

## Cambridge EAP Notes Apr 28

Bill  
Kirby  
Jill  
Claude  
Sam  
Kezi  
Lou Ann  
Chris Price – MIT Safe Paths

### 1) As of tonight at midnight, mask use in public will be required. Discussion on content of executive order on masks and its messaging.

- There is a need to better understand how much transmission occurs indoors vs outdoors. Can tools like Safe paths help?
- Sources of information for the public:
  - Instructions on city's main COVID webpage about how to properly use and wear the mask.
  - Sam: City now has two ambassadors working, mostly observation still. Consider handout with information on masks –mask handout is also on the short list. This is still in the learning phase.
  - If you don't have a mask you have to learn how to make a mask.
  - Kirby: working alongside Cambridge DPH on social media. Working on getting video with mayor. Developed a tool to help people select a homemade mask based on supplies available. <https://connectcovid19.typeform.com/to/bBZ1zE>
  - Jill: Would be beneficial to have large posters around the city
  - Kezi: we need to give information about disinfection. Surgical masks aren't washable and aren't meant for repeated use.
    - Lou Ann says in the hospital they have 5-day rotation system to allow masks to sit and disinfect.
    - Kirby: What about messaging out that people should label 7 masks with days of the week. That way people don't confuse which mask they've worn recently. Lou Ann says this is a great message. Sam says this is in messaging for mask handouts to seniors, but double checking to make sure its on website.
- Concerns about scope of order
  - Order included all businesses whether or not they are opened to the public. Perhaps there should be a distinction for businesses where employees have public exposure versus those who don't. Also potential to be more specific about language for general public versus language for businesses (should the two have equal enforcement).
  - Order also included individual exercise in open spaces (running, biking) which may not need to be so stringent
  - What does one do if one does not have a mask?
    - Potential that it could be harmful for people to be unable to leave house without mask without risking a fine.
  - Education is key (Jill) Mask misuse is a chronic problem.
  - Temporary executive order that does not have an end point.
  - Need a way to get medical masks out to vulnerable people

- Service workers, over 65, vulnerable communities (immigrant, low income)
- Kirby: Would it be possible to remove the fine? Messaging should emphasize everything city is doing to provide masks and also teach people to make their own face coverings
- Claude: on the topic of removing fine – reason for fine is to allow more leverage to require enforcement. Ensure that's an expectation to comply. Advisory to city and towns didn't limit.
- Sam: per discussion with city solicitor, reason for fine is that if there's no penalty, then it's just a recommendation. You can't call it an order without this. It's hard for people to understand why there's a fine, we need language that helps us explain why there's a fine.
- Claude: There was a time when people didn't wear seatbelts, smoking in restaurants, and the fine was important tool for behavior change. Also, Somerville is including a fine as well.
- What is the current supply of surgical masks in Cambridge? Most are controlled by people other than city itself. Jill helped arrange large donation from individuals who have access to large supply of procedure masks. Deploying masks in work places, first responders, senior buildings and public housing. With executive order is there an expectation that city would provide masks. Lou Ann says they have been able to source procedure masks, N95s are still the challenge. Claude says the city does not have an inventory.
- Bill: masks ignite passions which will be a major challenge. Almost all the evidence we have is that majority of transmission is inside, so masks are really just icing on the cake. Hard to understand why the order is going beyond national and state guidelines in terms of scope and enforcement.
- Maybe there's an opportunity to make adjustments to language in order to focus more-so on mask wearing in public situations where you can't distance from others, versus all activity in public (for example outdoor exercise when you're not anywhere near others).

## 2) Testing, Contact Tracing, and Home Isolation

- Lou Ann: Testing tent coming to city of Cambridge so it will become . What we really need to do to squish the curve is around household transmission. Testing and separating the negatives and positives at household level.
- Bill: Substantial amount of transmission within households is why we have this plateau. Agree that there is not nearly enough information about how to safely care for family member who is ill. Sam says there is guidance about that, basic common sense protocols. How to push it out further? Get it into the Herald?
- Lou Ann: household transmission is a serious issue. CHA created heat map that shows patients who have tested positive and hotspots get bigger as more people in household test positive. Seeing prevalent household transmission especially impacting most vulnerable communities.
- Contact tracing - Claude is linked to community tracing collaborative. Also linked to state contact tracing pushed out with Partners in health
- SafePath tracing is a complement to contact tracing. It is also privacy preserving.
  - Question of whether people are willing to register themselves as testing positive? Getting voluntary participation may be challenging. They're getting people to

adopt the app and it's their choice whether they provide their data to the public health department or not.

- How to measure community transmission question of sewage testing. Biobot is close to Cambridge and would like to help if they could. Work with water treatment systems so that they don't have to worry about active pumping (working at Dear Island). Expect to have some tracking numbers for greater Boston area (many methods for accounting for sources in a given sample). Do we want to engage them on sampling on Cambridge sewers? There may be some limitations: would need to get sample in reliable way from sewer.

### **3) Food Deliveries: How to facilitate food delivery to minimize crowding at food stores and support vulnerable populations.**

- High delivery fees raised as an issue by and to City council. Care-package delivery 'capped due to demand' (communication from local restaurant). 'No availability for delivery' described on community websites.
- Placing cap on delivery fees was not discussed in great detail at council meeting last night. Some apps are charging restaurants a lot of money to be hosted on delivery app. Specifically uber eats.
- Should there be an EAP for empowering business?
- Allowing all restaurants to sell groceries goes into effect midnight Thursday. On a menu online, pre-bagged, pick up the way you pick up takeout. Restaurants block entrance into establishment and you can pick up on the curb.
- One way sidewalks – not a formal city wide campaign. Currently there's a moratorium on closing memorial drive for a week or two.
- Consider CHA admission rate, serology, sewage, in monitoring the trends
- Need to research transmission among/from children- important for supporting return to work.