



**Board of Health Meeting  
May 6, 2020  
Minutes**

At a 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:**

Mark Overton, TCHD's Legal Counsel

**Call to Order**

Ms. Reyes called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Ms. Reyes stated that today is National Nurses' Day and thanked all nurses for their hard work and dedication.

**Update on Transition to Governor's Safer at Home Orders for Adams and Arapahoe Counties**

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.

Dr. Douglas reminded the Board that, on April 27, 2020, TCHD extended the Governor's Stay at Home order for Adams and Arapahoe Counties through midnight on May 8, 2020 due to high COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations. Since that time, daily testing capacity has continued to increase at the county level and TCHD's capacity for contact notification has also increased. Case numbers have flattened, but do show a slight increase in cases which is likely due to increased testing capacity. Hospitalizations have continued to decline and better guidance for businesses has been developed. Dr. Douglas informed the Board that TCHD will allow its Stay at Home order to expire at midnight on May 8, 2020 and that all counties in TCHD's jurisdiction will be under Governor Polis' Safer at Home order beginning May 9, 2020.

During the Safer at Home phase of COVID reponse, TCHD will continue to track daily testing counts for each county, assess testing capacity, assess communities that may need additional testing, and provide social marketing about testing criteria and availability. Additionally, TCHD will finalize an internal structure that will allow us to train, onboard, deploy and supervise approximately 270 new staff to ensure adequate capacity for contact notification. This includes identifying sources of staff and funding.

### **Enhancing Use of Face Coverings by the Public**

Dr. Douglas discussed the pros and cons of issuing a public health order for face coverings. Main points were: (1) the use of non-medical grade face coverings is biologically plausible as a means of reducing viral transmission in laboratory studies; (2) there are no community-based studies that prove the effectiveness of face coverings; (3) currently, employees are required to wear masks while customers are not; (4) there is no clear approach for enforcement of masking; and (5) having orders only in some communities will create confusion. Additionally, over the past week, TCHD Environmental Staff conducted assessments of the degree of the use of face coverings at 48 retail facilities across our three counties during peak business hours and found that, overall, 77 percent of customers and 99 percent of employees were observed wearing face coverings.

Dr. Douglas stated that, based on the above pros and cons and the uncertainty as to whether we could increase the 77 percent masking compliance rate with a somewhat hard to enforce public health order, TCHD is considering a two-pronged approach. First, TCHD would launch a proactive social marketing and public education campaign in coordination with other local public health agencies and county governments, and second, municipalities in TCHD's district could request that TCHD issue a public health order requiring mandatory masking in their specific jurisdiction.

Ms. Mullica inquired whether education would be conducted in languages other than English. Becky O'Guin, TCHD's Strategic Communication Manager, stated that the City of Aurora has agreed to help us translate educational materials into other languages.

Mr. Delaney and Ms. Reyes stated that they were in favor of a district-wide masking order, but would defer to Dr. Douglas.

Ms. Mullica, Ms. Brainard and Dr. Gallagher stated that they supported the two-pronged approach Dr. Douglas presented.

Dr. Fawell stated that he was in favor of no mandatory masking order and concentration on education and modeling. Ms. Jaroch, Ms. Joswick, and Mr. Nannestad agreed with Dr. Fawell.

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No formal motion was made by the Board.

**Other Items**

Ms. Joswick stated that she wanted to discuss the threat that was e-mailed to Board of Health members on Tuesday, May 5, 2020; however, the Board was unable to go into an executive session with their legal counsel due to an internet service malfunction. Mr. Overton stated that he would discuss the the threat with Dr. Douglas and Ms. Ludwig and then send an update to the Board via e-mail.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Joswick moved to adjourn the Board meeting at 11:23 p.m. Dr. Fawell seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

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Rosanna Reyes, President

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Jan Brainard, Secretary