

CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES - DRAFT 8SEPTEMBER2020

Present: Ann Birner, Kathie Lynch, Stephanie Seacord, Kim McNamara, Toni McLellan, James Peterson

1) FAQs

Ventilation FAQ – **James** distributed a working draft yesterday and will continue to develop. He summarized the new content and invited comments and questions from **all**. Early feedback included:

- Add example of indoor vs outdoor air e.g. what if one were to run a diesel motor indoors?
- Location of open windows, ideally 180 or 90 degrees from each other
- Include ventilation considerations in the setting of tents, especially with heaters and closures.
- Consider two tiers, more technical language and a more general, easily understood approach
- Consider videos, either prepared by reliable source, and/or increase use of visuals in the document

FAQ Update process – ***tabled until next week***

2) Public information

- Weekly dashboard – Maine seems to have stabilized. New Hampshire numbers appear to be rising. MA rolling average of cases has dropped down in apparent excess of what daily numbers would suggest – possibly due to tail of curve, data collection changes? More hotspots in Midwest now.
- Flu Vaccine – City will be using Rite Aid. **Stephanie** will research availability and consider how best to distribute information and encouragement.

3) Requests for feedback on commercial products – group agreed on the following approach:

- We will not endorse commercially available products
- In the interest of public safety, we will provide factual comment on misleading or incorrect information
- As appropriate, we will provide a reputable source for further information

4) Health Department – concerned regarding case numbers in NH as discussed during dashboard review. Not entirely unexpected that the virus might undergo a resurgence as we move indoors, as schools reopen, as parents return to work, etc. Trending upward this early would be of particular concern. Will continue to follow.

How best to interact with the school system?

- Direct impact on school district decisions is beyond the charge to Task Force and this subcommittee. This was explained to the City Council by Ann in reply to a question during the August 3rd meeting.
- Christine Burke, Wellness Director, has a collegial approach and expressed interest in sharing resources during last week's meeting.
- FAQs and other documents are publicly available and may be used by the School District if they wish.
- Health Department voiced appreciation for Stephanie's "infographic" (attached) and School District's handling of the pandemic.
- It was suggested that private schools (e.g. St. Patrick's) also be made aware of the Task Force's available resources.
- **Ann** will begin organizing an FAQ document on transmission with emphasis on safe behavior and other risk reduction measures in a household with an active case.

5) AOB

- Another suggested addition to Ventilation FAQ (**James**), elaborate on usage of fans to move indoor air and whether improper use, directionally speaking, can increase risk
- Next meeting Tuesday, September 15th at 11 AM. **Kathie** will send a zoom invitation.