

Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
April 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of Directors of the Allen County Department of Health was called to order via the virtual Zoom platform, at 5:45 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following directors were present: Dr. William Pond, Dr. James Cameron, Patti Hays, Deb Lambert, Mary Hess, Dr. Thomas Dykstra.

The following directors were absent: Ted Sobol.

Dr. Pond presided over the meeting. Angie Meenagh recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Dr. Pond called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Meeting Reminder Statements from Mindy Waldron:

- Those not speaking should set their microphones to mute.
- Those not on the board or staff of the Department of Health should wait until public comments are taken after the meeting adjourns to speak.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- A motion was made by Patti Hays to approve the October 19, 2020 and the January 25, 2021 minutes.
- Dr. Cameron requested that the January 25 minutes be corrected.
- The motion to approve the corrected minutes was seconded and carried unopposed. No one abstained.

Board Appointment Reports:

Health Commissioner's Report – Matthew Sutter, MD

Dr. Sutter presented slides as well as live views from websites. Key points from the presentation follow:

- We are experiencing a slow and steady increase in COVID-19 cases.
- Allen County is coded yellow on the state advisory level map. Our positivity rate is gradually increasing, as are daily cases and hospitalizations. However, the rise is slow and may be plateauing.
- Michigan is experiencing a COVID-19 surge despite a high vaccination rate, and there is a concern about how that might impact Indiana's northern counties. The situation is being closely monitored.
- The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is paused at this time while it is investigated for safety. The pause has affected a few of our vaccination programs but has not had a huge effect. We continue with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines which are not showing significant side effects.
- There is a state mask mandate for schools, vaccine sites, and testing sites. The city has mask requirements in city buildings and businesses are establishing their own mask requirements. There are no county-level restrictions in place.

Discussion

- Patti Hays: Do we know what our rate of B-117 variant is? Dr. Sutter explained that we do not have that data.
- Dr. Cameron: Are we seeing re-infections and are those cases more severe? Dr. Sutter responded that re-infections do occur as well as breakthrough infections. Locally, those infections have not been severe. Severe cases and deaths following vaccination are extremely rare.
- Dr. Cameron: What are the current demographic trends of infection now that vaccinations are being done? Dr. Sutter replied that anecdotal reports are that most hospital admissions are in the 50 to 65 age range. There is no specific data.
- Dr. Pond: The county positivity rate has risen; has the number tested changed? Dr. Sutter explained that the number tested is roughly stable.
- Patti Hays: What is our rate of positivity for those who have been vaccinated? Dr. Sutter responded that we do not have specific data, but statistically, approximately five percent of those vaccinated will get infected; however, they tend to get a milder case.

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

Mindy Waldron provided an update on the operations of the department since the January 25, 2021 meeting. She presented slides that are available for review. Key points follow:

- Department activities: operating the COVID-19 testing site, operating the COVID-19 mass vaccination site, ensuring the remaining departmental functions continue with fewer resources, keeping the budget in line, and preventing staff burnout.
- COVID-19 PCR and rapid testing continues. PCR testing turnaround is 24 to 48 hours. Statistics presented demonstrate a slowly declining demand.
- Contact tracing is still being performed seven days per week.
- Statistics from the COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic were presented reflecting a high demand for vaccinations. A no-show rate of up to twelve percent impacts productivity, and a dedicated cancellation phone line has been established. Demand will likely wane in the next few weeks.
- Mass vaccination clinic will remain in place for approximately two more months, then we will transition service to our normal site. Super Shot clinics will be used to vaccinate children ages twelve and older when that is approved.
- The state and Parkview are planning pop-up clinics. Commercial pharmacies and some businesses are vaccinating. These activities ease demand for our clinic.
- Patient statistics were provided detailing vaccination demographics and zip code/residency totals. Vulnerable groups are being assisted to increase vaccination numbers.
- The department is grateful to the Volunteer Center, the Community Foundation, AWS Foundation, and the St. Joe Community Health Foundation for their assistance.
- 2021 federal emergency funds have not been received.
- Senate Bill 5 would impact several department processes and is being monitored.

Discussion

- Dr. Cameron: Do we lose doses of vaccine due to no-shows? Ms. Waldron responded that doses are never wasted.
- Dr. Cameron: Are there any walk-in clinics? Ms. Waldron replied that there are none now, but there may be in the future.

- Dr. Cameron: Are we planning for booster shots? Ms. Waldron replied that we do not know what the extent of our responsibility will be at this time. Dr. Sutter stated that it is premature to make plans at this time.
- Dr. Cameron: Is it possible for contact tracers ask about vaccination status? Ms. Waldron replied that they already do.
- Dr. Dykstra: What is the regular site for vaccinations? Ms. Waldron responded that it is the Medical Annex.

Consent Agenda

- Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron.
- Sewer Board Report of recent activities – Mindy Waldron.
- Motion to approve was made by Dr. Cameron and seconded. The motion carried unopposed. No one abstained.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Cameron and was seconded. The motion carried unopposed. No one abstained.

Adjournment: Approximately 6:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: July 19, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Sutter, MD
Health Commissioner



William Pond, MD
Board President