

City of Gainesville Public Health Advisory Panel

In an effort to best serve the public health needs of the people of our community in this crisis the City of Gainesville should create a Public Health Advisory Panel. This panel should be primarily focused on health (both physical and behavioral) outcomes, but should not be insensitive to the economic effects of the crisis.

This would be a public board, and would be subject to Sunshine regulations. It would also require some staff support through Clerk's office.

The question is often asked, "What problem are you trying to solve?" The simple answer is that none of us serving on the Gainesville City Commission are public health professionals. We will make better decisions for the people of our community during this crisis if we are supported by people who are.

Ideally the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and Alachua County Schools could work together on this project. Time is of the essence in putting this panel to work, and as such the Mayor (and the Chair of the BOCC and School Board if they choose to participate) should be empowered to invite and appoint the members within the following categories. Our community is blessed to have access to some of the world's foremost experts in many of these categories, and we should take full advantage of them.

Epidemiology

Virology

Emergency Medicine

Behavioral Health

Homeless Services

Public Economics

Chamber of Commerce

AFL-CIO

County Health Department

Representatives of the following should be a part of the panel as well:

Gainesville City Manager's Office

GRU General Manager's Office

Alachua County Manager's Office

Alachua County Public Schools Superintendent's Office
University of Florida
Santa Fe College

We know this is not a days or weeks problem, but one we will be solving pieces of for many months. The intent of this is *not* to solve all the problems in a short time. Rather, we are seeking guidance and advice for the long haul. As the crisis changes, the guidance and advice the commission needs may change. The foundational questions for this board regarding the crisis at hand are:

- What does our community, specifically city and/or county government, need to be doing that we need to be doing that we are not doing?
- What, if anything, is our community doing that is not effective and that should be discontinued?
- Is it useful to expand local testing and contact tracing, and if so, how can city and/or county government support that?
- What are the benchmarks for reopening public access to businesses, non-profits and government services, and what priority schedule should we eventually follow in reopening?

If the county or schools are not ready to move forward, the city should begin work with a panel regardless. If each sector mentioned is not available, the panel should move ahead. The opportunity for panel members to be added and for county and school board input should remain open.