

# Rotary



## Club of Washington

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

**March 9, 2021**

## The Rotary Club of Washington met by Zoom

Present were: **Brad Montgomery, Tom Drewitz, Dave and Shirley Moore, Dave Hart, Mary Jo and Rich Podgurski, Dorothy Tecklenburg, Angeline East, John Hopper, Tom Uram, Park Burroughs, Bill Allison, Andy Goudy, Ken Baker, Bill and Susan Price, John Quayle, Lars Lange, Joe Piszczor, Tom Northrop, and Susan Priest. Visiting Rotarian, Stephanie Urchick, and speaker Dr. John Six**

### Pre-Meeting

Before the meeting began we were all envious of **Tom Drewitz**, who joined us from his patio, looking way too comfortable and relaxed. **Susan Price** held up a copy of the brochure on the district conference, which we all should have received. She and Bill will be running the House of Friendship. We should have a good time in the spring weather at Seven Springs from May 21 to May 23. **Stephanie Urchick** chimed in: The best way to find out what other Rotarians are doing is to visit the conference and check out the House of Friendship. Remember that attendees do not have to stay; consider a day trip to experience Rotary beyond the club. Check out the great line-up of programs on Saturday, in particular.

In regard to the personal care packages, **Dorothy Tecklenburg** said that at her recent dental visit she was given a packet with toothpaste, a toothbrush, and dental floss. She asked if she could have several, and the office gave her 20. **President Brad** said that he had overbought soap, and suggested that Dorothy combine forces with him to start new packages. Anyone with an odd lot of any item can bring it to Hicksons to be placed in combined packs.

**Dr. Six** had joined us at this point and **Dave Hart** told him that he (Dave) knew that he (Dr. Six) would be someone to watch when his second-grade substitute teacher told Dave that John was a little different and he was going to be going somewhere.

**Susan** put in a good word for Burgettstown native Dr. Lori Brown, who was featured in the Observer-Reporter recently.

### Getting Started

At this point, **President Brad** rang the bell and the meeting officially began. **Dave Hart** gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This week President Brad used a picture of the flag at Washington Hospital. As usual, **Susan Price** was ready with our back-up flag.

**Stephanie Urchick** congratulated the club for all of our community work, in particular the pavilion project, and the Family Essentials project. She asked in chat what we were gathering for the packages, and will share that with the McMurray club. She said that Rotarians have figured out how to continue to connect and serve during the time of COVID.

### Announcements

- The Dictionary Project will be delivering 667 dictionaries to 10 schools. We have about half on hand, and **President Brad** has ordered the others we will need. As soon as they arrive, look for an opportunity to volunteer to help deliver them to the schools. Remember, we will only be delivering them to the school buildings; we will not be interacting with the classes.
- The Family Essentials project continues to grow. We now have over 300 kits after the **Tecklenburgs** and **John Hopper** dropped off several. We are scheduled to deliver the kits on Monday, March 29.
- The nominating committee has selected a slate of officers. Look for an email with the nominees listed. We will vote on them later this month.

### Program: Dr. Six ...COVID19 Update

At this point **President Brad** turned the meeting over to Susan Priest, who asked **Mary Jo Podgurski** to introduce Dr. Six. **Mary Jo** said that she had known Dr. Six since he was a teenager. She said that as a 15-year-old, he showed a strong moral compass. She welcomed him to speak to the club.

**Dr. Six** said that it is now 30 years later. He was born in Washington and graduated from McGuffey High School. Most of his professional life has been in this county, and two years ago he accepted the job of Chief Medical Officer for the Washington Health System. Last year we heard from him during the spring, and we had asked him back to give us an update on WHS and COVID.

**Dr. Six** began by sharing some statistics.

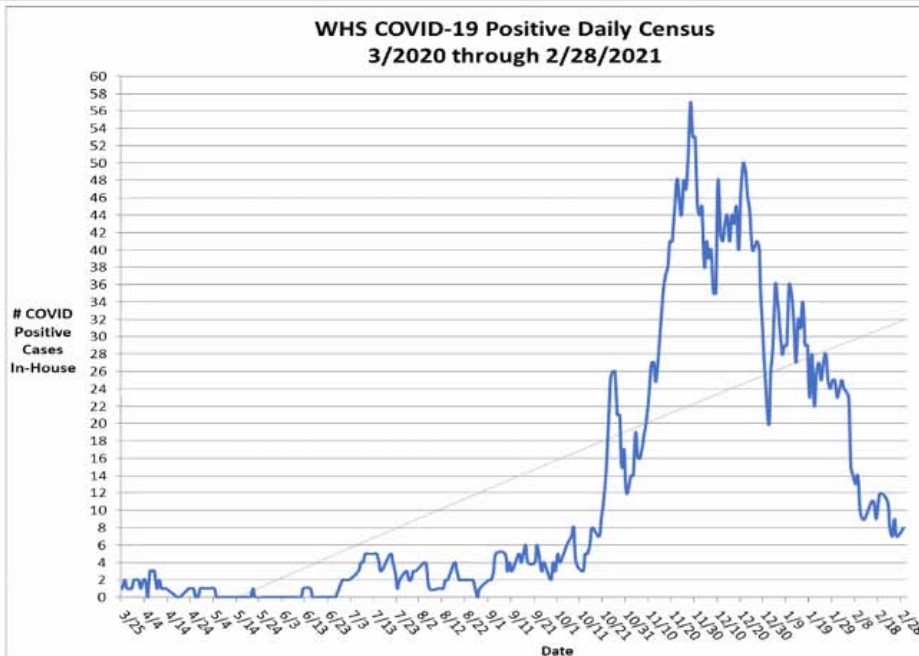
## Stats

- 2433 cumulative positive covid tests (~200/month)
  - 26 new positives in the last 1 week
- In the last 1 week, 275 BD Panther (in-house) tests
  - 22 positives
- In the last 1 week, 80 Veritor Antigen (rapid) tests
  - 4 positives (overall range 5-7% positivity rate)
- Current Covid census 7 patients
  - 1 in CCU and 0 requiring mechanical ventilation
  - Last 1 week range 7-11 inpatients; Peak 57 (late Nov 2020)
  - 835 total covid admissions (723 at TWH, 86%)
    - Average 70 admissions/month (range 16-230+/month)
    - 144 (17%) to CCU, 79 on ventilator
    - 77 deaths (74 at TWH)

# Stats

- Average covid positive age: 69 yo
- Median covid age death: 70 yo
- Average ventilator death age: 85 yo
- December 2020 busiest month for C19 admissions
  - 233 covid admissions (196 TWH [84%]/37 WHSG)
- 8 months March 2020 – October 2020:
  - 135 admissions
- 3 months Nov/Dec/January 2021
  - 609 admission

He shared a graph of Covid cases by date.



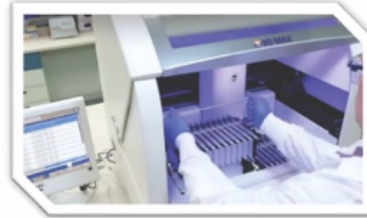
He moved on to testing. The hospital started with a BD Max machine, and then was able to add a BD Panther machine, with a TAT (turn around time) of 3 hours. The problem with this machine was that they were competing with other health systems for the necessary software and reagents. They eventually acquired them and are using this method now. The Antigen testing is used when an immediate result is needed, such as in the emergency department. This test gives results in 5 minutes.

## C19 Testing



- BD Max

- PCR – batching 10am and 6pm



- BD Panther

- PCR – continuous processing
  - 6am – 6pm; up to 1000 tests/day
  - 3 hours TAT



- BD Veritor

- Antigen based testing
  - Symptomatic and within 5 days of symptoms onset
  - 12+% false negative rate
  - follow up PCR needed



The health system is also holding Respiratory Clinics with negative pressure rooms, Covid testing, a single entry/exit. They have seen more than 700 patients to date. The clinics are located in the Neighborhood Health Center in Washington and Family Medicine in Waynesburg. They also have a clinic dedicated to pediatric cases at the system's outpatient Washington Pediatric site

Dr. Six shifted to address PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). When the pandemic first started, the hospital had a good supply of gloves and gowns and they were not an issue. This was not the case for N95 masks. They ordered a large supply early in the year, but that order was diverted by federal and state agencies to other facilities. They eventually received an additional 40,000. They also use a MaxAir, a power air-purifying respirator, which is deployed across the Health System.

Dr. Six then discussed what is being used to treat Covid.

- Remdesivir

- Broad spectrum antiviral medication
- 349 patients treated to date with Remdesivir
- IV dosing for 5 days



- Monoclonal antibodies

- Tocilizumab (Actemra)

- anti-interleukin (IL)-6 receptor monoclonal antibody
- reported to decrease disease progression and LOS
- inpatient weight based IV dosing over 1 hour
- 3 patients treated to date



- Bamlanivimab and Regeneron

- Neutralizing antibody for mild to moderate covid-19 in high-risk patients; outpatient.
- 80 patients treated to date



Coming soon... bamlanivimab 700mg & etesevimab 1400mg

# C19 Therapeutics

- Antibody Infusion Site

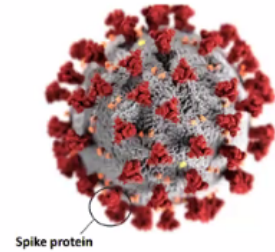
- Retrofitted a portion of Ambulatory Care with negative pressure and ICRA barriers
- RN's to infuse antibodies over 1 hour
- Outpatient procedure



Diane Clark, RN

# Pfizer-BioNTech C19 Vaccine

- Exclusive use at WHS
- mRNA vaccine
  - Encodes the prefusion spike glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Does not contain:
  - Eggs, Preservatives, or Latex
- FDA issued an EUA on December 13, 2020 for use in persons aged  $\geq 16$  years



[CDC%20pfizer-biontech-vaccine-what-Clinicians-need-to-know.pdf](#)



# Pfizer-BioNTech C19 Vaccine

- 2-dose series administered IM 3 weeks apart
  - 2nd dose within 4-day grace period (e.g., day 17-21) considered valid
  - Some early discussion about extending 2<sup>nd</sup> dose to 4-6 weeks but WHS will continue with 3 weeks for now
- Who should not get vaccinated
  - If you have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe:
    - to any ingredient in an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine
    - getting the first dose of the vaccine, you should not get a second dose of either of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.\*
  - An allergic reaction is considered severe when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or EpiPen® or if they must go to the hospital.
  - An immediate allergic reaction means a reaction within 4 hours of getting vaccinated, including symptoms such as hives, swelling, or wheezing

# Pfizer-BioNTech C19 Vaccine

- Common Side Effect

In the arm where you got the shot:	Throughout the rest of your body:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pain</li><li>• Redness</li><li>• Swelling</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tiredness</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Muscle pain</li><li>• Chills</li><li>• Fever</li><li>• Nausea</li></ul>

- Effectiveness

- Based on [evidence from clinical trials](#), the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people without evidence of previous infection.

**Dr. Six** said that the Health System began with the original 1A priorities, health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities. However, this was updated to add many more to the 1A group: individuals ages 65 and older, and those between the ages of 16-64 with certain underlying medical conditions: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), heart disease, immunocompromised state from solid organ transplants, obesity (Body Mass Index over 30), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, smoking, Type 2 diabetes. The Washington Health System has added Type 1 diabetes to this list.

The problem is that the system has far more requests than they have doses available. Since the broadening of the 1A priority list, they have received 41,352 vaccine requests. So far 9,936 have been scheduled. Total vaccines given is 20,248. They gave 4,371 last week. With enough vaccine supply they can vaccinate between 7500 and 9500 a week. He shared how the system has ramped up its response.



# Vaccination

- Rapid expansion of space and personnel
  - 64 vaccinators trained between the three Covid19 clinics
  - 133 volunteers/employees working the clinics
  - December 2020: 1492 vaccines given (average 186/day)
  - January 2021: 4506 vaccines given (average 250/day)
  - February 2021: 9904 vaccines given (average 472/day)



- Last Thursday the FDA approved a revised transportation and storage temperatures recommendation
  - allows for **storage and transportation of the vaccine in a traditional vaccine storage freezer at -25°C to -15°C** instead of the ultra-cold storage for a period of up to 2 weeks.

He also shared how the Health System is trying to return to more normal operations.

# Visitors & Staffing

- Returning staff to home departments
- Instituted employee support activities through the forYOU team:
  - Open discussion groups with clergy, EAP, peer supporters
  - Izzy
  - Massage therapy
- Re-Opened visitation for Non-COVID patients (1-25-2021)
- Visitor screening initiated (2-11-2021)
- Clergy visits reinstated (2-11-2021)
- Evaluating safe approach to limited visitation for COVID + patients



## Questions:

- **Park Burroughs** asked about the Antigen tests. They have many false negatives. Are there also false positives?
  - **Dr. Six:** There are a very small number of false positives, less than 5%
- **Dave Hart:** What are your recommendations on going forward?
  - **Dr. Six:** First, get vaccinated when you can. Second, don't let your guard down. The disease is not eliminated. Continue the use of masks, social distancing, and hand-washing. The more persons get vaccinated, and the more we can return to being outdoors, the more we can begin to relax.
- **Rich Podgurski:** What about home tests for Covid?
  - **Dr. Six:** They may be useful, but the issue is reliability. There are a number of tests being introduced and FDA oversight is focused on other problems. If you feel sure of the reliability of the manufacturer, they can be helpful.
- **Bill Allison:** Once a person has received both doses of the vaccine and more than 2 weeks have passed, can they relax?
  - **Dr. Six:** There is still the risk that the person vaccinated is an asymptomatic carrier. At present there are about 80-100,000 persons in the two counties who should be vaccinated, but are not yet protected.
- **John Hopper:** Have you seen a return to more regular medical care? Were regular medical maintenance issues postponed or ignored this past year?
  - **Dr. Six:** While he has no exact numbers, it is clear that many people postponed necessary tests, such as colonoscopies and mammograms, and A1C tests for diabetics were down. Emergency Room visits were also lower this past year. Many people seem to have put their health issues on hold over worry about exposure at the hospital or doctors' offices. Dorothy Tecklenburg spoke up. She had postponed minor surgery, but once vaccinated, she scheduled it. She feared that all the people who now felt ready for other procedures would clog the system.
- **John Hopper:** What have been the financial implications for the Health System?
  - **Dr. Six:** There is no question that there will be an impact. Costs have risen, revenue is down. Costs of PPE, and staffing stresses with extra costs replacing staff who have been ill, or had to quarantine. There has been aid from the Federal and State Governments, and he believes there will be more. The hospital in Greene qualifies for Rural Health aid. The lasting impact is yet to be determined.
- **Susan Price** had a comment rather than a question. She praised WHS for the efficiency of the vaccine process.
  - **Dr. Six** said it was the staff and volunteers who were to be congratulated.
- **Stephanie Urchick:** How are scheduling decisions made? Is it based on when the person signed up, or on the persons' conditions?
  - **Dr. Six:** Right now, the system is going by when the person signed up. In many cases, people are signing up on multiple sites. All he asks is that people cancel the unneeded slots once they have received a dose, so that others can make use of them.
- **Dave Hart:** What about travel?
  - **Dr. Six:** The key is not if you travel or where you go, but what you DO when you travel that puts you at risk; party hearty in a night spot, or spend time in the open air. For instance, when the state placed restrictions on out-of-state

travel, you could freely travel to a hot spot within the state, but be restricted if you went to a low-risk area across the state line.

- **John Quayle:** Are people who have multiple allergies more likely to suffer a severe reaction to the vaccine.
  - **Dr. Six:** Both here and in the medical literature he has not seen this. Severe reactions seem to occur in persons who are otherwise healthy.

The meeting gave applause to **Dr. Six**, and **President Brad** thanked him for the program.

The meeting ended with the Four Way Test, led by **President Brad**.

## Speakers

March 16th  
Betsie Trew  
Washington County Community Foundation

March 23rd  
Larry Maggi  
Participating in a COVID Vaccine Trial

March 30th  
Brad Montgomery  
Club Assembly

## Events

No Events found

## Club Leaders

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)  
President

[Brandi B. Miller](#)  
President-Elect

[John P. Hopper](#)  
Vice President  
Vocational Service Chair

[Lars Lange](#)  
Secretary

[Susan E. Priest](#)  
Assistant Secretary

[Robert K. Wicker](#)  
Assistant Treasurer

[David W. Moore](#)  
Treasurer

[David A. Hart](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair

[William J Mesler](#)  
Membership Chair

[Diane L. Ambrose](#)  
Club Service Chair

[Thomas C. Drewitz](#)  
Webworker

[Angeline Anyango East](#)  
Community Service Chair

[Dorothy Curley Tecklenburg](#)  
International Service Chair

[Antonio Zuloaga](#)  
Area Governor

## Club Meeting

Washington  
Meets at W & J College, The Commons  
60 S. Lincoln St.  
Washington, PA 15301  
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM