

Richardson County Board of Health

August 5, 2020

Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman, called to order the meeting of the Richardson County Board of Health at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman of the Board and Dr. Allan Tramp the appointed physician/medical advisor and the Secretary, Mary L. Eickhoff, Richardson County Clerk were all present.

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 the meeting room and were also available for public review on the Richardson County website, www.co.richardson.ne.us.

The minutes of the July 15, 2020, meeting were 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 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.co.richardson.ne.us.

Several persons from different agencies and departments requested to participate in the meeting and those present were: **Grant Brueggemann**, Executive Director, SE NE Health Department; **Kathy Messner**, Clinical Care Mgt—Infection Control from the Community Medical Center; **Doug Merz**, Richardson County Attorney; County Board Chairman, **David Sickel**; 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 is completed speaking they should indicate they are finished.

Dr. Tramp reported that since the last meeting there have been a number of positive cases in the County.

Grant Brueggemann of the Southeast Nebraska Health Department, provided an update on the coronavirus pandemic in the SE NE area. He reported on the case statistics and gave the positive cases reported as of today in each County since the pandemic began: 103 cases total in the Southeast Health Department District; Johnson-13; Nemaha-20; Pawnee-8; Otoe-42 and Richardson-20. The SE Health Department continues to recommend wearing masks, social distancing and thorough hand washing. With the local schools starting within the next week and HTRS starting today, they all have a plan they will operate with which is coded in a color scheme with green being operation as normal with the recommended guidelines for social distancing and masking, yellow will be some change in the scheduling, orange a more restrictive change in the schedule and red is an extreme change in the operation of schools. Department of Education is also assisting schools with guidelines. The SEDHD has made the observation that more persons are following the recommendations with wearing masks in public. Upcoming events in the area and large gatherings that are scheduled in the next month were discussed and Mr. Brueggemann reported that the organizations have contacted the SEDHD to submit their plans and have been given information and recommendations on how to handle the social distancing. The SEDHD did make a suggestion to the groups to issue electronic tickets so that there would be a record of who would need to be contacted if there was an outbreak of cases that could be traced back to this event.

The Sheriff's Office reported that the deputies and staff are wearing masks and gloves when responding to calls. They have observed that more citizens are wearing masks in public.

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director was unable to be at the meeting today.

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Kathy Messner of the Community Medical Center stated that screening is continuing with everyone entering the hospital facility and employees all wear masks. Test Nebraska will be held on Friday, August 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with pre-registration being required with Test Nebraska either with a phone call or an online registration at TestNebraska.com to schedule an appointment, with no physician referrals. Testing supplies are available and test results are usually received within 24 hours.

Chairman, Sheriff Hardesty declared the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. and tentatively scheduled another meeting for Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Sheriff Hardesty, Chairman

Dr. Allan Tramp

Mary L. Eickhoff, Secretary
Richardson County Clerk