

SWC Healthcare Preparedness Advisory Coalition (HPAC) Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health

Present at Meeting: Crystalynn Kuntz, Kalen Ost

Present Via Lifesize: Erika Gallaway, Archie Gilliss, Marlys Harrison, Beth Johnson, Neil Johnson, Dana Pazdernik, Daren Repnow, Kendra Roeder, Michelle Sougstad, Tammy Theurer, Rochelle Vandervliet, Janessa Vogel.

AGENDA ITEMS

➤ **COVID Update/PowerPoint**

- A number of slides were presented showing that the six states in Region 8 have high community transmission. In North Dakota, 89% of its counties are reporting high community transmission.
- Hospital capacity continues to have little to no availability across the state. This availability is changing hour by hour.
- Vaccine rates continue to climb slowly, but steadily. Cass County has the highest rate of vaccination in the state, followed by Burleigh and Grand Forks counties.
- The Mu variant is a variant of interest at this point. It is displaying properties that could help it evade current vaccines. It represented 0.1% of the total COVID-19 cases in Region 8 from May 23 to September 4, 2021. It is not clear that Mu is likely to have a similar impact to the highly-virulent Delta variant.
- The Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic was updated on September 10. For more information, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control-after-vaccination.html.
- The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium created a toolkit to help nurses do their part in the national vaccination effort. The toolkit is designed to help nurses decrease vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccination rates in their communities. For more information, visit <https://nurseledcare.phmc.org/toolkit.html>.
- A recent MMWR suggested that fully vaccinated individuals had a reduced risk of infection by 5 times, a reduced risk of hospitalization by 10 times and a reduced risk of death by 10 times, as opposed to unvaccinated individuals. For more information, visit https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7037e1.htm?s_cid=mm7037e1_w.

➤ **Path Out of the Pandemic**

- President Biden has released this document in the last week, however, at this point the logistics on parts of the document have not yet been shared or developed. North Dakota governor Doug Burgum opposes a vaccine mandate on private employers.

➤ **COVID Vaccine Booster Doses**

- Meetings by the FDA and ACIP are upcoming to determine how the country will proceed with vaccine booster doses. At this time Pfizer is the only vaccine that will be available for booster doses, though that may change in the future.

➤ **Roundtable**

- Crystallynn and Kalen are available to help fit test staff at Long Term Care facilities. The fit testing equipment (hoods, nebulizer, Bitrex) can also be borrowed by facilities that would like to conduct their own fit testing for N95 masks. A variety of forms are located at the bottom of the BBPH Fit Testing page:

<https://www.bismarcknd.gov/1883/Fit-Testing>. Contact Crystallynn

(ckuntz@bismarcknd.gov) or Kalen (kost@bismarcknd.gov) for more information.

➤ **Potential Next Meeting:**

- November 17, 2021, 9 a.m., via Lifesize. Meeting is not yet finalized and more information will be provided as the date gets closer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalen Ost
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Emergency Preparedness Information Specialist