

**Board of Health**  
**Minutes**  
**November 10, 2020**

Chairman Novotny called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with Commissioner Greenough; Dr. Mark Schueler, M.D.; Trisha Thompson, RN, Public Health; Bill Hawley, Community Prevention Specialist; Barry Crago, Civil Deputy County Attorney and Sheila Newcomb, Commissioners Assistant

Commissioner Greenough moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting and Public Health Nurse Trisha Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Reports were presented:

**Trisha Thompson, RN**

As of November 10, 2020, there are 30 active cases of the COVID-19 in the area. Trisha Thompson has provided a Memorandum of Understanding to the local providers to assist in paying for the testing of uninsured people. The contract for the contact tracers has been reviewed by the County Attorney and Trisha Thompson will start the hiring process this week. Public Health is relying on the local providers to do the contact tracing if a positive case has been identified within their facility. Also, they are relying on the school to do the contact tracing if a positive case has been identified within the school. All the flu shots at Public Health have been distributed but they do have the ability to order more. These will be available to all adults 19 and over. Public Health can continue to order vaccines for uninsured and Medicaid children. Currently Public Health does not have the vaccines available for insured children.

**Dr. Schueler, MD**

Recently two patients were admitted to the hospital with COVID-19. There have been several positive tests over the past week. There will be a phone conference on November 12, 2020 with the Governor to talk about more intensive infection control measures. Dr. Schueler does not know what the specifics will end up being. There have been more young healthy people getting sick and not very many older at-risk people. There is treatment available for people that are hospitalized with COVID-19 which includes steroids, antiviral and in some severe cases donor plasma from people who have immunity to COVID. The surrounding counties have higher cases in their hospitals and that makes it difficult for Johnson County to transfer patients.

**Bill Hawley, Community Prevention Specialist**

South Dakota legalized medical and recreational marijuana. The surrounding states have legalized recreational marijuana except Utah which only has legalized medical marijuana. The smoke-able Hemp bill is progressing. Commissioner Greenough asked if Montana has legalized marijuana use and Bill Hawley stated that they have legalized medical and recreational.

The next meeting will be January 19, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Greenough moved and Public Health Nurse Trisha Thompson seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

(A recording of the meeting is available upon request)