

York County Briefing – 10/1/2020 8:30am

Public Health Report:

- Four Corners – Nebraska has had a bigger increase in the last 14 days, sitting at 45,000 total cases. Four Corners has had a large increase in case numbers. The last 7 days we have had 91 cases, yesterday was the all time high in one day with 20 new cases. In York County there was 25 cases in the last 7 days. Seward County had 35, Butler 19, Polk 12. We try to break it down by case per million per day as a guide to show transmission, and York is doing the best in that regard but we are still at 200 cases per million per day, and we want that number below 50. York County still has 2 deaths. Because of high case counts, we are now utilizing contact tracers from the state. Originally we were getting by with our staff and local contact tracers, but it is too overwhelming that we have to use state tracers. We also have not had the staff to recover people, so our recoveries have been stagnant but we are going to work on that next week. We are seeing an increase of people in hospitals. We are helping community members in planning events if they have a capacity of 500 or more, helping to plan those safely. We are also seeing many cases touching schools, whether it be parents, kids, or teachers. LTCF are ramping up testing, they are having more test run through their facilities which also helps contribute negative results to the positivity rate. Our risk dial was at 1.88 last week, we are resetting it today, so stay tuned to see what that brings and we will be announcing that tomorrow. We still recommend avoiding crowds, wearing face coverings and staying healthy. Even though we are in phase 4, our rates of transmission are high and October will be a pivotal month for us.

Medical Sector:

- Jim Ulrich York General – On our drive through testing, we had 80 tests in the last week. We saw 60 through Test NE yesterday. Testing at Hearthstone in accordance with CMS regulations, once a week using POC testing equipment. We did have one employee confirmed positive, they were not at work but we still take precautions and are doing weekly resident testing. Our POC testing is seeing a few false positive, but we follow up with a PCR test and those have come back negative. Other than testing, we are working on our outdoor drive through testing for winter. Our visitation policy at the hospital is still one visitor, but it can be a different person every day. We are working on visitation options for Hearthstone and Willow Brook, since the weather is getting colder.
- Henderson Health Care – doing weekly testing on LTC. Also daily screening for everyone.

Education Sector:

- Mitch Bartholomew – Our safety plan has still been pretty effective. Have had to work through a few cases of students and staff, but we have been on the same page as Four Corners since day 1 and that has been going great. We have been trying to help with contact tracing as well, sending out low risk exposures when necessary. We do have one classroom using temperature checks twice a day. YPS has learned that face coverings have saved many students and staff from quarantine and potentially contracting the virus. We have events coming up like choir and band, and we are taking precautions to make those safer but still allow the events to happen.

Local Government Sector:

- Barry Redfern – Want to echo Laura’s comments about the virus being out there, even more than before. Trying to let the community know we need to keep being strict on this virus and following recommendations from FCHD.

Faith Community/Non-Profits

- York County Health Coalition – Jake Owens – We do still have funds available to provide relief to anyone suffering financially. If you know anyone who could benefit, encourage them to apply, visit our website for more info.

Business Sector:

- Lisa Hurley – next Thursday YCDC is holding adult involvement fair. Pulling together groups looking for volunteers, if you are looking to join a group or volunteers please stop by.
- Madonna Mogul – Sip and Stroll is next week, 21+. We have put together 8 stroll orders, with different starting points so not one business is overwhelmed. Young Nebraskans week is coming up, we have a speaker at the country club, contact our office to get a reservation.

Questions

- In York County, are you seeing more clusters of infection or more random community spread cases?
 - We are seeing random community spread that leads to a lot of cases, like households or families being sick. We are seeing both.

Next meeting – October 15th 2020 @ 8:30am