



Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Qs about outbreaks, modeling, statewide approach

Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 4:07 PM

To: "Mccoy, Amy" <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Amy, I'm going to keep asking about this. Now more than 8 percent of BV County residents have tested positive, and there are two confirmed long-term care outbreaks in the county.

What is the logic behind not imposing more restrictions there, or at least recommending more widespread use of face coverings in public?

Is it still accurate to say Dr. Pedati is content with the state's ability to contain and manage COVID-19 hot spots?

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From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 4:25 PM

Subject: Fwd: Qs about outbreaks, modeling, statewide approach

To: Mccoy, Amy <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Now 7 percent of Buena Vista County residents have tested positive for COVID-19. At what point will IDPH consider recommending more restrictions on business activity there, or more universal precautions among the population like face coverings?

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From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 7:47 AM

Subject: Fwd: Qs about outbreaks, modeling, statewide approach

To: Mccoy, Amy <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Hello Amy,

I'm circling back on these questions. Also, Buena Vista County is approaching 6 percent of the population testing positive now. Will IDPH encourage any additional restrictions there or universal precautions like face shields?

Laura

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From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 12:02 PM

Subject: Fwd: Qs about outbreaks, modeling, statewide approach

To: Mccoy, Amy <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Circling back on these questions. More than 5 percent of Buena Vista County residents have now tested positive for COVID-19. At what point would Dr. Pedati support additional mitigation measures there, such as encouraging routine use of face coverings, not only for those in vulnerable populations?

Thanks,

Laura

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From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 9:40 AM

Subject: Qs about outbreaks, modeling, statewide approach

To: Mccoy, Amy <amy.mccoy@idph.iowa.gov>

Hello Amy,

As you may know, more than 4 percent of Buena Vista County residents and more than 3 percent in Crawford County are now confirmed to be positive for COVID-19. Surely many more infections are circulating in those communities. Wapello and Wright counties are also in the top ten for COVID-19 infections per capita, presumably because of the meatpacking facilities located there. All four of those counties were among the 77 where the governor lifted many COVID-19 restrictions on May 1, citing allegedly minimal virus activity.

My questions:

1. Why didn't IDPH prioritize wide-scale testing (including of asymptomatic employees) at every Iowa meatpacking plant after major outbreaks were identified in Columbus Junction and Waterloo in April?
2. Don't these outbreaks demonstrate that it was unwise to assume that expanded testing capacity in late April would allow the state to "get ahead of" any localized spikes in COVID-19 activity? If not, why not?
3. In late April, Governor Reynolds announced that the state was reopening in a safe and responsible way by keeping most restrictions in place in 22 counties while opening 77 others. But in the middle of May she abandoned that approach, lifting COVID-19 mitigation policies everywhere, even in counties experiencing rapid community spread. What was Dr. Pedati's thinking on this? Why not keep restrictions in place until infections are on a downward trend?
4. During the May 27 news conference, Governor Reynolds said she didn't plan to impose any special restrictions where case numbers are rapidly increasing. She said Dr. Pedati and the IDPH team are monitoring the numbers in Buena Vista and Wright counties, adding that Dr. Pedati "continues to be fine with what we're seeing." Is that still accurate? And if so, what is the rationale for lifting more restrictions in counties with such high per capita COVID-19 infections?
5. The University of Iowa researchers warned that it would take several weeks to measure the impact of lifting COVID-19 restrictions. Yet the governor (acting on advice from IDPH) successively relaxed various mitigation measures on May 1, May 15, May 22, May 28, and June 1. Can you explain Dr. Pedati's thinking on this? Why not wait to see the impact of reopening restaurants and gyms before opening salons, museums, and theaters? Why not wait to see the impact of opening all of those things before opening bars, casinos, and amusement parks?
6. The governor has said IDPH is focused on "real-time data" rather than modeling. But some of that data (such as hospitalization numbers) reflects where the virus was spreading 2-3 weeks ago rather than where it is today. What is the rationale for rejecting what models may tell us about how lifting restrictions could increase community spread?
7. The University of Iowa researchers have recommended universal use of face shields to drive down transmission rates. Yet IDPH guidance recommends only that Iowans have face coverings with them in case they may not be able to socially distance. Why not encourage more routine use of face coverings in public? If someone gets too close to me at Hy-Vee or an outdoor concert, I could inhale droplets (or they could inhale mine) before either of us take a mask out of our pockets and put it on.
8. Has IDPH changed its guidance for religious communities in any way since late April? If so, please send a link to the new recommendations.

Thank you in advance.

Laura

1705 Plaza Circle
Windsor Heights, IA 50324
(515) 276-6971

<http://www.bleedingheartland.com>