

**Clarke County Board of Health Meeting
March 24, 2020**

Board Present:

Pat Graham	John Scarborough
Dan McElvoy	Fred Perriman
Melissa Link	Jason Branch
Glenn Wright	Lou Kudon
Kevin Little	Michael Renshaw

Staff:

Dr. Stephen Goggans
Emily Eisenman
Kristy Stanley

A called to Board of Health meeting via conference call regarding the Covid-19 took place on March 24th at 2 pm.

Dr. Stephen Goggans spoke to the chairs on the board and other community leaders regarding the Corona Virus. He announced there were currently 1000 cases now in Georgia and 26 in our district. Testing is being limited to those who are at the most risk. There is a shortage of the swabs used to retrieve the sample and the specimen containers with solution that the sample is stored in. Labs are being inundated with samples for testing which is increasing the turn-around time from 3 days to over a week to get results. Physicians have the option to refer a patient to a test site. Hospitals and some practices are doing the tests as well. Due to the shortage of tests it is not recommended that you be tested if you are asymptomatic, for returning to work, or mild symptoms with no high risk or underlying medical conditions. These patients are being asked to go home for a week or better and until the symptoms and fever subside. Clarke County Health Department has set up a specimen collection site. Patients can call the local number or the state and must be referred to the site for testing. They have the capacity to do 50 tests per day via drive thru. The site is not open to the general public. The only cases that are being accounted for are the lab confirmed positive cases. The official guidance being given for isolation is 3 days after fever is gone, respiratory system is better, but a minimum of 7 days. A person who has had contact to a contact is not required to do anything.

Melissa Link (Chairperson at Clarke) encouraged all the other board members to pursue implementing a Mandatory "Shelter in Place" in all of their counties as Clarke has done. Making it mandatory will force people to comply and it would be more effective overall if all surrounding counties were participating as well.

Emily Eisenman spoke of the plans of adjusting the hours of the health departments in the smaller counties. The health departments would not lock their doors so that they can provide WIC services to patients, but nurses may only be available 3 days a week versus 5 so that we can pool all our resources during this crisis. The larger counties such as Clarke, Walton, Barrow, and Jackson will remain open and providing services as usual. They are hoping to put this into place next week.

Dr. Goggans proposed that all Board of Health meetings scheduled for the month of April be conference called meetings so we can follow the social distancing policy. We will keep everyone posted on the status of any May meetings when we get closer to that date.

All media questions need to be directed to Sarah Peck.

Dr. Goggans explained that our Epidemiology Dept. will be contacting all patients that test positive to Covid-19. They will help them to identify who would be considered as their close contacts. The close contacts of a positive patient will also be contacted and instructed as to what they need to do as well.

It was asked by the board that all future communications and emails be send to all members.

The call ended at 2:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

Date Signed
