



MEETING MINUTES

EVENT:	Testing Surge Workgroup	Date / Time:	May 29, 2020 @ 1130
Author:	Dale Cowan, NCNG	Approved:	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	X	NCDHHS	Dr. Shannon Dowler
	NCDHHS	Jay Ludlam	X	NCDHHS	Azzie Conley
X	NCDHHS	Amanda Fuller-Moore	X	LabCorp	Traci Butler or Clay Gibson
X	Quest	Alan Myers or Natalie Jackson		Duke	Dr. Michael Datto
X	MAKO	Josh Arant	X	Atrium Health	Dr. Gerald Capraro
	UNC Health	Dr. Melissa Miller	X	NC Medical Society	Dr. Garrett Franklin
X	Old North State Medical Society	Dr. Charlene Green	X	NCCHCA	Chris Shank
X	NCCHCA	Dr. Mark Massing	X	Mecklenburg Cty	Dr. Meg Sullivan
X	NC Board of Pharmacy	Jay Campbell	X	NC Healthcare Association	Dr. John Fallon and Dr. Mary Jo Cagle
X	NCALHD	Stacie Saunders and Lisa Macon-Harrison		NC Institute of Public Health	Doug Urland
	NC HIEA	Christie Burris		UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health	Dr. Kauline Cipriani
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		Guests:	

Agenda:

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call**—Dr. Burns (5 min)
- II. **Opening Remarks**—Secretary Cohen, if available (5 min)
- III. **New Business**
 - a. **Test Trends and Hot Topics**—Dr. Shone (5 min)
 - b. **Update on new collection sites or testing partnerships**—Dr. Massing (10 min)
 - c. **ELC Grant**—Dr. Shone (15min)
 - d. **Draft Community Testing guidance to reach HMP**—Dr. Dowler (10 min)
 - e. **Sub-Workgroup Report Outs**

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- Testing Strategies Vulnerable Populations Recommendations—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
5 June	Surge Workgroup	Email Dr. Burns (cardra.burns@dhhs.nc.gov) if interested in serving on a sub-workgroup

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

- Dr. Burns welcomed the group and conducted roll-call.
- Dr. Tilson opened up stating that “a ton of work on testing has been done with 15K tests today (29 May), which is the highest to date.”
 - We are testing people we need to be testing
 - Numbers are still going up – more than 1K positives in one day (29 May)
 - Some other metrics – percent of positives is creeping up (9%) as we’re still finding real disease; an uptick in hospitalization rates; surveillance data (COVID-like illness) is going up
 - Still in the “middle ground” of easing restrictions
 - All trends are on the NC COVID-19 dashboard
- Dr. Shone provided an update on testing and the scientific study council call. Council discussed antigen testing and recommendations are forthcoming
- Dr. Massing followed up on new collection sites
 - Community health centers weekly survey through HRSA
 - ½ of the health centers are responding
 - 2/3 of those reporting have a drive-up/walk-up testing capability
 - ½ of the tests are among racially ethnic minorities
 - Some shortages of PPE, N95 masks and gowns
 - Rates among African American and Non-Hispanic are the same
 - Dr. Capraro (Atrium Health) reported that specimen numbers exceeded the internal cap, so additional specimens are sent to LabCorp
 - 1K tests/day in-house and then 200-300 tests/day sent to LabCorp
 - 10% positives are now at 8%
 - LabCorp positivity rate is higher
 - Mobile testing (Atrium) is providing access to at-risk and underrepresented population of Charlotte (17% positive rate in that population)
 - Natalie Jackson (Quest) reported a surge in testing last week. They are focused on working with Health Departments and getting them up and running
 - 1K PCR tests recently completed on-site

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- Dr. Fallon (Vidant Health) reported plans to expand from 4 to 5 COVID testing platforms pending reagents
 - Greenville lab still reports significant reagent issues but has processed 500 tests/day and hoping to get to 1K tests/day next week
 - Not a significant increase in percent positives this week
 - High production platform utilized as this site using specialized equipment
- Clay Gibson (LabCorp) reported several initiatives in the last week with a 7% positivity rate
- Dr. Cagle (NC Healthcare Assoc.) reported an alarming trend in the Montagnard population in Greenville. Working with the health department and conducting tracing in that community – 10% positive rate among those living in community housing
- Dr. Fuller-Moore (DHHS) reported 55 new CVS testing sites are opening today (29 May)
 - Pharmacy technicians and nurse practitioners at each location
 - Locations spread across NC
 - Daily capacity of 2750 tests across the state
 - Testing available seven (7) days/week
- Dr. Sullivan (Mecklenburg County) reported an increase in testing in the past several days. Increased hospitalizations, too
- Stacie Saunders (NCALHD) reported an increase in cases in Alamance County the last few days due to access to testing
- Dr. Shone briefed on the ELC grant
 - A mechanism that state received to enhance epidemiology and laboratory capacity
 - Additional money for each state thru ELC enhanced detection
 - Statewide testing plan due 15 June and budget work plans are due 18 June
 - Developing command center to help coordinate PPE and collection/testing supplies
 - Need to submit May and June testing plan by tomorrow (30 May) to CDC
- Dr. Dowler spoke about the Community Testing Guidance and offering testing where it makes the most sense
 - Best practices from meat processing lead to creating the same for Historically Marginalized Populations
 - The document will be out today (29 May) and will be combined with an explanation which includes a broad overview of general operations at various testing sites as well as some lessons learned
 - Important to go into a community and offer testing, make them feel safe, comfortable and eliminate barriers whenever possible
 - Don't turn anyone away that wants a test
 - Mobile testing guidance may be next
- Dr. Burns explained that any type of pop-up site could be expedited and put on the map for Find My Testing Place
- Dr. Green added that there should be a focus on faith-based communities
 - All-hands needed to reach out to vulnerable populations



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- Working on helping to navigate culturally sensitive messaging
- Connect testing and follow-up particularly for fall and winter
- Dr. Shone described that the state lab is supporting a similar effort to assure access for high risk and historically marginalized populations in Lee, Chatham and Orange Counties with UNC partnering – identifying underutilized capacity and using it to maximize access
- Antigen testing – The scientific council will prepare a similar write-up to the antibody testing.
 - 80% sensitivity for one specific method
 - Needs to be well thought out because of high false negatives
- Dr. Burns closed asking if anyone is interested in joining either of the workgroups to email her.

Next Meeting:

5 June 2020, 1130-1230

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