

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING HELD  
April 15, 2020**

A special meeting of the Board of Health was held on April 15, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via conference call and streamed on Facebook Live for the public. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Sims.

Roll Call: Dr. Block, yea; Mr. Downing, yea; Ms. Meadows, yea; Dr. Orlowski, yea; Mr. Orr, yea; Dr. Rhodes, yea; Ms. Rodriguez, yea; Mr. Sims, yea.

General public comments regarding the current agenda:

**Mr. J. Ratliff** addressed the Board regarding resource allocation. He stated that he has seen various media reports indicating that healthcare workers have been required to wear the same mask for an entire 12-hour shift. He is concerned about the safety of these workers going from room to room wearing the same mask.

**Mr. Cooper** replied that we share the same concern. He stated that we understand that adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) is a shortage globally, nationally and statewide. Federally, there is a Strategic National Stockpile which is a cache of medical equipment, medical supplies, vaccines and antibiotics. It is our understanding that the “stockpile” has been released and distributed across the country. Mr. Cooper stated that we received our shipment from the Ohio Department of Health, but it is obviously not enough to fully cover what we need. He announced that Montgomery County has a stockpile of N95 respirator masks that we received during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic but over time the elastic band has deteriorated so we are in the process of acquiring elastic to repair the masks so that we can get them distributed.

**Mr. J. Ratliff** asked how long the N95 masks are designed to be used for.

**Dr. Block** replied that, to his knowledge, if the N95 mask is not heavily soiled or makes physical contact with a patient, it can be used up to 2 weeks. He stated that the major concern, and why we are working so hard to conserve the masks, is that if the masks were replaced room to room, the stockpile would be depleted very quickly and then there would be nothing but cloth masks available.

**Ms. Sally Taylor** asked Mr. Cooper why he reversed his decision regarding car parades after he had banned them.

**Mr. Cooper** replied that Public Health did not ban vehicle parades nor issue any order to cease operations. He stated that we were contacted during the week by a couple of law enforcement jurisdictions that had requests from their communities to lead a lot of these vehicle parades. The law enforcement entities felt like it was inappropriate and inconsistent with the Governor’s stay at home order and reached out to Public Health for direction. One entity wanted to have law enforcement lead the vehicle parade while people in the vehicles threw out candy on to residential lawns for children to pick up. Mr. Cooper stated we simply advised law enforcement that, when reading through the order, vehicle parades are not part of what would be considered permitted essential activities to leave home as defined by the Governor and the Ohio Department of Health. Guidelines were prepared based on the similarity between vehicle parades and the request to hold vehicle religious services.

**Ms. Sally Taylor** commented that there is so much confusion regarding whether wearing a cloth face mask will protect you, and others, from the virus. She asked if cloth masks really protects you.

**Mr. Cooper** replied that a cloth face mask is not a substitute for social distancing and it will not protect you 100% from being infected with COVID-19. However, if you are shedding the virus it can help slow the spread should you cough or sneeze.

**Dr. Block** commented that if you had asked if cloth masks were safe six months ago the answer would probably have been no. However, in our current situation, we are looking for anything that can help slow down the transmission of particles. He stated that healthcare professionals are stressed and struggling and trying to be as reassuring as possible but cannot provide a resolution at this time, however, he feels that there is some benefit to using a cloth mask.

**Mr. Cooper** concluded by saying that we don't have all the answers but we need to do everything we can to flatten the curve so that we can reopen our state. He stated for that to happen we will need to see a reduction in confirmed and probable cases multiple days to possibly two weeks in a row, we will need to have adequate PPE and testing capabilities and have the ability to provide the contact tracing on ill individuals as well as close contacts. A cloth face mask is just one of the tools we can use to get this community and this state in a position to be reopened.

It was moved by Dr. Rhodes to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss conditions of Public Health Employment; seconded by Ms. Meadows. Roll Call: Dr. Block, yea; Mr. Downing, yea; Ms. Meadows, yea; Dr. Orłowski, yea; Mr. Orr, yea; Dr. Rhodes, yea; Ms. Rodriguez, yea; Mr. Sims, yea. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ms. Meadows to reconvene into Regular Session; seconded by Mr. Orr. Roll Call: Dr. Block, yea; Mr. Downing, yea; Ms. Meadows, yea; Dr. Orłowski, yea; Mr. Orr, yea; Dr. Rhodes, yea; Ms. Rodriguez, yea; Mr. Sims, yea. Motion carried.

Being no further business, Mr. Sims declared the meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

  
Secretary

  
President