

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 22, 2020**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a review of the most recent data regarding Covid in Oregon, Polk, and Marion County. Oregon Currently has a total of 30,995 Covid cases, 529 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 6.2%.

Polk County has a total of 510 COVID-19 cases, 15 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 5.6% which is a decrease from the previous week. There are 2 hospitalizations in Polk County and 368 have recovered. OHA has announce that they will no longer be reporting the number that have recovered because they don't feel it is a true and accurate count. There were 606.4 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

Marion County has a total of 4,465, 90 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 11.4%. There are 3 hospitalizations in Marion County and 556 have recovered. There were 1,284.4 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

Dallas Retirement Village had an additional positive staff member, which brings the total to 6. This case was originally not included in the outbreak, but subsequently OHA added them to the outbreak.

Ms. Umstead stated that the Contact Tracers from WOU are very helpful and there are now 12 working with Polk County Public Health (PCPH). They expect some new Contact Tracers to replace some that are moving on.

One more Public Health Worker has been fully trained and is now working cases on her own with support as needed. The recruitment for a temporary Public Health Worker has been reopened and plan to hire one more to work weekends. The nursing staff within Public Health remains steady.

Public Health staff are in the process of establishing MOU's with the local Community Based Organizations (CBO's). They will me meeting with the CBO's based on which type of support they will be offering the community. Commissioner Pope recommends Public Health utilizes the CBO's for Contact Tracing in order to ensure that in the event of a surge they are prepared and know Polk County protocols. Ms. Umstead informed the Board that they should all have received the OHA training and do plan to utilize them for help with vaccinations.

Ms. Umstead then reviewed the Public Health Indicators for Polk and Marion County combined as well as Polk and Marion individually. The counties combined had .4% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness. There was a downtrend in percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days at 9.7%. There was a -13% increase in new cases in the last 7 days.

26% of cases were not traced to a known source. Combined, Marion and Polk County saw an uptrend in COVID-19 hospitalizations and 99% of cases in the last 7 days were followed up on within 24 hours.

Polk County is under the 1.5% target at .4% in emergency department visits for COVID-like illness. 7.6% of tests were positive in the last 7 days which is a downtrend. There were 313 tests done during this review period and 25 were positive. There were 32 new cases reported in the last 7 days which is a 7% increase. 25% of cases were not traced to a known source in the last 7 days. Lack of tracing to a known source indicated that the positive case did not report contact with another positive or another source of exposure, which reflect that it is community spread. Because Polk County had less than 5 hospitalization over the last 28 days the COVID-19 hospitalizations metric does not apply. Polk County has followed up on 100% of cases within 24 hours in the last 7 days.

Marion County is also at .4% of emergency departments for COVID-like illness. 10.6% of tests were positive in the last 7 days which is a downtrend. There were 1,408 tests performed during this review period and 149 were positive. There were 208 new cases reported which is a 16% decrease. 26% of cases in the last 7 days were not traced to a known source. There was no trend in COVID-19 hospitalizations. Marion County has followed up on 99% of new cases in the last 7 days.

Ms. Umstead also provided the Board with a hand out of the metrics criteria for in-person instruction for schools. The dashboard provides an interpretation of each county's Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 data (percent testing positive, case rate per 100,000, and case count) in terms of the Oregon Department of Education's requirements for reopening schools to in-person instruction. Ms. Umstead explained that there must be less than 30 positive cases per 100,000 population with less than a 5% positivity rate. Polk County has not met either of those metrics yet. Commissioner Pope asked if the Oregon Health Authority is basing these positive cases on symptoms or on positive cases. Ms. Umstead explained that presumptive cases do add to the case count that is published. If an individual is contact traced to another individual who has tested positive and develops 2 or more COVID-like symptoms they will be added to the positive cases, even if they have a negative test. Commissioner Pope expressed his concern that the data is not based on true science but rather presumptive science. He is concerned that these important decisions about kids not going to school is being made with inaccurate numbers. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Ainsworth also stated that they worry for the kids that are not getting an education and feel that they're futures are at stake and that kids need to be in a classroom.

Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he would like to still know how many have recovered being as they are not being removed from the total case count and uses that information to try and determine the current total case count. Ms. Umstead explained that the reason they decided to stop reporting that is because the number of recovered cases is calculated based on 60 days from the disease onset days, and that is may not be accurate enough to be relevant. She stated that if he would like to know the current active COVID-19 case count she believes she could calculate it better by using some other metrics and will look into that and let him know when she has more information. The Commissioners stated that they are very grateful for all the hard work our Public Health Department is doing and tell Ms. Umstead to share their appreciation with the rest of her team.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that last week were very few orders for PPE. The few that he received were mainly due to the smoke from the wildfires and people were requesting masks. Mr. Bender said the county to date has filled 294 orders and averaged 10.9 orders per week. The agencies seem to be relying more heavily on their normal supply chain, which he stated is a good thing and what we were hoping and encouraging them to do when able.

**4. NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

a. **FAIRGROUNDS** –

Brent DeMoe, Director of Family and Community Outreach, joined Mr. Bender to update the Board on what was going on at the Polk County Fairgrounds. Mr. DeMoe stated that he was very grateful that there were Behavioral Staff available because even though some people thought they were ok ended up really needed that support. The Department of Human Services also sent people to meet with the displaced individuals and were very helpful. He told the Board about a man who broke his truck in the process of transporting horses to safety and there were \$5,200 in donations raised to help him, so they are currently looking for a truck that can pull a small horse trailer. Between the Day Center and Fairgrounds they helped over 550 people, with over 650 staff hours.

This week they are packing things up and labeling all of the supplies and Meduri is transporting those goods to United Way, who has been working on a long term plan for housing the individuals. The Board acknowledged all of the people who were more than happy to volunteer their time and also recognized Mr. DeMoe and Mr. Bender and all of the others who helped organize the volunteers to put their skills and help to use where it was most needed.

b. **POLK COUNTY CHILD CARE FUND APPLICATION**

Mr. DeMoe stated that after sending out multiple surveys to childcare providers in the County as well as County employees, they found that there was a need for more childcare and due to COVID-19 and distance learning that the need is now even greater. To help address this issue the county has created a one-time Emergency Child Care Fund (ECCF). The overall goal is to help maintain and/or increased the current amount of child care slots in Polk County. Applicant can apply for funding to be used in one of the following ways: 1) Supports the expansion of existing child care sites by increasing capacity and/or slots; 2) Opening new child care sites. Mr. DeMoe requested permission to send out the application right away in order to start categorizing the needs of the applicants. Commissioner Pope stated that he would ask the Board to support this and that they have already designated corona relief funds to put towards childcare needs. He also asked that because he worked so closely with FCO he would ask that these applications not be required to go through the Board and instead be managed by Mr. DeMoe and his team.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE EMERGENCY CHILD CARE FUND APPLICATION**

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 10:03 am.