



Cambridge
Public Health
Department

Agenda
Cambridge COVID-19 Expert Advisory Panel
1 pm, Thursday August 6th, 2020

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Attendance: Jill, Bill, Claude, Anna, Louann, Sammi, Chris K

1. Understand the impact of EAP discussions and agree upon formal EAP recommendations, continued from last week:

Recommendation: As schools open there will be more contacts and cases will go up from that so other contacts need to be curbed to prevent a rise. Government should collaborate with businesses to determine how to reduce contacts and to prepare for possible phase reversal. The city should set thresholds for such decisions in advance.

From chat: closure of indoor dining and indoor gyms until transmission stops increasing.

2. SARS-CoV-2 testing in public schools, universities in Cambridge, Cambridge residents
Eric Lander had indicated that there were no expected shortages for testing schools, confirmed currently.
Multi-state purchasing agreement for antigen tests (Becton-Dickinson, Quidel, with possible addition of E25Bio?

Testing teachers in CPSD now will require 1,200-1,500 tests.

3. Discuss how to track cases in Cambridge public school district and communicate to the public. This is essential because state has announced that they will not be tracking these cases.

All clusters in city have been tracked by DPH, which uses Maven software. Tracing will be done by Anna & DPH. If a teacher tests positive, that would be communicated to the teacher's hometown health dept.

Based on follow-up calls from DPH, about 15% of people in Cambridge need help understanding the test results that are in the e-mail automatically transmitted from the Broad.

4. Discuss metrics and thresholds designed by CPSD COVID-19 scientific advisory panel for school status (completely closed, partially closed, open). Can these be used by the city?

One CPSD task force metric under consideration for closure is if 7 day average is >100 RNA copies/ml in Deer island sewage. This was only the case for a 1 month period during the

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first wave. Sewage metrics read-out is from 2.5M people, 70 towns in Middlesex/Suffolk counties.

Second CPSD task force metric under consideration for closure is if 7 day average of cases is > 25 in Cambridge. The highest ever 7 day average in Cambridge was 35 and there were only 9 days when 7 day rolling average was > 25 , when long term care facilities were tested. So this CPSD metric might be too high.

There need to be weekly communications from CPSD stating what the metrics are currently and whether there were tests done for those in the schools and whether there were any positives. A way to defeat rumors is with facts.

Other points

Need to amplify flu vaccination rates. Need to get the flu vaccination out asap and encourage a requirement for healthcare workers to have flu vaccination.