

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes for March 09, 2021

Approved

The following board members were present: Dr. Leo Cusumano MD, Dr. Zahi Kassas MD., Dr. David Brubaker, Judy Hopkins, Legislative Representative, Timothy LaFever

Others present: Tyler Shaw, Brittney Schuld, Breeyan Barnes, County Administrator Carissa Knapp, Jami D'Arcy, Keith Hooker, Casey Jones

Members absent: Dr. Joseph Felsen, Dr. Willard Simons DDS

Medical Director Present: Dr. Christopher Depner

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Cusumano at 7:07pm.

A motion was made by Judy Hopkins to approve the December 08, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Tim LaFever. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

COVID-19 Updates are as follows:

- ACDOH has been working off a 65+ vaccine waiting list. As of Friday, 03/05/2021, there were 3,700 individuals on that list. As of 03/09/2021, all individuals on that list have been contacted and/or received the COVID-19 vaccine
- The standing order for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been approved under the EUA from the FDA and now needs final approval from the ACDOH Medical Director
- ACDOH plans to implement an 18+ waiting list that may be available on the Allegany County Website as early as next week
- Pharmacies are now permitted to provide the vaccine to individuals 60 and over, P-12 & College faculty/staff, and other providers. The Health Dept. and Hospitals are permitted to provide vaccine to anyone who is currently in a priority group and/or falls within the eligibility guidelines.
- There were 538 first doses and 78 second doses provided at the mass vaccine clinic held on 03/05/2021 at Genesee Valley Central School
- The mass vaccination site will move from GVCS to the old Kmart Plaza beginning this week, 03/12/21
- Long term planning is occurring as ACDOH would like to branch out into the communities and provide smaller clinics in town firehalls, churches, etc.
- Vaccine allocations are unknown week to week, so we are unable to make appointments available to the public until we have received the vaccine shipment

Dr. Brubaker inquired if there was an estimate of the percentage of population that has received their first vaccination and the percentage of the population that has been fully vaccinated.

Casey Jones was granted privilege of the floor. Mr. Jones stated that as of 11:00am on 03/09/2021, the NYSDOH website reported that Allegany County had provided 7,111 first doses (15.3% of the population) and 2,576 second doses. Mr. Jones stated that he has contacted NYSDOH regarding the second dose numbers, as they do not appear to include a count for the 1 dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine that has been administered. He is waiting for a response to his inquiry. Dr. Brubaker asked how the waiting list and the online appointment link are interfacing with each other and if it is advisable to choose one option of sign up over the other. Mr. Shaw stated that because the Health Department was not permitted to vaccinate the 65+ population until recently the waiting lists were shared with the local Pharmacies that were permitted to vaccinate this population. Once this population was opened to the ACDOH for vaccination a portion of the received vaccine was then allocated to individuals on the waiting list. Mr. Shaw advised that individuals should

sign up for the waiting lists, if they are eligible, as the waiting lists are shared with all vaccine providers throughout the county. However, if they are able to schedule an appointment through the online link they should utilize that option. Mr. Shaw expressed that he is hopeful to see some Home Care Agencies added to the list of vaccine providers so that homebound populations may receive the vaccine.

Judy Hopkins asked for clarification on the preparation and benefits of moving the vaccination site to the Kmart Plaza in Wellsville. Mr. Shaw explained that GVCS currently has a virtual day on Fridays, allowing ACDOH to utilize the space. GVCS is considering returning to school full time, to avoid interrupting school operations and educational opportunities ACDOH has decided to move to the Kmart Plaza which was donated for use by the L.C. Whitford Company. Mr. Shaw stated that the Kmart Plaza site will offer ample parking and the ACDOH will be looking for donations of tables and chairs to use at the site. Mr. Shaw expressed thanks and gratitude on behalf of the ACDOH to both GVCS and the L.C. Whitford Company for generously allowing use of their resources and sites. ACDOH would also like to thank MTS for volunteering their time to assist with clinics.

Dr. Kassas questioned if ACDOH will continue to receive and provide Moderna & Pfizer vaccine once the Johnson & Johnson has been provided and if there will be cross vaccination of one vaccine to another. Mr. Shaw explained that, to date, the ACDOH has received and provided only the Moderna vaccine and that ACDOH will not be cross vaccinating individuals. Mr. Shaw stated that if an individual's first dose was received from the ACDOH, they are guaranteed a second dose from ACDOH. The number of first doses allocated by NYSDOH will be matched when allocating the second dose.

Dr. Kassas inquired if travel guidance and restrictions have changed regarding reporting and quarantining and if schools were being notified, should a student need to be quarantined. Mr. Shaw stated that travel guidance hasn't changed and that travelers should be completing the Traveler Health Form and completing their quarantine period. Mr. Shaw stated that the form and travel guidance is available on the NYSDOH website and that it will be made available on the ACDOH website. Brittney Schuld, Director of Patient Services, stated that once ACDOH is notified of a need for quarantine or isolation the school liaison is contacted and notified. Depending on the time of notification, the student is either pulled from the classroom or instructed not to attend. Dr. Kassas asked if there were many cases of positive transmission within classrooms. Ms. Schuld stated that positive transmission is happening in households or in gatherings where social distancing is not practiced. Classrooms, thus far, have not been a platform for positive transmission amongst students or teachers.

Tyler Shaw, Public Health Director, reported personnel changes as follows: Jami D'Arcy has been promoted to Deputy Public Health Director, leaving the Environmental Health Director position open. An Office Aide position has been filled to assist with contact tracing. ACDOH has 2 Sanitarians that will be retiring in the next couple of months.

Corporate Compliance – There have been no compliance issues, complaints, billing errors, or reports of fraud, waste, or abuse for the county, in the last quarter.

Mr. Shaw was invited by NYSAC (New York State Association-Counties) to be a guest speaker for vaccine distribution at a NYSAC Conference. Judy Hopkins noted that Mr. Shaw was the chosen Rural Representative Speaker, amongst White House Staff and the Urban Representative Speaker from Westchester County.

Brittney Schuld, Director of Patient Services, reported that there are currently no patients being monitored under the LHCSA Program.

The Immunization Program provided 378 immunizations last quarter. Immunization and Flu Clinics continue to be held at the Belmont Clinic site as well as reinstating offsite Flu Clinics. Ms. Schuld presented the Immunization Program Sliding Fee Scales for 2021. A motion to approve the 2021 Sliding Fee Scales was made by Judy Hopkins. Motion seconded by Dr., Kassas. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Reproductive and Sexual Health Clinics have continued to be held throughout the pandemic. A total of 8.5 clinics were held last quarter. Ms. Schuld presented the Reproductive and Sexual Health Sliding Fee Scales for 2021. A motion to approve the 2021 Sliding Fee Scales was made by Dr. Brubaker. Motion seconded by Dr., Kassas. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

Ms. Schuld reported that 2020 Clinic surveys resulted in positive feedback from patients.

Due to Covid-19 and the resulting restrictions that have been placed, the ACDOH Public Health Educator has been unable to provide education within school settings.

There are currently no TB cases being monitored.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is currently monitoring 43 children. Ms. Schuld stated that at this time last year the number of children monitored was 17. This number has increased since last year because of the lower lead level monitoring requirements and shut-downs/requirements to stay at home due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Ms. Schuld reported that there was a total of 125 communicable disease reports conducted, last quarter. This number does not include COVID-19 reports. To date, Allegany County has had 12 Influenza positive individuals, 9 Influenza A and 3 Influenza B.

Accidents/Incidents/Complaints – The refrigerator located in the Ground Floor Clinic malfunctioned a total of 3 times. The 3rd malfunction resulted in vaccine exposed to a higher temperature for longer than recommended by the manufacturer. A VFC Temperature Excursion Report and an Occurrence Screen were completed, a new refrigerator/freezer has been ordered. Immunization Clinics are currently on hold until the new refrigerator/freezer units arrive, and vaccine can be ordered. Moderna vaccine was not affected as it is stored in a separate refrigerator.

Occurrence screens - 2 individuals experienced adverse reactions at Covid Vaccine PODs. One individual developed hives at the injection site, the other individual experienced confusion and dizziness. In both occurrences, reports were completed, the individuals were monitored until their symptoms subsided, and transport to the local hospital for evaluation was offered.

Jami D’Arcy, Environmental Health Director, reported that through the NYS PAUSE Hotline the ACDOH has received a total of 89 COVID-19 complaints, to date.

Ms. D’Arcy stated that there will be a drive-through Rabies Clinic on April 17, 2021, at Genesee Valley Central School.

Environmental Health staff investigated 27 lead cases in 2020, 14 of the 27 cases are still open and under investigation. This number has increased significantly from 2019, which had 4 lead investigations.

Old Business – Dr. Kassas expressed his thanks to the Health Department staff for their accessibility and devotion.

New Business – BOH Officer appointments will need to be made at the June 8, 2021 BOH meeting.

General Discussion – Dr. Cusumano stated that he is aware of other states performing drive-through vaccine clinics, is this something we could consider. Mr. Shaw stated that this is an option that is being considered for future clinics.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Judy Hopkins, motion seconded by Dr. Cusumano. **All in Favor, Motion Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Breeyan Barnes

Confidential Secretary to the Public Health Director