

## RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

APRIL 8, 2020

Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman, called to order the meeting of the Richardson County Board of Health at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman of the Board and Dr. Allan Tramp the appointed physician/medical advisor were both present along with the Secretary, Mary L. Eickhoff, Richardson County Clerk.

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 this meeting room and were also available for public review on the Richardson County website, [www.co.richardson.ne.us](http://www.co.richardson.ne.us).

The minutes of the March 25, 2020, meeting have been 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, all entrance doors at the Courthouse and on the Richardson County website [www.co.richardson.ne.us](http://www.co.richardson.ne.us).

Several person from different agencies and departments were requested to join the meeting and were all present: **Grant Brueggeman**, Executive Director, SE NE Health Department; **Kathy Messner**, Clinical Care Mgt—Infection Control and **Kerry Holdsworth**, Chief Clinical Officer both from the Community Medical Center; **Brian Kirkendall**, Richardson County EMA Director; County Attorney, **Doug Merz**; County Board Chairman, **David Sickel**; **Duane Armbruster**, Falls City Chief of Police and member of the Falls City Board of Health; **Marty Lewis** from the Humboldt Ambulance squad; **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 has completed speaking they should indicate they are finished.

Dr. Tramp offered a report on the current status and conditions of the corona virus pandemic as he has experienced or seen within the Richardson County area and reported that from all the testing there are no positive tests thus far. Social distancing still remains an important practice for everyone to do.

Grant Brueggemann reported that the Southeast Nebraska District Health Department has 3 confirmed cases, 1-Otoe, 1-Johnson and 1-Nemaha and that Nebraska as a total had 478 confirmed cases with 12 deaths as of today. The peak for cases to start being reduced is being predicted to be at the end of April or beginning of May dependent on the public participation with the social gathering of 10 persons or less and everyone staying at home. However, our location of SE Nebraska may be later than the state average because of our location/geography but models are showing to be less severe than what was originally forecast.

It was also reported that medical clinical staff, emergency medical staff and other healthcare workers are wearing masks when seeing patients. Mr. Brueggemann did indicate that the idea of the persons wearing masks when they were in the public was not a bad idea.

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director updated the Board on the activity of the County COVID19 Planning Committee. He reported that the schools are trying to plan some type of event in place of a traditional graduation ceremony. With the high demand for face masks Mr. Kirkendall stated that he has been made aware of local businesses, civic groups and local seamstresses making masks for health care workers and local residents in general. The Committee will meet again next week for further update.

Falls City Police Chief, Duane Armbruster stated that the citizens of Falls City have been doing a very good job of practicing social distance but that they have dealt with a few minor incidents of gatherings at the Stanton Lake Park.

Sheriff Hardesty reported that he has visited with the local restaurants and bars within the County to see how they were handling the recommended limit of no more than 10 persons gathering and to inform them that during this “state of emergency” that financial assistance is available for them from the Small Business Administration.

Kathy Messner of Community Medical Center explained that a plan was being worked on to complete testing for the virus at the hospital by providing an isolated area where patients would come to be tested after receiving an order from a doctor. These tests would be done after scheduling an appointment for the test at the hospital.

Mr. Brueggemann explained how notification of a confirmed case would be released by the Southeast Nebraska District Health Dept. The health care provider is the first to be notified, followed by notice to the EMA Director, to the schools, cities and county government. Information of the person infected is not given to anyone except to the health care provider, immediate family and to whom they may have had immediate contacts with. Sheriff Hardesty expressed the need of how important it would be to law enforcement officers and first responders to be informed of confirmed cases so that proper precautions would be taken to answer emergency calls to those residences, etc.

The topic of quarantine/self-isolation was discussed briefly. Mike Dunn, City Attorney for the City of Falls City stated that with the governor’s direct health measure that is now applied statewide that the quarantine requirements are detailed which if necessary could be charged by law enforcement if someone with the COVID-19 was not abiding with the regulations as stated.

Mr. Brueggemann reported that a meeting is scheduled for the Southeast Nebraska Health District Board of Directors for Monday, April 20 in which a public hearing will be held to receive public input on the procedures to be adopted for the prevention of spread of communicable disease, illness or poisoning. After the hearing if no revisions are needed the Board will adopt the procedures which will then be forwarded to the county boards in the district for their approval. These regulations will then be effective for the five counties within the Health District region.

At the conclusion of the agenda items Sheriff Hardesty asked if anyone had other comments.

Chairman Sheriff Hardesty declared the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m. and tentatively scheduled the next meeting for April 22, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

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Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman  
Richardson County Board of Health

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Dr. Allan Tramp

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Mary L. Eickhoff, Secretary  
Richardson County Clerk