hour period. We had a team of staff working tirelessly to update information in real time and get it out to the public as fast as possible.
- We focused a lot of our work on equity which was very beneficial to the community once we discovered the disparities in how COVID affected the Latinx communities.
- We have committed to supporting community members who need resources during isolation/quarantine and providing testing to communities of color and those affected by disparities in this disease.
- We have found that community resilience is vital to surviving a disaster or pandemic and we need to continue to build this quality in our community
- Seeing that 40-50% of cases are through household transmission

COVID-19 Vaccine

PHAC members received background information on COVID-19 vaccine planning.

- The top contending vaccines will need to be kept extremely cold which makes planning more difficult
- The White House passed new FDA safety guidelines that slowed the vaccine process down because it will require lengthy monitoring before pushing it out widely
- It is not for sure, but it is looking like health care providers and LTCF residences will be the first people to receive the vaccine

- The federal government is partnering with large health care systems and pharmacy chains for administration of the vaccine
- It is unknown right now how the vaccine will roll out. There may be sub-priorities specific to Oregon in the roll out of the vaccine
- In Phase 2 of the vaccine roll out Public Health will play a bigger role. We will be looking at individuals who would have issues accessing the vaccine. We are exploring the idea of having a roving vaccine van that goes to different places in the community
- We are focusing our work with both the flu and COVID vaccine on gaps in distribution and administration and making sure those gaps are filled

COVID-19 Data

PHAC members received an update on COVID-19 data and metrics. See PowerPoint for more details.

- It has been scientifically proven that COVID has the capability to be airborne. However, if one of its primary modes of transmission was being airborne then we would see a lot more people being infected per positive case. On average, one positive case will transmit to 2.5 people versus the measles (a true airborne virus) where one positive case infects 16 people on average
- Disparities seen in COVID with communities of color are not unique to COVID. We see these disparities in all diseases as a symptom of systemic racism and inequities
- There is a high burden of infection on the younger population and a high burden of death on the older population
- You can send any additional questions directly to Eva or to Alex to pass along. The analyst team is very interested in exploring your questions

Q&A

COVID Update

Q: What is defined as underlying conditions as referenced in the updates from OHA?

A: The CDC has provided a list of medical conditions that may put someone at higher risk <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.

Q: Do we have testing available for non-symptomatic health workers that are front-line?

A: OHA just increased the recommendations that close contacts get tested even if they are asymptomatic. We need to keep working to bring accessible testing to the community.

Q: How would someone reach out for support during quarantine if they don't meet any of the groups that you have discussed?

A: There are several options available at the state and local level for people who need support during isolation or quarantine. People can reach out to their local health jurisdiction or look at the OHA website to find resources available to them.

Q: There is not testing actively available to frontline health care workers. What is Washington County going to do about this?

A: Beginning to uplift testing for health care workers. We have access to a rapid testing machine, but it is not very accurate. The issue is high rates of false-positives and false-negatives.

Q: What is happening with the funding for contact tracing? What is the plan for after CARES ends 12/31/2020?

A: We have funding secured through January for contact tracing. We are looking for the funding to maintain the staff we need for this.

Q: Are we messaging the community about not using face shields to replace face coverings?

A: Oregon State has allowed face shields as better than nothing, but the tri-county region has come out against that along with not using the face coverings with vents and other products that do not properly cover the mouth and nose.

COVID Vaccine

Q: How much it will be required to get a vaccine? Like in school or medical settings.

A: State legislative session starts soon, and this will be a topic discussed. Would not be surprised if a conversation was started about mandatory vaccines for certain groups/organizations.

Q: Is there any work happening to approach health care workers with support for underlying conditions that increase the likelihood of death with COVID.

A: Unfortunately, not. We are not funded at all at for chronic disease prevention, only tobacco.

COVID Data

Q: What are you not measuring now that you want to measure going forward?

A: We now have a very large team of analysts. We are looking at the metrics in contacts, to see if there are disparities by occupation; looking to see if there are geographical connections (more cases for specific zip codes).

Q: Have you looked to other counties in the tri-county region to see if our data is similar to what they are capturing?

A: Yes, there is a regional dashboard that can show the comparisons and there are some similarities.

Closing

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 10th. Zoom information will be sent out and posted to the PHAC page on the Washington County website.