

Amy Harvey

From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Allen Buansi; Amy Harvey; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Tai Huynh; Town Council
Cc: Flo Miller; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins
Subject: COVID-19 Responses

Mayor and Council,

Below you will find responses to several of your recent questions related to COVID-19. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

All the Best,
Maurice

Q: What is the effectiveness of the SlowCOVIDNC app?

About 250,000 people have downloaded the app as of Oct 27th. Since the app's launch, DHHS has focused its use at the state's colleges and universities and is now also seeking to involve more businesses. The app has sent 346 exposure notifications, most of those beginning Oct. 3. The app has led 46 people to anonymously notify others of their positive COVID-19 test results.

The app is compatible with apps from other states that are using similar technology, such as Virginia. Some studies estimate that over 60% of the population would need to be using the app for it to stop a major outbreak, but that it can still be beneficial in slowing the spread with smaller numbers of users. However, other models show success at reducing positive rate with 15% of the population participating in contact tracing apps. Feedback on the app from users includes glitches with the Bluetooth technology and concerns over privacy.

Q: What is the update on Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School's plans for this semester and next?

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) system is currently operating under Plan C remote learning plan for all students with staff having a choice of working from home or from their work site. This operational plan ends at the end of the first semester.

Superintendent Causby has presented the Board a plan that offers 5 options for the next semester. The plan can be viewed here – https://chccs.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=411&meta_id=29060

The recommendation from the superintendent is to implement Option 3 in two phases. The Board will continue to discuss these options at the November 5 meeting. There is a CHCCS Planning Task Force that Town staff participate in.

Q: How is the coordination of flu shot clinics and COVID 19 testing going?

The turn out from the community for flu shots has been positive, administering over 400 in one week. The flu shot clinic at St. Thomas Moore Church last week served 180 people representing the vulnerable populations the Health Department intended to target. The Health Department will continue to offer flu shots in conjunction with COVID-19 testing sites and will evaluate doing stand-alone flu clinics as needed.

Free flu shots and COVID-19 testing are available at the Health Department Clinic in Hillsborough (Whitted Human Services Center, 300 West Tryon Street) every Monday-Friday. Free flu shots are available at the Clinic in Chapel Hill (Southern Human Services Center, 2501 Homestead Road). People can make appointments at both locations by calling 919-245-2400.

Q: What is the update on trends?

Numbers of positive cases are steadily increasing, with 15-16 new cases each day. The percent positive is 3.2%. Compared to surrounding counties (Alamance, Durham, Chatham) Orange County's numbers are lower and not rising as rapidly. Rural areas of the county are seeing the most increase in new cases. Last week the Health Department added a new testing vendor and an additional testing site in the Efland area. The Health Department's contact tracing and case investigation team are reaching people within 24 hours after being notified of positive results.

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