

Burleigh-Morton COVID-19 Task Force

KICK-OFF MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 14, 2020

10:00 AM – Microsoft Teams Meeting

Renaë Moch called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

Statistics and data for Burleigh & Morton Counties.

Website has been launched for task force information: www.bismarcknd.gov/covidtaskforce

Subcommittee Chair Reports

a. Healthcare/Testing Strategy/Contact Tracing – Erin Ourada

Erin provided an update on the healthcare testing subcommittee.

Targeted testing strategy discussion included encouragement of close contacts coming through static testing sites. Educating close contacts on when to get tested (7-10 days after last exposure to a positive case) is needed since many think they need to get testing immediately after being notified as a close contact and that is not the case.

More messaging regarding isolation and quarantine is recommended.

Looking to add additional testing opportunities through Northland Health Center.

Those interested in contact tracing work can apply [online](#).

b. Educational Institutions & Activities – Anton Sattler

Back to school restart plans were discussed.

Care 19 App was discussed to assist in contact tracing efforts.

Need for mask wearing to become the social norm was discussed.

Critical need for more data to assist in making decisions for return to school plans.

c. Underserved Populations – Dr. John Hagan

This group is working to develop coordinated system to manage COVID-19 positive homeless individuals in the community. They are building on the work that has already been done by Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health and ND Department of Human Services prior to formation of this task force.

Will be working to secure shelter management and security.

d. Business Community – Brian Ritter

Working to remind businesses of COVID-19 prevention guidelines in the community. Working to develop social media content for businesses.

Using the expertise already developed by Cloverdale and Bobcat to develop tools and resources for other small businesses in our area.

e. Public Education & Awareness – Kalen Ost

Met with representative from Red River Valley Task Force to learn about the public education work done there and were able to gain insight on best practices. Subcommittee members have participated in other groups to gain insight on their needs that could be incorporated into the public education work load.

II. Questions/Discussion

Discussion held on test accuracy and testing fatigue and what we are seeing in the community regarding COVID-19. Discussed mask mandates in other states and impacts on positivity rates. Federal restart guidelines state that 10% positivity rates would justify closing down businesses so efforts need to be made to reduce our numbers to prevent closures from happening. Concerns regarding mixed messaging were voiced since the state continues to operate at green, but our numbers are increasing. Question brought forward, do masks work or don't they? Suggestion made to get testimonials on what worked in businesses for mask use from local sources. Request made for City specific data rather than just Burleigh for school decision making and also for sports activities. This request is under consideration at the state level. Suggestion brought forward to emphasize the medical impacts other than death or being symptomatic including the long-term impacts of this disease on health.

Closing Comments were provided by City of Bismarck Mayor Bakken and Morton County Commission Chairman, Cody Schulz.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2020 at 10 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Renae Moch, MBA, FACMPE
Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Director
Task Force Coordinator