

For Release Tuesday 5/19/2020 3:15PM

County of Berks / COVID-19 Leadership Team Press Alert

REVISED AGENDA - *Berks Commissioner's Weekly COVID-19 Focused on Healthcare*

Reading, PA— 5/19/2020 — The Berks County Commissioners will host their weekly COVID-19 Update on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 3:30PM on Microsoft Teams Live Event. [Click here to find link to this meeting.](#) This meeting will feature reports from Penn State/St. Joes Hospital and Tower Health/Reading Hospital Doctors as well a Mental Health report from the Administrator of Berks County MH/DD. This Press Event will also be streamed Live to the Berks County [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Healthcare Report Agenda for 5/20/2020 3:30 Live Event

Welcome – Commissioner Christian Leinbach

Comments – Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt

Comments – Commissioner Michael Rivera

Introductions of the Panel – Commissioner Leinbach

Presentations from our Berks County Healthcare Partners Tower Health/Reading Hospital &

Penn State/St. Joseph's Hospital: *(The Panel will be asked each of these questions and any or all three panelists may answer. The Commissioners will take turns asking the five questions listed below)*

Debra Powell, MD Section Chief for Infectious Diseases and Medical Director for Infection Prevention at Tower Health/Reading Hospital. *Dr. Powell has been a frequent spokesperson for Tower on issues related to COVID-19 in the media and during town halls and other events.*

Dr. Michael Baxter, MD *Past Chair of Berks County Medical Society. Past Chair of Tower Health Family and Community Medicine*

Dr. Jeffrey Held Vice President of Medical Affairs at Penn State/St Joes Hospital

1. Share the Hospital's perspective on current modeling and the improvement over the past several weeks.
2. Discuss what businesses that are open should be doing and what residents should do if they believe a business is not following proper procedure.
3. Share what you believe businesses must do to prepare to open at some future date.
 - a. Where can they secure appropriate health expertise and input?
 - b. How can they know that they have an effective plan in place?
4. It is clear from Berks County Death Certificates that the Elderly and those with underlying health conditions are most vulnerable to COVID-19.
 - a. Why is that the case?
 - b. What should we do as healthcare providers, local governments, businesses and individuals to protect this segment of our population?
 - c. Will these protections need to be in place longer than protections for the general population?
5. Share any advice you have for Berks County residents in responding to COVID-19
 - a. Short-Term – The next several months
 - b. Long-Term – Fall flu season through Spring 2021. (I know this may not be possible, but it is a question we are hearing)

Dr. Edward B. Michalik Psy. D. Berks County MH/DD Administrator

1. Overall Mental Health risk relative to stay at home orders
2. Overall Mental Health risk for employees facing lay-off and loss of job
3. Overall Mental Health risk to business owners losing value and possibly losing their business

Question and Answers – Facilitated by Commissioner Christian Leinbach

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