

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting Adams County Public Services Building Othello, Washington

May 13, 2020
(Wednesday)

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman Roger L. Hartwig
Vice-Chairman Terrance J. Thompson
Commissioner John N. Marshall

[8:59:17 AM](#)

Integrated Health Care Services

Adams County Health Officer Dr. Brzezny presented updates on COVID-19 cases in Adams County. Additionally, Dr. Brzezny explained requirements of a “probable cause” for having the disease and public health requirements.

Dr. Brzezny noted that rural and less dense populations have seen a decrease in cases and, for now, are remaining low, stressing the virus cannot be stopped. As such, the virus can be temporarily contained and will affect different communities differently. Brzezny reiterated that relaxation of requirements is not the answer and loosening up physical distance measures will cause a spike in cases. Additionally, Brzezny noted absolutes that need to be followed are isolation; quarantine; six (6) feet of separation; some degree of masking; and, cleaning and hygiene expectations.

Additional topics of discussion included:

- infection control measures
- physical/administrative mitigation measures
- cleaning and sanitation
- continuous monitoring/implementation
- preparing businesses to reopen
- screening
- encouraging people to admit when they are sick.

Economic Development Director McFadden noted his desire to commercially distribute the guidance developed by Dr. Brzezny to reopening businesses in Adams County. Additionally, McFadden proposed regular trainings on the guidance to assist businesses in preparing an atmosphere of safety for employees and customers, noting businesses need to be ready to reopen upon approval from the state.

[10:23:35 AM](#)

[10:32:08 AM](#)

County Recovery Forum

Emergency Management Director Jay Weise hosted a zoom meeting with county officials; town and city officials; medical provider representatives; and, school representatives.

Commissioner Hartwig requested Adams County Health Officer Dr. Brzezny provide an overview of the COVID-19 Business General Operation Plan Guidance document to prepare for phased reopening of businesses in Adams County.

Required components of the plan include:

1. COVID-19 Education Plan – a plan outlining how all staff including managers, supervisors, general staff and new hires will be trained and educated in matters relating to COVID-19
2. Infection Control Measures
 - employee screening
 - customer screening
 - exclusion of ill employees and visitors/customers from the workplace
 - return to work procedures
3. Physical and Administrative Mitigation Measures
 - face coverings and other personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - physical distancing
 - physical barriers
 - additional administrative measures
4. Cleaning and Sanitation
5. Continuous Monitoring and Enforcement of the COVID-19 Business Plan

An alternative proposal presented by Dr. Brzezny is to prepare a package to send to the state that will include a letter from the county health officer

and a letter from the county commissioners, signed and endorsed by our partners, and the supporting documentation from our health care providers, to make the case that there is an alternative that fits Adams County that will let us take responsibility for local control with regard to the health, welfare and economy of Adams County.

There was concurrence of the meeting participants to support the proposal with a willingness of the medical providers to provide letters addressing capacity and testing concerns.

Economic Development Director McFadden noted Adams County Economic Development Council will partner with the Adams County Economic Development department to create a commercially printed handout and also video guidance around the guidelines Dr. Brzezny has written to provide guidance to the business owners, provided there is support from the cities and towns to do so.

Dr. Brzezny encouraged everyone to encourage each other to stay optimistic during the most challenging time we have been through in our lifetime.

[11:32:40 AM](#)

[11:52:03 AM](#)

Closure of County Facilities

The Board, by consensus, authorized the extension of the closure of county facilities through June 1, 2020. A resolution will be prepared for formal adoption on Monday, May 18, 2020.

[12:00:01 PM](#)

Adjournment @ 12:00

Submitted:
s/Patricia J. Phillips, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/Roger L. Hartwig, Chairman
s/Terrance J. Thompson, Vice-Chairman
sss/John N. Marshall, Commissioner