

# Minutes from the June 26, 2020 Esmeralda County Health Board Meeting

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June 26, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Esmeralda County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

233 Crook Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Goldfield, Nevada

## 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

Tony Phillips -	County Health Officer
Ken Elgan -	Sheriff/DEM – not present (Sgt. Kirkland instead)
Tammy Ritter -	State Health Nurse
Timothy Hipp -	Commissioner District 1
De Winsor -	Commissioner District 2 – not present
Ralph Keyes -	Commissioner District 3
Robert Glennen -	District Attorney – not present
Cheri Bickham -	Clerk of the Board

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT. (Discussion only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item. It must be placed on an agenda, at a later meeting for action.)

Mr. Phillips wanted to talk about Governor Sisolak's director 24 regarding face coverings. He said regarding public spaces, if you are in a public space where 6 feet of distance is not possible, you need to wear a face covering. Public transportation: this would be our senior transportation. Anytime there is anyone on the bus, both the driver and the person on the bus, unless they have a medical condition, must have a face covering.

While at work: In a public building: When interacting, in person, with members of the public: If you are working in your own office, with your co-workers and you have 6 feet between you, you do not have to wear a face cover. Any space visited by the general public, even if no one else is present, like when someone walks up to your counter, both they and you need to wear a face cover. Anywhere food is prepared or packaged you must wear a face cover. When walking through common areas, hallways, stairways, elevators and parking facilities, you have to wear a face mask. Any room or public area with other people, except for members of your own family, and you are not able to keep 6 feet apart, you have to wear a face covering.

Children 2-9 are encouraged to do it but not required. Schools rules are set by the school district or by the public health department. In the parks, if they are with their own family, nobody has to wear them, unless there are other people there.

Mr. Phillips said the governor this would not be enforced in the general public. So, if you are walking down the street in Reno, they are not going to enforce the rule, but if you walk into a business and the business allows you to not wear a covering within six feet of people, the business can be fined.

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Mr. Phillips also said that if the Road Department is working outside, they are not required to wear face coverings, unless they are working in a tight spot with other workers.

Commissioner Hipp thanked Mr. Phillips for clarifying all of that. Sgt. Kirkland said all of the offices have the plastic shields on their counters. He said if people come to the Sheriff's office and need help and are not wearing face masks, they are not going to turn them away. He asked if the plastic shields were good enough to make the face masks not necessary. Mr. Phillips said no. He said if the Sheriff's office has an emergency or someone is coming at them for emergency help, they would obviously be exempt, but if it is possible at all, they still have to wear the masks. Sgt. Kirkland said he understands that but if someone comes into their office without a mask, they are not turning them away. Mr. Phillips said if they are coming in for an ID or something like that, they will need a mask. Sgt. Kirkland said people have to make appointments for ID cards or work cards anyway.

Michelle Garcia asked Mr. Phillips about restaurants. He said as long as you are with your immediate family and eating or drinking, you don't have to wear them. If you are within 6 feet of someone else or sitting at the counter, you will need to wear the mask unless you are eating or drinking.

### 3. **\*DISCUSSION/DECISION:** State and County health update.

Mr. Phillips said if you look at the graphs, Nevada is seeing a big spike. All of the states were anticipating a spike because they reopened. Another reason is because they are testing asymptomatic people. He said Nevada has had a big spike for a few days and they are hoping that will go down.

Sgt. Kirkland said he truly believes the big spike is because of the additional testing that is being done. He said they increased the testing by 3-5,000 per day. Mr. Phillips said they are trying to say it is not from that, but we don't know. He said if you look at the bars, people are shoulder-to-shoulder. He thinks a lot of people think that because we are reopening everything is fine now, but the virus is still here and he doesn't think it is going anywhere for a long time, so it is obviously going to be passed around. We knew it was going to do that, but the state can't stay locked down anymore because of the economy.

### 4. **\*DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Discussion/Decision/reassessment of the COVID-19 status for Esmeralda County. (Sheriff Elgan)

Sgt. Kirkland stated that they posted the signs in the courthouse from the state about "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Mask, No Service". He said they also purchased some hand sanitizer stations for the courthouse but they are on back-order and they will not receive them until late July or the first of August so they are looking into ordering disinfectant for the courthouse. He said all the offices put up the plastic guards in their offices. He said other than that, business is running as normal with appointments and one person in the office at a time with certain offices. Mr. Phillips said he will talk to his clerk on Monday because she just got some hand sanitizer that is 85% alcohol. He will find out where she got it. Sgt. Kirkland said he has the sanitizer; he needs the machines.

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Commissioner Keyes stated that he went to Smart & Final in Bishop yesterday and picked up some hand sanitizer for the Community Center and Library over in Fish Lake Valley so they are covered over there for now.

Judge Johnson said we have masks for the public.

5. **\*DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Discussion/Decision having COVID-19 testing done in Esmeralda County. (Sheriff Elgan)

Commissioner Hipp said that Tammy said something about testing at the last meeting. Tammy said that the Community Health Nurse in Ely has reached out to Sheriff Elgan and there was supposed to be a commissioner meeting where they were going to decide if they wanted them to come do testing or not.

Sgt. Kirkland said the community health nurse would like to do testing in Esmeralda County. We need to tell them where we would like them to do the testing. Mr. Phillips asked Ms. Ritter if there was a charge and if they were going to do asymptomatic testing. Ms. Ritter said there is no charge and they can do both tests. Commissioner Hipp asked if this was for the antibodies or just the nasal swabs. Ms. Ritter said yes. Commissioner Hipp asked again about the antibody test. Ms. Ritter said it is her understanding that they don't have the test for the antibodies widely available right now. Mr. Phillips said they are having a hard time getting FDA approval for the antibody test. He said they asked for it out at the mine and they have had 7 false positives. He said unless you draw blood this test is not working very well at all. Mr. Phillips there is a test called an antigen test, that comes with a machine and everything. He said it is 99.7% correct and the FDA has approved it and it is for the actual virus, itself and it can tell you in 11 minutes if you have the virus, so that's a good thing.

Commissioner Keyes had a question about the timeline once you get the test. What is the turnaround time to know whether you are positive or not? Ms. Ritter said they have been getting results back in 2-3 days. Commissioner Keyes asked how they are contacting patients. Ms. Ritter said they are calling and giving results over the phone whether positive or negative. Mr. Phillips confirmed with Ms. Ritter whether they are reporting the positive results to the state. Ms. Ritter said they are. She said they also do contact tracing.

Mr. Phillips said it is a great idea. Ms. Ritter said she will have her nurse, Shannon, coordinate this with the Sheriff. Mr. Phillips said he doesn't think this has to go in front of the commissioners. Commissioner Keyes said he didn't have an answer on that. Michelle Garcia said she thought that would be a D.A. decision. Holly Isenhour said that the D.A. is at a doctor's appointment but the commissioners do not have to approve the testing.

Mr. Phillips asked if there is a time that we will be doing this. He asked if it would be in the next two weeks. Ms. Ritter said she thought that could be arranged. She said she wants to make sure they get things secured and get the information out. Mr. Phillips asked if they could go out to Fish Lake Valley

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and Silver Peak. She said they can look into it. Commissioner Keyes said if they can go to Fish Lake Valley, they would get quite a good response.

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to look into setting up testing in the 3 different districts. Commissioner Keyes seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** (Discussion only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item. It must be placed on an agenda, at a later meeting for action.)  
No public comment.

7. **\*ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Keyes seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

Next meeting will be on 07/10/2020 at 10:00am.