



# APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT April 1 - June 30, 2020

## Executive Summary

*The Health Department's day-to-day activities for the second quarter of 2020 are enumerated in the attached report. The Department continues to work toward fulfilling the goals of our Department, keeping in mind the belief statements that support and enhance our mission statement.*

***“Provides services to protect and promote the health and well-being of the citizen and consumer”***

In December of 2019, the nation was made aware of a small outbreak occurring in Wuhan China. Since March 16, 2020 we have activated the Public Health Emergency Preparedness plans and opened the Appleton Emergency Operations Center (EOC). During the month of April, the focus of the EOC was establishing an alternative care site, collaborating with our regional partners on an isolation center, determining a location for respite for our first responders, and on boarding a new Mayor and new Incident Commander. The City of Appleton also experience the first COVID-19 related death and community spread.

Health Officer Eggebrecht lead the charge in providing a location for an alternative care center for COVID-19. This center would expand capacity for the hospitals systems in the case of a surge. On April 20, Kurt Eggebrecht stepped down from incident commander to focus solely on the alternative care center. Currently, this center is still an option for the city but not functional.

April 15, City of Appleton EOC and Lawrence University signed an agreement for the use of a dorm to be the respite site for Appleton first responders. This site was made available to the city until the middle of August. The intent of this site is for first responders that do not feel comfortable going home during their shift to isolate in the dorm instead. This piece of mind location was critical for the mental health of our first responders in times of high stress.

May 11 through the 22, a community testing site was provided at the Fox Valley Technical College parking lot. This site was used by over 3,000 citizens from City of Appleton, Outagamie County, Winnebago County, City of Menasha, and

Calumet County areas. This site was a vital operation and will be considered in the future for more testing opportunities in the area.

The City of Appleton Emergency Operations Center and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plans are still active.

***“Communicates with the public on health and consumer related issues”***

May 18, the Emergency Management Coordinator took over Incident Commander for the City of Appleton Emergency Operations Center, and the Health Officer filled the position as Subject Matter Expert. The other major change in the operations during the month of May was bringing on new Public Information Officers (PIO). The new PIOs encouraged the development of a new website, uniformed social media posts, and several other needed improvements.

The most impactful event during the month of May was the Safer at Home orders lifting. When the Supreme Court ruled against the Safer at Home order, the City of Appleton tried to implement our own order the very next day. It was then deemed unenforceable and lifted the following day. Since the Safer at Home orders lifted, the struggle for the EOC was messaging that opening is not recommended. This created a very interesting and challenging month of June.

The month of June, the sole focus was meeting with business leaders, faith-based leaders, and other community members about opening and gathering safely. If social distancing cannot be maintained, it is strongly recommended not to have a gathering or open for business. The orders being lifted also pushed our efforts in developing return to work guidance for city departments. The EOC is still encouraging department directors to keep staff that can work remotely at home, and provide only essential services we know can be done safely.

Public health nursing staff have followed up with 224 individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020. During this same time period, nursing staff have also followed up with 30 probable cases of COVID-19, and have completed 849 contact investigations.

June 17, City Sealer Eric Maggio and Weights & Measures staff participated and spoke at the annual Appleton Downtown Saturday Farm Market Vendor meeting in a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting. City Sealer Maggio provided information regarding policies as well as going over rules. Weights and Measures staff tested 19 farm market vendor's scales as well as package and labeling inspections after the meeting. The meeting which is mandatory provides a great foundation for high compliance throughout the Farm Markets summer duration. Weights and Measures staff will monitor the farm market closely throughout the summer to ensure compliance.

Environmental Supervisor Steve Kihl also participated in the training presentation organized by ADI. Steve presented on requirements for food vendors participating in the Farmer's Market. Approximately 35 vendors participated.

***“Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner”***

The Wisconsin Public Health Preparedness Program awarded Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding to City of Appleton Health Department to promote inclusive risk planning for the whole community. The funding and collaboration effort between City of Appleton Health Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Fire Department, and Police Department encouraged a new program for the summer of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic did inspire change and creativity to continue this program. The Appleton Camp APRD Youth Emergency Preparedness Program will inspire inner city children to develop family emergency plans, begin to identify their family vulnerabilities, and build emergency kits using a family scavenger hunt in three city parks. Families will learn what kind of items should be in a home or vehicle emergency kit, which emergency agencies respond to disasters and their uniforms, and finally they will receive their own emergency kit to take home. This new exciting opportunity will be taking place in July of 2020.

***“Develops and evaluates departmental programs, policies and procedures based on community needs and collaborate with community agencies and providers to assess those needs and ensure high quality services”***

In June, Environmentalist Ryan Mathew passed the State of Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services Lead Hazard Investigator exam. Ryan is now certified to perform Lead Hazard Investigations at homes where a child is found to have an elevated blood lead level. All three Environmentalists, along with PHN Val Davis, are now certified to perform these investigations.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES  
Health Officer