

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, October 5, 2020

Present: Sändra Washington, Tammy Ward, Bennie Shobe, Richard Meginnis, Jane Raybould, and James Michael Bowers

Absent: Roy Christensen

Others Present:Soulinnee Phan, Deputy City Clerk; Pat Lopez, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; Liz Elliott, Director, Transportation and Utilities; and other City Staff present

Chair, Richard Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from September 21, 2020, approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Under Consent Agenda – Items 2.a. through 2.d. will be called together. Christensen was going to move these items but Shobe will be doing it on his behalf.

Under Public Hearing Liquor Resolutions – Item(s) 4.a. and 4.b. will be called together. Item(s) 4.c. and 4.d. will be called together.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2nd Reading – Item(s) 6.d. through 6.f. will be called together. Item(s) 6.g. and 6.h. will be called together. Item(s) 6.i. and 6.j. will be called together and may have a Motion to Suspend Rules to allow Council to take have Public Hearing and Action today.

IV. MAYORS OFFICE

Mayor Gaylor Baird thanked Council members for their continued support for Investigator Herrera’s family. Local businesses continue to be supported impacted by COVID-19; the local dine-out-Lincoln program has been extended through the end of the month. The Mayor briefed Council members on the legislation coming before Council, today, pertaining to the Special Designated Liquor License (SDL) on home football games. The LLCHD is currently working on additional recommendations for safe tailgating; you will probably become very familiar with the term “home-gating” soon as these recommendations are released.

Mayor reminded Council members that the State of the City virtual event will be taking place tomorrow at noon.

As part of the One Lincoln Initiative there have been 100 city staff and Directors who have participated in five hours of workshops hosted by Inclusive Communities. These workshops have focused on topics related to identity bias, inclusion, equity, and exploring how our views on certain identities shape our perspectives and reactions.

Guidelines for safely celebrating Halloween have been posted to the cities COVID-19 page.

Discussion followed.

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

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LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. Public Health Update provided by Pat Lopez, Interim Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD).

Lopez briefed Council on the latest guidance and concerns regarding COVID-19. Lopez reported the following:

Case Data

The Total Number of Cases in Lancaster County to date is 6,876 (46 additional cases yesterday, 10/4).

- The total number of cases reported last week ending October 3rd is 606 which was the second highest weekly total so far.
- Our previous highest weekly total was a couple of weeks earlier at 694 cases in the week ending 9/12. We had on an average of 575 cases a week in the past 5 weeks.
- In September alone, we had 2,457 cases or 36% of all cases reported in Lancaster County. In the first 4 days of October we have 299 cases so far.
- Since the beginning of the last month, we have seen dramatic swift in positive cases, last week of August through the first 10 days of September, we saw a big increase in the number of cases in the 18-22 age group which made up of about 50% of our cases.
- Through mitigation and with the help from the Universities and Colleges and social media campaigns, we were able to reduce the number of cases in the 18-22 age group, now we are seeing an increase in the number of cases in the older age groups.
- In the last 14 days, 40% of our cases are in the 30-59 age group. Another 13% of the cases are in the 60-79 age group.
- Case investigations suggest that this new increase in cases is due to family and social gatherings and surprisingly in small events with 10 people or less. On average, we are seeing close to 40% of the new cases are connected to a known positive case.

In Lancaster County, we have 2,726 or 40% of all the positive cases are confirmed recovered.

We have 24 deaths due to COVID19 in Lancaster County. We did not have any deaths reported in the past 14 days.

The positivity rate for cases reported last week ending Saturday (10/3) was 12.7% which lower than the previous week ending 9/26 at 14.7%.

Our overall positivity rate for Lancaster County: 8.5%

7 day rolling average for daily cases in Lancaster County increased from 19 cases a day on August 19 to 86 cases a day as of Saturday, an increase of 352% in little over 6 weeks.

Approximately 81,000 people or approximately 25 % of the Lancaster County Population are tested.

Overall, Testing has picked up in Lancaster Co, for the week ending 9/12; we received the highest week at 5,249. On an average, we are receiving 4000 labs in the past 2 weeks. Testing Turnaround time had increased and the week ending 10/3, our average turnaround time for our labs is 2.8 days.

K-12 Schools Case Data:

We were able to identify 219 cases associated with the K-12 schools, both staff and students, since the beginning of the school year in second week of August. All the school related cases are isolated and contacts are quarantined. As of now, we are not able to identify in the class transmission of COVID19 in schools.

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Higher Education Cases:

UNL Started fall session since August 17th and most of other universities and colleges started the fall 2020 session in the second week of August. Since the beginning of the fall session, we have 929 cases associated with the institutes of higher learning. Majority of these cases were reported in the last week of August and first two weeks of September.

Recent local developments regarding COVID 19 have resulted in increased positive cases in college, university, and community college settings. Because of these increases in positive cases, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) has directed schools to utilize an additional protocol for student teachers, practicum students, practicum internships, and student observations in our schools.

Effective Immediately - Tuesday, September 8, 2020 the following protocol will be implemented and will remain in effect until further notice:

1. STUDENT TEACHERS, PRACTICUM STUDENTS, OR STUDENT INTERNSHIPS:

All student teachers must be tested for COVID 19 and secure a negative test result prior to returning to their placement building.

- Once tested, student teachers, practicum students, or student interns should provide the negative test result to their college, university, or community college placement office. The college or university will communicate to schools that the student teacher has met the required protocol for return.
- Student teachers, practicum students, or student interns may remote “Zoom” into their placement classes while they await test results.
- Student teachers, practicum students, or student interns may NOT report to their placement location until the college or university has the negative test result and communicates this to schools.
- Once student teachers, practicum students, or student interns return to their placement, they will be required to have **additional tests every 14 days** until further notice. The student teachers, practicum students, or student interns will be able to remain in their placement while awaiting these results, however if a student tests positive they must remove themselves from the placement and follow Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department isolation orders.

2. STUDENT OBSERVATIONS:

Effective immediately, all student observations will be conducted via zoom, through another manner established by the college or university, or will not occur.

- No student observations will be conducted in person until further notice.

Child Care:

Child care centers have been at the front-line taking action to protect the health of their children and families, their employees, their businesses and others in the community! As a result of the increase of cases associated with college or university students living and working in our community, LLCHD is directing childcare centers to implement updated safety protocols if college students are working in their centers:

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Require College/University students to obtain a COVID-19 test and then test monthly. The college student is to present the childcare center with proof of the COVID-19 test results.

To every extent possible, College/University students should minimize contact with the infants, toddlers or children who are not in masks (college students + unmasked = higher risk of quarantine).

Hospital Usage:

In Lancaster County Hospitals as of midnight yesterday, 60 individuals are hospitalized due to COVID. 34 of these individuals are Lancaster County Residents and 26 are from out of the county. 7 out of 11 individuals on ventilators are Lancaster County residents.

As of midnight, yesterday, 40% of hospital beds are available. 42% of ICU Beds and 86% of Ventilators are available in area hospitals.

Events:

- Approved 69 events that meet the DHM Criteria (events seeking to host 500 people or more), and 2 events are denied, and 2 events are canceled, and 4 events are under review.
- Event organizers can complete the application process online or call 402-441-8024 for more information.
- The state DHM requires all events over 500 (1,000 in Omaha) have an approved plan from their local health department. The health departments use the same / similar process for the event application

PPE:

We have filled more than 1,250 separate requests with over 1.385 Million individual PPE items. We are currently working to secure more true N95s and to distribute cloth face coverings to support the new DHM.

Test Kits to Long-term Care Facilities:

As of today, we distributed approximately 8,600 testing kits to Long-term care facilities. Testing of staff and residents based on community positivity rate.

Halloween:

First, we want to remind people to stay home if you are sick. Secondly, it is highly encouraged to avoid large gatherings and indoor parties. And third --- yes --- no matter the activity, wear a cloth mask covering your nose and mouth --- keep 6 feet physical distance from others --- and wash your hands regularly. Other things to consider being safe this Halloween include:

More safety guidelines can be found at COVID19.lincoln.ne.gov

Influenza:

LLCHD officials said there is little flu activity in the community now, but it is best to get a flu shot early. It takes up to two weeks to develop full immunity to the flu after being vaccinated. Last year's immunization will not provide adequate protection for this flu season.

The flu vaccine is easily accessible, and the public is encouraged to contact their health care providers or find a community flu immunization location.

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LLCHD will provide free flu immunizations to anyone age 6 months and older. For more information, call 402-441-8065 or visit health.lincoln.ne.gov. Select “Vaccine Clinic” under “Community Health Services” near the bottom of the page.

LLCHD will also provide free flu vaccinations for children and adults from 4 to 7 p.m. at these locations:

- **Monday, October 5: Park Middle School, 855 S. 8th Street**
- **Wednesday, October 7: Lefler Middle School, 1100 S. 48th Street**
- **Wednesday, October 14: Goodrich Middle School, 4600 Lewis Avenue**

Discussion followed.

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. DLA – Meginnis, Ward (09.22.20)

Meginnis reported the financial reports are right on budget; there was an addition to the members of the board; there is a strategic plan committee that is reviewing the strategic plan for an update. The DLA will have a new state employee joining the DLA. Discussion was had regarding the fall football promotions; including downtown retail promoting their businesses; downtown Lincoln is open. A brief update on the scooter pilot program indicates there are emotions from both sides.

Discussion followed.

2. PRT – Bowers (09.24.20)

Bowers reported cases continue to be monitored.

3. WHJPA – Ward (09.24.20)

Ward reported authorization and approval of the budget was passed; authorization was given for Pinnacle Bank Arena (PBA) to purchase volleyball courts; it was also reported that PBA successfully hosted rodeo event over the weekend in a safe, social distancing manner.

4. ILC – Christensen, Shobe, Washington (09.28.20)

Christensen reported discussion was had on the proposed Special Designated License (SDL) pertaining to the football weekend ordinance, coming before Council today. Discussion was also had on the decrease in admissions at the Bridge; Washington added that due to COVID-19 capacity at the Bridge is reduced.

5. PAC – Shobe, Christensen, Bowers (09.29.20)

Shobe reported discussion was had on the 2019/2020 Council Directive; a draft of the final report will be prepared and distributed to Council members. In addition, a list for the 2020/2021 Council Directive will also be coming forward soon.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.