



**Jefferson County Board of Health  
Emergency Meeting Minutes: April 5, 2020 2:00pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Board Members Present: John Bresland (Chair), Carmela Cesare (Vice-Chair), Ann Smith, Damien Hinck, Anh Nguyen

Board Members Absent: Caleb Hudson (County Commissioner)

Also Present: Marty Freeman (Health Administrator), Dr. Terrence Reidy (Health Officer), Heather Yost (Registered Nurse), Gillian Beach (Sanitarian Supervisor), Kaitlin Lacey (Threat Preparedness Coordinator), Nathan Cochran (Assistant County Prosecuting Attorney)

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by Chairman Bresland. The agenda for today's meeting was presented and accepted.

**New Business:**

Discussion of COVID-19 crisis, Policies, Implementation of Rules and protocols as directed by the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-20, Authority of the Health Officer, and related matters:

Mr. Bresland summarized a draft document based on a public health order passed in Berkeley County on April 4, 2020. This order would require all Jefferson County residents to shelter in place unless providing or obtaining essential services such as groceries and healthcare. It would also prohibit gathering in groups of more than 5, limit the number of people permitted in a retail business at the same time, and prohibit hotel and other short-term rentals of less than 14 days. Members discussed the draft and took questions and comments from the public.

Wayne Bishop, mayor of Harpers Ferry, said that the National Park and most businesses have closed, but there is still influx of visitors. Short-term rentals such as bed and breakfasts and AirBNB are still operating and even advertising. Dr. Reidy said the governor's order is that people coming from out of state must quarantine for 14 days, and the Board of Health's order would help address this issue as well.

Sheriff Pete Dougherty asked whether golf courses should be open as they have been getting numerous complaints about Cress Creek and Locust Hill golf courses having lots of out-of-state guests and not observing social distancing. Dr. Reidy said that golf courses are closed in Maryland and Virginia, and golf is not considered essential according to the governor's order.

Andy's Pizza asked whether the limit on people in a business included employees or just customers. Dr. Reidy said the sanitarians will be working on more specific guidelines for businesses. The governor ordered us to act and we are acting very quickly, the details will be worked out in the coming days.

Bridget Lambert, president of the West Virginia Retailers' Association asked that the health department communicate standards to each sanitarian to ensure a clear set of standards for all businesses. Dr. Reidy assured her we will have standard guidelines.

Chris Rockenstein of Walmart said they have been metering customers and enforcing social distancing. If limitations include staff they will have to start scheduling differently.

Andrew Blake, City Manager of Ranson, said if this order applies to municipal buildings they will not have the square footage for first responders and law enforcement to hold daily briefings. The hospital has also been looking into using Civic Center as a possible overflow site, would this order affect that? Dr. Reidy suggested having some people join meetings remotely, as having multiple first responders in a room together puts them all at risk of exposure. Wearing masks and practicing social distancing could be standard for all calls, as you can't tell who may be infected.

Mr. Hinck moved to approve the public health order. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the need for quick response to this rapidly developing situation, and the time needed to schedule, notice, and hold a Board of Health meeting. Mr. Cochran presented a draft document appointing Dr. Reidy to act on behalf of the Board including issuing policies and signing documents, with his actions subject to review and recession by the Board of Health. Ms. Cesare moved to adopt the order as written. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 3:34.

Respectfully submitted,

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Terrence Reidy, Health Officer