



PROPOSED COVID RE-PRIORTIZATION

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Problem/Ask: Current COVID-19 response efforts are overwhelming the Perry County Health Department staff and leading to an inability to focus on pre-identified community public health priorities. Adjusting contact tracing efforts, particularly in regards to identifying and notifying close contacts to positive cases, may help allow COVID-19 response to be at a more manageable level for the Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES/PRIORITIES EFFECTED BY COVID RESPONSE (not an all-inclusive list):

- Approximately \$8,000 will be lost at the end of September for lack of staff time devoted to Maternal and Child Health Contract priorities through DHSS. This money was to be used to help women of child-bearing age quit smoking. Other activities through this contract include breastfeeding support for pregnant women and new moms.
- Shingles vaccination through senior tax grant: At 50% of the year, PCHD had only used 25% of the funds. Whatever is not used has to be paid back.
- Lost money from MODOT Grant to help pay for child passenger safety education and resources to the community.
- Inability to attend coalition meetings throughout the state as well as local partnership meetings to address other public health issues.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES STAFF COULD FOCUS ON MORE WITH CHANGE IN PRIORITIZATION:

- Contacting positive cases in a timelier manner to inform them of signs to look out for and evidence-based treatment options available, such as monoclonal antibody treatment.
- Focus on vaccinating those who are interested in receiving the vaccine and offering more opportunities for the community that make it easier to receive the vaccine: evenings, weekends, on site at businesses, etc.
- Find more ways to collect, analyze, and share local covid data.
- Provide more education and resources on COVID

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED COVID RE-PRIORITIZATION:

ACTIVITIES NO LONGER RECEIVING FOCUS/PRIORITY:

- Full investigations with positive cases that includes tracking where they've been during contagious period, who they've been around, and identification/ notification of close contacts.
- Provide excuse from work letters for individuals who were close contacts.
- Send spreadsheets of positive cases and corresponding close contacts back and forth with the schools.
- Checking vaccination status for close contacts in schools.
- Receive negative test results for students testing out of quarantine.

CONTINUED EFFORTS:

- Positive Cases:
 - Notification of schools and other organizations (as needed) regarding positive cases
 - Contact, isolate, monitor, and recover positive cases of COVID
 - Collect minimum information required by DHSS and the CDC for our investigations, including vaccination status.
 - Refer cases to resources online, as well as give verbal instructions, for them to identify their close contacts, ask them to contact those close contacts, and provide information and resources for their household and other close contacts.
 - Provide letters and documentation of isolation for positive cases.
- Provide COVID vaccinations
- Update Show Me Vax (Missouri's Immunization Registry) with historical vaccination records from Perry County citizens who received their COVID vaccine in another state or other entity that does not enter in to SMV.
- Work with schools and businesses in the community on how they can keep employees and those within their facility safe to their best of their ability with the resources and the capacity they have.
- Print and fax SMV records to schools or other institutions at the patient's request.
- Answer questions regarding COVID risk and recommended public health practices from the general public.
- Stay up to date on COVID information regarding spread and share recent studies and information.

TRANSITION:

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE	PROGRESS
Press release	Within week	Have samples from other counties
Every door direct mail to every Perry County residence with an address as well as every PO box.	2-3 weeks to contact company, finalize with staff most important information to send out, and for residents to receive in mail	Would be based on some resources online.
Postcards with QR code/link for the resources on our webpage on one site and information for positive cases to disburse to local testing facilities for them to hand to individuals who are testing	2-3 week to develop, order, wait for delivery, and drop off at testing facilities	1 out of 4 local testing facilities have already approved.
Instructions for positive cases	Within week	Currently some resources already on website
Worksheet for positive cases to identify close contacts	Within week	Already have draft
Instructions and information for close contacts	Done	Currently online
Share information on locations for covid vaccination and testing based on time, availability, etc.	1-2 weeks to develop and refine with local information	Model from another county would like to replicate

**If positive cases do not have access to the internet, then a packet of information will be mailed to them.*

EFFECTS ON SCHOOLS:

Schools, like businesses, could continue to identify close contacts and have them stay home. Organizations can always be stricter than what we are doing, if they so choose. That being said, the decision for the Health Department to shift focus away from directly quarantining close contacts, schools may not have the ability to continue to keep individuals exposed as close contacts out of school.

Continued asks of schools:

- Share children who would be considered close contacts (even if by some coding system) with PCHD, if within their capacity. This would allow for collection and analysis of local data on the number of students who were potentially exposed and end up showing symptoms or testing positive
- Notify parents of potential exposure in child's classroom or if child was a direct close contact
- Continue to identify and improve upon mitigation procedures that could prevent students from being exposed.