



# MEETING MINUTES

<b>EVENT:</b>	Testing Surge Workgroup	<b>Date / Time:</b>	May 22, 2020 @ 1130
<b>Author:</b>	Dale Cowan, NCNG	<b>Approved:</b>	August 21, 2020

Enter information below: (text box will automatically expand, numbering is automatic)

**Required Attendees (X=Present):**

	NCDHHS	Sec. Mandy Cohen	X	NCDHHS	Dr. Betsey Tilson
X	NCDHHS	Dr. Scott Shone	X	NCDHHS	Dr. Cardra Burns
	NCDHHS	Dr. Zack Moore		NCDHHS	Michael Leighs
X	Quest	Alan Myers or Natalie Jackson	X	LabCorp	Traci Butler or Clay Gibson
X	Duke	Dr. Michael Datto	X	MAKO	Josh Arant
X	UNC Health	Dr. Melissa Miller	X	Atrium Health	Dr. Gerald Capraro
X	NCCHCA	Dr. Mark Massing	X	NC Medical Society	Dr. Garrett Franklin
X	NC Board of Pharmacy	Jay Campbell	X	NCCHCA	Chris Shank
	NCALHD	Stacie Saunders and Lisa Macon-Harrison	X	Mecklenburg Cty	Dr. Meg Sullivan
X	NCDHHS	Azzie Conley	X	Old North State Medical Society	Dr. Charlene Green
X	NC Healthcare Association	Dr. John Fallon and Dr. Mary Jo Cagle	X	NCDHHS	Jay Ludlam
X	UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health	Dr. Kauline Cipriani		NC HIEA	Christie Burris
X	NCNG (in support of NC DHHS)	Dale Cowan	X	NCNG (in support of NC DHHS)	Neil Thomson
X	Ernst and Young (in support of NC DHHS)	Lori Feller, Brian Weeks, Ariel Kuo	X	BCBSNC (in support of NC DHHS)	Alicia Stokes
	BCBSNC (in support of NC DHHS)	Dr. Azalea Kim	X	Guest Presenters:	Dr. Erica Wilson Dr. Rhonda Stephens
X	Other Guests	Dr. Shannon Dowler	X		Natalie Jackson

**Agenda:**

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call**—Dr. Burns (5 min)
- II. **Opening Remarks**—Secretary Cohen, if available (5 min)
- III. **New Business**
  - a. **Trends and Hot Topics**— (25 min)

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- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) and access to COVID-19 testing for children—Dr. Wilson
- Overall NC Testing trend—Dr. Shone
- % Positive and Collection sites by county—Dr. Stephens
- FDA Transparency for Antibody Tests —Dr. Shone
- Lab Capacity —Dr. Shone
- b. **Update on new collection sites or testing partnerships**—Dr. Massing (10 min)
- c. **Sub-Workgroup Report Outs**
  - Scientific Study Council: Antigen Testing—Dr. Datto (5 min)
  - Testing Strategies Vulnerable Populations (Next Steps)—Dr. Green (5 min)
- IV. **Due Outs Assigned and Closing**—Drs. Burns, Tilson, or Moore, if available (5 min)

**Tasks / Due Outs:** (List the recommended lead responsible for each task)

Due Date	Organization POC	Task
29 May	Scientific Study Council	Antibody Testing Recommendations Initial Draft
29 May	Surge Workgroup	Contact Dr. Dowler if interested in mobile/outreach testing in HMP and/or frontline essential and undocumented workers strategy team. <a href="mailto:shannon.dowler@dhhs.nc.gov">shannon.dowler@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
TBD	Dr. Shone	Testing Survey

**Discussion by Major Topic:** (Information not covered on slides or handouts)

- Dr. Burns welcomed the group and conducted roll-call.
- Dr. Wilson explained Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19 in children
  - The rare syndrome is associated with inflammatory abnormalities; it is the same type of SARS 2 COVID
  - Significant knowledge gaps exist as a result of resistance to the disease in children and subsequent lack of pediatric testing
  - Make sure COVID-19 testing is available and accessible for children
  - Report any suspected cases
  - One confirmed case of this toxic shock-like syndrome in North Carolina
  - Dr. Tilson added that we might want to include this as a priority down the road
- Dr. Shone provided an update on testing trends
  - We have identified ways to increase testing and capacity across the state
    - Testing has increased significantly
    - 10K tests completed per day in the last few weeks
    - We may see a decline with the holiday weekend
    - Over 300K tests to date (22 May)
  - Daily case count metric is trending up
  - Teams are monitoring hospitalizations and death rates
  - Dr. Tilson added that we need to be transparent about trends we are following

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- “We have not had a big spike but a slow churn.” Follow trends carefully and use a dimmer switch rather than an “on/off” switch for reopening. “Not an all or nothing decision.”
- Hospital rates have gone up a little
- Move into Phase II has not been a huge step because of the trend data
- Restaurants, personal care, and pools will be allowed to operate at 50% capacity; held back on some things because our trends are in the middle; taking slow, measured steps
- Dr. Stephens reported on the maps covering two weeks of data (*see attachments*).
  - Testing has gone up 60-70%
  - 288 sites have been verified
- Dr. Shone commented that some rapid antibody tests have been removed from the FDA website because of performance. Providers with CLIA waivers have been doing them inappropriately.
  - Dr. Campbell informed the group that lots of companies are fraudulently marketing antibody tests – there are no antibody tests that can be performed at Point of Care or CLIA waiver sites
- Early on (April), the department pushed out a survey about lab capacity. Most labs have increased capacity since then. “Should we query them again or what’s the best way to assess the current status of labs?” This information would provide us with a clear picture on staffing and supplies, and it is part of the federal funding application for a CDC grant
  - Most agreed that a survey would be fine but make sure it goes out to the right people and not to duplicate efforts
  - Supply chain is critical – labs may have capacity but not the supplies. Vidant lab is capable of high capacity testing but does not have the reagent supply to support
  - Dr. Datto expressed concern about capacity problems and the supply chain being dried up
  - Survey will address supplies
  - Federal government has assigned a logistics and supply POC to every state. Thermo-fisher reagents and Cepheid instruments are in high demand, but the supply is low. The federal government is working on re-supply with manufacturers
- Dr. Massing provided an update on new testing sites. Greater than 1400 tests reported 60% in racial and ethnic minorities
  - Robeson is continuing to expand testing access for Lumbee Indians
  - Quest Diagnostics is working with community health centers to expand testing across ten states
  - Added five counties this week and two next week. 250 serology testing this week. Starting to serve more of the population in NC. Collection kit capacity if we want to work towards that will be available (*Natalie Jackson*)

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- Dr. Burns announced 2 new tools launching in the next week. The website has a list of collection sites throughout the state. Testing tool to put in zip code and find testing sites. As you are aware of new sites, you can add them to the website. Symptom checker to determine if you need a test will be available in the first week of June (date TBD). The platform will link to a list of collection sites
- Dr. Datto – Scientific Council – antibody testing recommendations is the next task for the council and will get together next week to discuss
- Dr. Green – Vulnerable Population Workgroup – DHHS team working on vulnerable populations as well. The workgroup will connect with them to decrease redundancy.
  - Discussed possibility of working with NCCARE 360 platform
- Dr. Sullivan shared that the percent of positives has remained stable. Will work with healthcare providers around testing criteria.
- Dr. Shone spoke about testing supplies and mechanisms to request testing supplies on <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>. Check the site if you're having issues with getting testing supplies. Link is on the state lab site, and the ReadyOP form is there as well.
- Dr. Tilson closed with stating this is a national and global issue, and the group had a great, enriched conversation around it.
  - Appreciate the engagement of both the public and private sectors
  - Getting information disseminated as much as possible. Be our own advocates and reach out if you hear something otherwise
  - Grateful for all the work. Focus on addressing historical inequities. We are stronger together. Reach out throughout the week.

**Next Meeting:**

29 May 2020, 1130-1230

Microsoft Teams [Link](#); Phone: 984-204-1487, Conference ID: 575 272 672#