



**Board of Health Meeting
April 24, 2020
Minutes**

At an emergency meeting of the Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) Board of Health, held virtually via Zoom, there were:

Board of Health Members:

Janice Brainard, RN, Secretary, Arapahoe County	Present
Richard Delaney, JD, Adams County	Present
Thomas Fawell, MD, Arapahoe County	Present
Kaia Gallagher, PhD, Arapahoe County	Present
Marsha Jaroch, NP, Douglas County	Present
Paulette Joswick, RN, Douglas County	Present
Julie Mullica, Adams County	Present
Zachary Nannestad, Vice President, Douglas County	Present
Rosanna Reyes, RN, President, Adams County	Present

Executive Management Team Members:

Michele Askenazi, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communicable Disease Surveillance	Present
Heather Baumgartner, Director of Community Health Promotion	Present
Jill Bonczynski, Director of Nutrition	Present
Ronnae Brockman, Executive Assistant	Present
Monique Didier, Director of Administration and Finance	Present
John M. Douglas, Jr., MD, Executive Director	Present
Mame Fuhrman, Director of the Office of Human Resources	Present
Penny Grande, Director of Nursing	Present
Brian Hlavacek, Director of Environmental Health	Present
Jennifer Ludwig, Deputy Director	Present
Kelly Weidenbach, Director of Planning and Information Management	Present

Others Present:

Sid Overton, TCHD's Legal Counsel

Call to Order

Ms. Reyes called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

Discuss Governor Polis' "Safer at Home" Phase of COVID-19 Response

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) § 25-1-508 and 509, local public health directors and district boards of health have the authority to issue public health orders to prevent the spread of a contagious or infectious disease.

Per Dr. Douglas, TCHD's current Stay at Home order ends at midnight on April 26, 2020. Current data show that COVID-19 transmission remains high in the Denver Metro area. Cases and hospitalizations

appear to be flattening, but haven't yet begun to decline. In TCHD's jurisdiction, case rates and hospitalizations remain high in Adams and Arapahoe Counties, but continue to be much lower in Douglas County. Some prevention measures (e.g., support of long-term care facilities, COVID-testing availability, and masking) are improving while other areas, such as contact tracing capacity, remain limited.

Based on the data, Dr. Douglas stated that his preferred approach would be to extend the existing Stay at Home order for Adams and Arapahoe Counties through May 8, 2020. A modification would be made to allow curbside pickup for non-essential retail stores. Our orders would be highly coordinated with Jefferson, Boulder, and Broomfield Counties' local public health directors and would be consistent with Mayor Michael Hancock's plan to extend Denver's current Stay at Home order through May 8, 2020. TCHD would work with Douglas County to finalize their county-specific plan, which is closer to Governor Polis' impending Safer at Home order. To reduce confusion, TCHD would issue its extended Stay at Home order when Governor Polis lifts his Stay at Home order on April 27, 2020.

Per Dr. Douglas, extending TCHD's Stay at Home order would extend optimal social distancing to further lower case rates/hospitalizations, which would put our healthcare facilities in a better position to deal with a surge of cases should one occur. The order extension would also provide time to improve testing capacity, contact investigation capacity, and business preparation for Safer at Home provisions.

Dr. Gallagher inquired whether TCHD has the ability to look at smaller areas within our counties to see hotspots. She pointed out that the rural areas of Adams and Arapahoe Counties don't have high COVID-19 transmission rates. Dr. Douglas stated that our public health orders could be modified, if necessary, to end orders early or change areas where the order is in effect.

Dr. Gallagher expressed concern about TCHD's contact tracing capacity and asked whether TCHD had considered using the National Guard or volunteers. Dr. Douglas stated that TCHD staff were working to address the capacity issue, which is one of the considerations for extending the Stay at Home order through May 8, 2020.

Ms. Brainard inquired whether TCHD could implement a county-wide masking order. She stated that many people aren't wearing face masks which puts others at risk, particularly those in vulnerable populations. She is concerned about seniors who still work and stated that they will have to decide whether to go to work or stay home and risk losing their jobs.

Ms. Mullica asked Dr. Douglas to elaborate on his earlier comment that Douglas County has a higher COVID testing capacity than our other counties. Dr. Douglas stated that the evidence is anecdotal.

Mr. Delaney stated that businesses that work across counties need consistency to operate effectively. He also pointed out that companies that hire and reopen only to be forced to shut down again would lose a lot of money.

Ms. Jaroch asked Dr. Douglas whether he thinks testing and contact tracing capacity will increase enough by May 8, 2020 to move to Safer at Home orders. Dr. Douglas stated that he doesn't envision TCHD extending Stay at Home orders beyond May 8, 2020 unless cases begin increasing.

Dr. Fawell stated that he doesn't agree with extending the Stay at Home order for the entirety of Adams and Arapahoe Counties. He stated that TCHD should target the hot spots.

MOTION: Ms. Mullica moved to authorize and direct the Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department to assess Governor Polis' Safer at Home order, and to issue local public health orders as needed through May 8, 2020 for specific jurisdictions of the TCHD district still experiencing high rates of illness in Adams and Arapahoe Counties. Ms. Joswick seconded. All were in favor except Dr. Fawell who opposed.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Douglas to send Douglas County's proposed reopening plan to the Board of Health Members.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. by general consent.

Rosanna Reyes, President

Jan Brainard, Secretary