

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2020

Jefferson County Public Health, 615 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend WA 98368

Board Members

Pamela Adams, Vice Chair, Port Townsend City Council
Greg Brotherton, County Commissioner, District #3
Kate Dean, County Commissioner District #1
Kees Kolff, Public Hospital District #2 Commissioner
Denis Stearns, Citizen at large
David Sullivan, County Commissioner, District #2
Sheila Westerman, Chair, Citizen at large

Staff Members

Michael Dawson, Water Quality Manager
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Public Health Director
Thomas Locke, Health Officer
Apple Martine, Community Health Director
Pinky Mingo, Interim Env. Public Health Director
Veronica Shaw, Public Health Deputy Director

Chair Sheila Westerman called the May 14, 2020 meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Health to order at 2:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Pamela Adams, Greg Brotherton, Kate Dean, Kees Kolff, Denis Stearns, David Sullivan, Sheila Westerman

Staff Present: Michael Dawson, Vicki Kirkpatrick, Thomas Locke, Apple Martine, Pinky Mingo, Veronica Shaw

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Shelia Westerman asked for approval of the agenda for May 14, 2020.

Vice Chair Pamela Adams motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by member Kees Kolff. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Epidemiological Modeling of the Coronavirus Pandemic – CIDRAP and IDM reports

Dr. Tom Locke, Health Officer reviewed the possible pandemic wave scenarios for COVID-19 and recommendations published in *COVID-19: The CIDRAP Viewpoint* by the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. He said another wave of COVID-19 will most likely come in the fall or early winter. Dr. Locke also reviewed the publication, *COVID-19 transmission was likely rising through April 22 across Washington State*, by the Institute of Disease Modeling and discussed future predictions and response plans.

The Board had questions about immunity after being infected with COVID, antibody tests, current reproduction of the virus, true infection rates, seasonal spikes of infection, tourism related cases, the recent confirmed case in Jefferson County, and vaccines.

2. Health Officer Recommendations Re: Variance Request to Move from Phase I to Phase II of Governor Inslee’s Stay Home – Stay Healthy Proclamation

Dr. Locke thanked the public for their thoughtful and detailed emails. He said the primary concern he has heard from the public is about opening activities that would encourage tourism in Jefferson County. He said his recommendations are based on the premise of preventing the spread of infectious disease and also emphasized this as not a partisan issue, but a basic human consideration.

The Board asked Dr. Locke questions about the guidelines and expected impacts of moving to Phase 2. Topics discussed included serving existing clientele only, contact tracing, stringency of standards and guidelines, enforcement, masking directives, tourism, etc.

Member Kees Kolff said Jefferson Healthcare has met the requirements to move to Phase 2 and agreed to write the letter of support that is required in the application for the variance.

The Board reviewed and discussed each of the activities recommended for the Phase 2 variance. These activities included outdoor recreation (including camping), gatherings, travel, and business and employers (including child care). The Board asked clarifying questions for each topic and provided feedback for Dr. Locke to move forward with the final recommendations, including adding drive-in theatres to the list of recommended activities. The Board also asked Dr. Locke to inquire about the restrictions for dog parks, play grounds and yoga and ballet studios.

AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

Topics planned for discussion at the next BOH meeting are 1) issuing a masking directive, and 2) clarifying glove use.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting will be held online as a GoToMeeting on Thursday, May 21, 2020 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sheila Westerman adjourned the May 14, 2020 Jefferson County Board of Health meeting at 4:52 p.m.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH


Sheila Westerman, Chair

Approved telephonically
Pamela Adams, Vice Chair

Approved telephonically
David Sullivan, Member


Denis Stearns, Member

approved telephonically
Kate Dean, Member

approved telephonically
Greg Brotherton, Member

Approved telephonically
Kees Kolff, Member

Respectfully submitted
J. Matter