

HEALTH BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE (BRC) MEETING MINUTES 13APRIL2021

Voting members present: Kathie Lynch (Chair), Ann Birner (Minutes), Kristin Shaw for Kim McNamara, Richard DiPentima

Absent: James Petersen

Non-voting city staff present: Stephanie Seacord

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 April 6th was made by Ann, seconded by Rich. The minutes as circulated on April 8th were approved without comment or discussion.

The dashboard was reviewed by Kathie. Key points include a slight dip in cases in the City and County, but these numbers are vacillating, and the State is still at high risk; in fact, back in the “red” category on the CovidActNow map. Positive note continues to be the NH vaccine program. However, it remains to be seen what impact the CDC and FDA announcements on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine may have. NH problem areas include Strafford and Rockingham Counties and Nashua, and neighboring states are also increasing again. The situation is not improving as we had hoped would be the case by this time. There is no Reopen BRC meeting this week. The dashboard will be posted by **Stephanie**.

The committee previously expressed intent to send a letter to Governor Sununu endorsing extension of the vaccination program to include students at NH institutes of higher education who are residents of other states. As there is now an imminent plan to include those students, no letter will be sent.

Updated FAQs have been posted. New information emerged this week but none that would prompt specific FAQ updates. Kathie summarized key points from an NHPR program on “Long COVID-19”.

Kristin reported that the Health Department continues to focus on the vaccine program, with vaccine clinics ongoing along with efforts to vaccinate homebound individuals. Stephanie has publicized the Health Department phone contact for vaccinations in twelve languages on Channel 22, and the same information has been circulated to area churches and shelters in a format that can be posted.

Hospitalizations are up - who are these individuals that are being hospitalized. Is it possible to track how dissemination of information on monoclonal antibodies (such as the Treatment FAQ) might impact hospitalization? Health care providers are reporting in the press that more young and middle-aged people are being admitted, but often show up when they are already quite ill. Kristin heard on last week’s DHHS call with state epidemiologist Dr. Chan that in NH more young people are being admitted.

Members will review the following to reach consensus as to whether **Stephanie** should:

- 1) Add to the treatment FAQ a report on monoclonal antibodies from a [link at combatcovid](#)
- 2) Replace the national risk map (lower right of dashboard) with a [map showing variants](#).

There were no public comments. Ann made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Rich, all agreed.