

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 8/26/20

Attendance:

Dara Worthington

Sunny Acres Administrator Yoder and representatives from Heritage Corporation (on phone)

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot

Dr. Hartman (on phone)

Brianne Satorius

Diane Markley

JD Stewart

Jeff Fore

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill (on phone)

Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:42 p.m.

II. The minutes from the 8/12 and 8/19 meeting had not been distributed prior to the meeting.

III. The federal government reports that one of two point-of-care testing devices will soon be delivered to Sunny Acres. The test supply kits will be antigen tests and may be available at a discount. The testing would be available for staff and residents with visitors perhaps being tested down the line. Which machine the nursing home will be getting is not known. Heritage is working on policies and procedures associated with these POC testing machines

The frequency of testing was discussed. Federal regulations aren't final yet but the current standard is a full sweep of residents and staff every 28 days. If there are COVID-19 cases in the facility, then weekly testing is required until all are clear of the infection.

The accuracy of these testing systems is estimated at 85% so there is a 15% chance for a false negative. If someone is symptomatic then a PCR test may be conducted.

The Sunny Acres fund would pay for the employees' testing. There is CARES Act funding (stimulus monies) that have been applied for to pay for some of this testing. Heritage Corp staff will communicate regarding these funds and application status.

The feasibility of acquiring another machine will be explored particularly to have that available for first responders and other county needs. The group speculated whether the nursing home could house the testing machines in a separate room given restrictions at the facility. This will need to be revisited.

The next milestone will be the delivery of the POC machine that the federal government is supplying to Sunny Acres. At this point, the Heritage staff left the meeting.

IV. The group discussed the preparations for the Menard Fall Festival.

V. The draft letter to businesses was reviewed. Since enforcement through fines seems unattractive to stakeholders, the letter needs to be reworked without those elements. The letter to businesses should indicate shared goals of proceeding to restoration and not having to endure additional restrictions.

VI. A community targeted communication written for the paper as a letter to the editor was brought forward as another objective. These letters will strongly encourage face coverings in situations where social distancing can't be maintained.

VII. The next meeting will be 9/2 and by phone.

VIII. There was no public comment.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.