



Meeting Minutes: Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition Steering Committee			
Date	April 14, 2020	Location	CONFERENCE CALL ONLY!
		Call-In Number	(425) 436-6370
		Access Code	372022
Time	4:30-6:30 p.m.	Facilitator:	Carolyn Shores Ness & Norene Pease, Co-Chairs

<p>ATTENDEES: Donna Gibson, Williamsburg BOH John Hillman, Leverett BOH Betsy Kovacs, Heath BOH Carolyn Shores Ness, Deerfield BOH Norene Pease, Shutesbury BOH Deb Coutinho, Shelburne Assistant EMD</p>	<p>ABSENT: <i>Valerie Bird, Greenfield Health Director</i> <i>Duncan Colter, Ashfield BOH</i> <i>Mike Friedlander, Colrain BOH</i> <i>Doug Telling, Charlemont BOH</i> <i>Dan Wasiuk, Montague Health Director</i></p>
<p>GUESTS:</p>	<p>FRCOG STAFF: <i>Tracy Rogers; Phoebe Walker; Lisa White; Liz Jacobson-Carroll</i></p>

1.

Agenda Items	
2. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	Called to order by Norene at 4:32 p.m.
3. Review/approval of April 7, 2020 minutes	Tabled
4. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting	Carolyn asked if someone could explain the State's new contact tracing initiatives. Lisa White explained that the tracing involves a phone conversation with the patient – or his/her healthcare proxy or emergency contact – to identify all individuals with whom the patient was in contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms. There are two separate programs working in the state: (1) The Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) is coordinating the work of graduate students supporting 51 towns, mostly in the eastern part of the state, where the outbreak is more severe. (2) Partners in Health has launched the Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC), which will work statewide. P. Walker and L.White reported that, beginning next week, CTC will start doing the contact tracing for all COVID-19 cases in which the local public health

	<p>nurse has either requested help, or not answered the question about whether they would like help. These cases will flow to the CTC for tracing from the MA Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) every evening at 6/7. Walker reported that she has been part of statewide design team meetings to ensure that the CTC is a support to local public health and does not undermine strong local systems. Concerns were raised about what happens when restrictions are lifted and the virus comes back. Walker: The CTC anticipates a second wave, and will operate at least through 2020. Local EDS groups may want to focus on actively reaching out to the many at-risk individuals in their towns to offer logistical and emotional support.</p> <p>Reporting on regular conference calls of the Coalition for Local Public Health and with the Command Center, Walker indicated that other parts of the state are looking to replicate the public health infrastructure established here. She and B. Kovacs expressed their hope that current collaborations will facilitate progress toward previously identified goals of further cross-jurisdictional sharing and continued improvement of the infrastructure for the future.</p> <p>White explained that COVID-19 test results perceived as “false-negative” are likely the result of improper administration or processing of the nasal swab. She expressed optimism regarding relevant technologies under development, including antibody testing.</p>
<p>5. New business a) Situation report from each EDS b) This week’s messaging</p>	<p>a. Deb Coutinho reported that the Mohawk EDS is meeting weekly.</p> <p>Betsy Kovacs reported that the Hawlemont EDS is now meeting bi-weekly, and remains concerned about the potential for out-of-state arrivals to bring the disease. Discussion of utilizing various types of road signs ensued.</p> <p>Walker will investigate whether or not the emergency funding from the state could be used for capital purchases such as electronic variable message boards (approx. \$2500 each). Electioneering-style yard signs may be purchased with those funds, she said, and she is ordering these to be placed at park entrances and trailheads in all area towns. As requested, Walker has established an on-line repository for towns to share their messages to residents, and welcomes additional contributions.</p> <p>Utilization of The Recorder for messaging was discussed. White indicated that readers with general questions should be directed to call 211 or go to buoyhealth.com, not the CPHS nurses, who are busy focusing on residents with positive diagnoses. Walker offered to purchase small back-of-paper ads containing 10-15 words from the MAPHCO Steering Committee, if desired.</p> <p>Gibson reported that the Williamsburg Board of Health is meeting weekly with town department heads, and expressed concern regarding a planned May 4 election. She is advocating for a change of location to allow for greater distancing; the town clerk and town administrator are encouraging early and absentee voting by mail. She is in touch with the chair of the Goshen BOH, and will direct him to LifePath to re-distribute some PPE they don’t need and to the HMCC to request what they do need.</p>

	<p>Hillman noted that the Leverett/Shutesbury EDS has not met, but expressed Leverett BOH concerns regarding USPS workers not wearing masks, and residential real estate showings possibly spreading the disease. There was general agreement that a BOH may contact local businesses deemed essential to promote appropriate protocol. Pease will send Rogers a request for thermometers for the Shutesbury BOH.</p> <p>Shores Ness reported that the Frontier EDS, meeting weekly, continues work on its volunteer list, and emphasized that local people must be utilized for effective contact tracing.</p> <p>b. MAPHCO messaging for the week will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reiteration of the continued need for social distancing, including specifics regarding safety outdoor recreation (and possibly while grocery shopping); • instructions regarding when to call 211 or consult buoyhealth.com; • a suggestion that boards of health offer assistance to essential businesses with developing COVID-19 related policies to keep employees and customers safe
<p>6. Wrap up and adjourn</p>	<p>a. Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting, Pease seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.</p>