

SWC Healthcare Preparedness Advisory Coalition (HPAC) Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2020

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health / West Conference Room

Present at meeting: Crystalynn Kuntz, Kalen Ost

Via Lifesize: April Bishop, Tiffany Boehm, Janel Brousseau, Nelson De La Vergne, Roxanne Eggers, Brad Erickson, Jodie Fetsch, Marlys Harrison, Beth Johnson, Penny Kaldor, Tammy Olson, Scott Osadchuck, Darren Repnow, Vanessa Raile, Kendra Roeder, Scott Schneider, Marcie Schulz, Mary Senger, Tammy Theuer, Doris Weiss

AGENDA

➤ **Mobile or IPOD Plans and Vaccine This Fall**

- Information was presented about the region's Mobile or IPOD Plan. At this point it is unknown if the vaccine will be distributed frozen or refrigerated, and quantity of vaccines distributed is also unknown. SWC Region Staff try to update the Mobile Distribution documentation annually, however if you have any questions about that information, please contact Crystalynn.
- Factors your organization should consider for when a vaccine is made available:
 - Security and method of transportation to your facility?
 - How far will you be traveling with the vaccine?
 - Cold chain equipment availability?
 - Where will you store the vaccine within your facility?

➤ **PPE Concerns, Fit Testing, Reuse of N95 and Battelle**

- Crystalynn encouraged all facilities to register for an account with Battelle. This organization has set up structures with the State that will decontaminate facemasks and face shields by using heated and aerosolized hydrogen peroxide. Organizations are encouraged to issue five masks and five paper bags to each employee. Label the masks and bags with consecutive numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Masks should be rotated daily, for example using mask 1 on Monday, 2 on Tuesday and so on, returning to mask #1 on day 6. This can be done for one month, 4 rotations, and then send masks in for decontamination. Once your organization is registered with Battelle, you will be given codes for mailing labels and instructions for mailing. Masks will be shipped, decontaminated, and shipped back to your facility. Please note that masks may not be cleaned if they are heavily soiled or soiled with bodily fluids or makeup.
- Presently there is still a small quantity of bitters remaining for organizations interested in doing respirator fit testing with hoods. If you are interested in performing fit testing for your organization, contact Crystalynn to schedule pickup of materials.
- [A Health Advisory from May 5, 2020](#), covering the discontinuation of isolation for COVID-19 was discussed. According to the North Dakota Department of Health

advisory: A symptom-based strategy is now considered acceptable based on growing evidence that, even in the presence of ongoing detection of viral RNA in molecular assays, recovery of virus by culture has not been found after 9-10 days from symptom onset.

- Diagnostic testing guidance is expected later in the week. Presently the guidance is that clinicians should consider testing any patient with one of the following symptoms with new or worsening onset: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing; or two of the following signs/symptoms with new or worsening onset: fever (measured or subjective), running nose, sore throat, chills, myalgia, fatigue, headache, loss of taste and/or smell.

➤ **Testing at Congregant Living**

- Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center shared their plan had been to test every two weeks. Initially they had conducted a mass testing event on one day, and followed that with a drive-through testing event on a second day, but were encouraged to move testing to only happen during one day. On Sunday they conducted a 12-hour testing event. Staff that didn't come in for testing were removed from the schedule and will have to find another way to be tested, or tested when the organization tests residents.
- Vanessa with the Long Term Care Association said they are waiting on guidance on how testing will be conducted with facilities moving forward. There are a couple of facilities that have not yet been tested in the state. Sanford reported there is not enough testing capacity to test all employees and individuals with testing exposure or who are symptomatic are being tested.

➤ **Template for CMS Requirements and Testing Events**

- The action improvement plan template created by Sherry Adams with Southwest District Health Unit was previewed and discussed. This plan allows organizations to fulfill CMS requirements due to COVID-19 testing events versus having to conduct exercises to fulfill those requirements.

➤ **COVID-19 Plans**

- The State of North Dakota hospital surge plan was previewed. If long term care organizations are looking for guidance on this plan, Vanessa Raile is available for questions and sends out frequent emails on topics covered by this plan. This document is located online at <https://www.health.nd.gov/media/2486/hospitalsplusandplusvp3plusfinal.pdf>.

➤ **Current Trends and Issues**

- [Guidance for the ND Smart Restart](#) was shared on May 15 by the state. Presently the state is at a moderate risk. It has been discussed that the State may create a dashboard for each county, so the state won't be bundled together as one whole. However, when this would be made available for the public is unknown.
- HPAC members who are not already utilizing Everbridge are encouraged to do so. SWC Regional staff are available to upload contact lists and push mass notifications to those lists. The platform is free to use for long term care facilities and healthcare facilities in the state. However, your organization will be responsible for updating their contact lists. For more information about the mass notification system contact [Crystalynn](#) or [Kalen](#).

➤ **Next Meetings:**

- July 15, 2020, 9 a.m., Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health's West Conference Room.
- September 16, 2020, 9 a.m., Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health's West Conference Room.
- November 18, 9 a.m., Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health's West Conference Room.