

NEWS

For Immediate Release

December 8, 2020

Safety concerns abruptly end Central District Health Board meeting minutes into its start; meeting to be rescheduled

Tonight's Central District Board of Health meeting was forced to abruptly end less than fifteen minutes into the agenda. The adjournment was prompted by safety concerns over a large group of people protesting outside of Central District Health (CDH) headquarters and protestor activity outside the homes of at least two Board of Health members. Boise Police were on scene at CDH with an increased presence in anticipation of a large-scale protest. However, growing safety concerns required the meeting to adjourn before any discussion of the draft public health order began. At the time of interruption, Board members were hearing from Dr. David Peterman of Primary Health Medical Group.

The Board was set to discuss and consider a districtwide public health order that garnered more than 3,000 written public comments between Friday, Dec. 4 and Monday, Dec. 7 at 5:15 pm.

"We appreciate the public's interest and investment in this process, but the safety of CDH staff, our Board members and our law enforcement partners is of the utmost importance. Our community is being severely impacted by this virus and our team members and board are working tirelessly to protect our community's health. We simply ask that those who may disagree with these difficult discussion points and decisions do so in a way that is respectful and does not endanger our staff, board of health members, and our law enforcement, all who are critical in this response," said Russ Duke, District Director for Central District Health.

The Board will work to reschedule its next meeting. Once set, meeting information will be shared on the CDH Board of Health meetings page at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/about-boardofhealth-meetings.php> and a news release will be issued.

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