

DRAFT CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 27OCTOBER2020

Present: Kathie Lynch, Bianca Monteiro, Ann Birner, Kim McNamara, Kristin Shaw, Toni McLellan, Stephanie Seacord

DAILY LIFE FAQ: Draft is in circulation. Suggestions verbalized today include:

- Add a firm reminder in the “Sports/Activities” section that state quarantine rules apply to activity-associated travel
- Elaborate on the distinction between COVID-19 and flu (the latter tending to faster, more acute onset)
- Regarding disinfection, emphasize that transmission from surfaces is relatively minor compared to person-to-person/community transmission, and the even greater importance of masks, distance, etc. to attenuate risk
- **Kathy** will update testing portion as needed
- Remove exceptions from quarantine → stay home, period.
- Help service industry workers and others who are laid off by providing information on practical resources such as rent support, food pantries, etc.
- Pros/cons/possible barriers to providing information on antigen testing at Rite Aid were discussed (also relevant to community transmission discussion later on). HSC has set a policy to avoid endorsing commercial products and services, which would need to be negated in order to do this. Questions remain regarding sensitivity and cost to patient. **Kim** will follow up to see what other municipalities are doing. City does not have ability to partner commercially.
- Can we get more detailed local (city hospital) data? It is available but we may need permission to publicize hospital data, and collection by our subcommittee may duplicate efforts already underway. **Kim** will follow up on this and report back.
- **All** should send detailed comments to **Stephanie** by Friday for revision. Aim is to have a final draft for next week’s Task Force meeting. At that time, and after Kim reviews the app in more detail, **Ann** will send the MyCovidRisk app to TF members, along with the FAQ document, prior to that meeting.
- Some of these points segued into or overlapped with the Health Department discussion.

Public Information discussion was devoted to the weekly dashboard. Various approaches to testing positivity can create confusion. We will keep the JHU table midpage for now but examine and consider other data sources to be provided by **Bianca**. We will remove the downward pointing arrows that indicate whether positivity is less than the WHO threshold of 5% as this may distract the audience’s attention from the actual positivity data and trends.

Health Department

- During last week’s CRTF meeting a request was made for HSC to help reduce community transmission as in the recent restaurant closures. Without knowing in greater detail exactly how cases were spread, it is not possible for city Health Department to monitor and followup in a targeted way. The general consensus is that HSC can and does educate the public on risk reduction strategies and behaviors, but it is not our role to monitor or enforce. There is a working system in place for that piece, involving city Police (24/7) and Health Departments (during limited hours). **Kim** will follow up with the Chief. Could/should HSC put out a public alert? Not at this time.
- The Chamber of Commerce has access to, and ability to share with members, all HSC FAQs through TF member Valerie Rochon.
- City Mask Ordinance expires January 4th. To renew, 3 readings are required prior to a vote and there are just 3 City Council meetings before the sunset date, so time is short. The subcommittee agreed to write a statement of support for renewal. **Ann and Stephanie** will create a draft.
- The CRTF charter expires at the end of December; possible extension will be discussed at a City Council working session on 11/9/20. Kim stated her hope that HSC members will be available as needed to support decision-making on future pandemic-related topics such as vaccination distribution.
- In response to a recent question, Kristin reported that cases are considered “closed” when isolation is over and there are no symptoms since the last positive test.