

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL BRIEFING BY UF HEALTH JACKSONVILLE**

**COVID-19-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**Remote meeting via teleconference**

 **October 1, 2020**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Remote meeting via teleconference

**In attendance:** Council Members LeAnna Cumber, Randle DeFoor, Rory Diamond, Terrance Freeman, Al Ferraro, Ron Salem (other council members may have been listening on the call but did not identify themselves as present)

**Also**: Dr. Leon Haley and Senator Aaron Bean - UF Health Jacksonville; Mayor Charlie Latham – Jacksonville Beach; Mayor Ellen Glasser – Atlantic Beach; Mayor Elaine Brown – Neptune Beach; State Senator Audrey Gibson; State Representative Cord Byrd and Clay Yarborough; School Board Member Lori Hershey; Dr. Diana Green – School Superintendent; Mike Bruno – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Richard Distel – Council Research Division

**Meeting Convened**: 1:00 p.m.

Sen. Aaron Bean moderated and opened the call thanking participants for joining and introduced Dr. Haley.

Dr. Haley gave an update on COVID-19 and the response from a global, federal, state and local level. Dr. Haley emphasized getting the flu shot as flu season begins. Dr. Haley thanked his staff and the outside organizations that have helped to support his staff.

Dr. Haley talked about the timeline of their response to COVID-19. The command center opened on March 7th and the early focus was on acquiring PPE and since then the module has changed from just searching for supplies. The response phase made up the first months and then the second phase in the summer was a wave which created a busy time for the health care systems. Then this became a balancing act between taking care of COVID-19 patients and elective surgeries. Dr. Haley said that they are in a redesigned phase and the focus is on contact tracing and testing which is the main focus. Dr. Haley gave an overview of COVID-19 cases. There have been 349 deaths due to COVID-19 in Duval County.

Dr. Haley said they are keeping the command center open to track the trends of COVID-19 cases. Dr. Haley says they are currently focusing on the high risk groups as well as younger groups because schools have now opened up. They are working closely with Wolfson Children’s Hospital to make sure the pediatric cases don’t become overwhelming.

As of today, there are 203 hospitalized patients, 10 are in ICU and 2 are under ventilators in the hospitals. They have been using Remdesivir and steroids to treat cases. Dr. Haley said they are learning about how COVID-19 impacts the body. The oldest survivor was 106 years old, but they are also seeing how younger people and pregnant women are affected.

Dr. Haley stressed that hospitals are very safe places to come if you need medical services. Dr. Haley said we are still in the first wave. Said that opening gyms and bars could impact the curve and will look at that closely to see what changes occur. Dr. Haley said flu season is coming up and stressed again to get flu shots. Dr. Haley said he does not see a COVID-19 vaccine happening within the next 6 months. Dr. Haley said he will look closely if any spikes happen around the football game. Dr. Haley said that wearing a mask on airplanes is important.

Dr. Haley thanked the City Council and Mayor’s office for support in their funding and the development of their new facilities. Dr. Haley talked about medical strides in health issues outside of COVID-19. He also covered the great work that UF Health has been doing in the community and awards that have been received acknowledging that work.

Questions & Answers

Senator Bean moderated questions and answers.

Dr. Amos asked about hydroxychloroquine. Dr. Haley says that it is not showing much success in studies. It has not showed that it will help to prevent COVID-19. It was given to hospital workers preventatively in the test.

Dr. Haley gave his final thoughts and said that now they have a better handle on COVID-19, but stressed using best judgement. Most important to get your flu shots, practice social distancing, and wearing your mask.

Sen Bean thanked Dr. Haley and concluded the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 1:30 p.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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10.7.20 Posted 12:00 p.m.