

HEALTH BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE (BRC) APPROVED MINUTES 2February 2021

Voting members present: Kathie Lynch (Chair), Ann Birner (Minutes), Bianca Monteiro, Kim McNamara, Richard DiPentima

Absent: James Petersen

Non-voting city staff present: Stephanie Seacord, Kristin Shaw, Toni McLellan

Action items below identify name of responsible party in bold font.

Kathie read the approved waiver for remote meeting participation during the pandemic and participants identified location and any others present at that location. A motion to approve the minutes of January 26th was made by Ann and seconded by Rich. Attendance was confirmed as Kristin covering for Kim on that date and the minutes were approved without further comment or discussion.

The dashboard was reviewed. **Stephanie** will update identified data points and add an alert re the color scheme in the new NYT map being used in the bottom left (transmission risk by county). **Kathie** will present to the Reopen BRC tomorrow. Key points are that there seems to be a “light at the end of the tunnel”, but much will depend on the emergence of variants, vaccine rollout, and continued vigilance by the public.

FAQ updates were discussed. The vehicle airflow study has been incorporated into the Ventilation FAQ and is ready for **Stephanie** to post. **Stephanie** will also incorporate the same language into the Daily Life FAQ.

Stephanie and Kathie participated in the “Long Covid” webinar, which is archived and available for viewing. No new data were presented. Key takeaways reported include:

- Pulmonary and neurologic AEs being noteworthy in the long term and symptoms may not correlate with diagnostics when sensation is reduced
- High prevalence (reports vary, but 87% in one) and need to take seriously; duration highly variable

It is urgent to keep the public informed and for people to take this seriously. Citizens can contribute not only to reducing transmission, but to reducing cases of Long Covid, and development of mutations and variants as well. The point is to get vaccinated and continue to follow established risk reduction measures. **Ann** and **Kathie** will develop language to drive this point home, using plain language and making an effort to define “recovery” in this context. **Stephanie** will incorporate into two FAQs, You’ve Had Covid-19, Now What? and Daily Life. **Stephanie** will also place in her public alerts; for example, with highlights on Channel 22.

Service industry and other members of the workforce are suffering economically. National policy may alleviate some of this suffering but by no means immediately or conclusively. Is a program to “Tip Well” appropriate for discussion and action by this Committee? Economic health supports mental and physical health. Economic stress can lead to serious interrelated problems including poor health and homelessness. The “tip well” suggestion has been shared with the Chamber of Commerce. **Kathie** will share the Health BRC’s support of “tip well” with Reopen BRC. **Health BRC** will follow policy changes related to minimum wage and stimulus.

“Seacoast Eats” conducted a survey and found a majority of the local public would pay more for environmentally friendly take-out packaging. Kim shared this information with Valerie Rochon, James Petersen, and Stephanie Seacord. No further follow-up action item for this committee.

Although it is not known to have happened thus far in NH, vaccines could be wasted if scheduled appointments are not kept and staff are not notified of cancellation in advance. The public should be encouraged to cancel via the internet or by calling 2-1-1 rather than simply not showing. Toni followed up after the meeting and informed members that there is no call or other system in place to fill slots when someone cancels or doesn’t show for an appointment so vaccines are not wasted. State and the CDC are working on this, so there will hopefully be a system in place in the next week, but nothing definitive yet.

Stephanie circulated a “Vaccine FAQ” article from the NYT. Much of the contents vary by state. **Kathie** will review with consideration as to any steps the committee may wish to take in terms of sharing this piece.

Kim made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Ann, all agreed.