

MINUTES

June 22, 2020 ~ Health Board Meeting

Grant County Complex ~ Council Chambers

Members Present

Dr. Ihrke
Dr. Renfroe
Dr. Leighty
Chuck Poling

Dr. Bragg
Dr. Miller (via WebEx)
Dr. Pearson

Staff Present

Dr. Moore
Tara Street
Bruce Bender

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Dr. Moore shared information about COVID testing and the reasoning for testing and monitoring the spread of the virus. A brief overview of the four levels of recommendations being considered by the Health Board was provided. Dr. Pearson moved to accept these recommendations into record, 2nd by Dr. Renfroe, so moved.

The recommendations as presented:

- **Level One:** At least three weeks before the beginning of school, testing for presence of the COVID virus of all school personnel paid or volunteer.
- **Level Two:** Students who by the nature of their activities are at increased risk of contracting or spreading the virus be tested prior to the beginning of school. This high risk group includes those involved in athletics and performing arts.
- **Level Three:** All students 12 and older be tested 3 weeks prior to the beginning of the school year.
- **Level Four:** All students entering the school system be tested at least three weeks prior to the beginning of school.

Tab McKenzie, Mississinewa Community School Superintendent, inquired how many counties in the state of Indiana are making a similar recommendation. Dr. Moore responded we have not looked for that information as this is what he, as Health Officer, feels is best for Grant County. Mr. McKenzie wanted to be clear he does not have bias against testing but he is concerned about the demographics of how to make this testing happen. He inquired why the Governor, the ISDH, the DOE would not take this step but Grant County would want to stand alone in making these requirements. Mr. McKenzie questioned if this is a recommendation or a mandate and if the health department would be responsible for enforcement stating “it should not be put on the schools”.

Brett Garrett, Eastbrook Community School Superintendent, asked if EEOC had been consulted. While he feels Dr. Moore has great intent he does not feel this plan is practical. He supports the recommendation but would challenge the mandate.

Dr. Moore explained his logic behind the levels stating he presents this because he believes, from a medical and a societal point of view, we can make the schools safer.

Alan Beck, Marion School Board member, voiced his support for the testing of employees but states he does not support requiring testing of athletes as it would penalize the more impoverished members of our community.

Rob Dawson, Mississinewa Community School parent, stated while he does not have a strong opinion about testing he does value the interest of the board in the health of our children. Mr. Dawson would prefer the board require masks in school in order to alleviate the peer pressure against wearing them.

Several superintendents shared their plans to meet the CDC, Indiana Department of Education and Indiana High School Athletic Association guidelines and/or requirements.

Scott Deetz, Madison Grant School Corporation Superintendent, expressed several concerns against requiring masks in the classroom.

Sue Nicholson, Marion Community School Nurse, provided information about the In-Class re-entry guide issued by the IDOE.

After much discussion a motion was made to amend Level One to be a mandate, passed unanimously. A motion was made to amend to make Level Two a mandate, passed with a vote of 5 yea 2 nay.

Dr. Renfroe motioned to pass the mandate - **Level One:** At least three weeks prior to the beginning of school testing for presence of the COVID-19 virus for all school personnel, paid or volunteer. 2nd by Dr. Leighty, passed unanimously (pending legal review).

Dr. Renfroe motioned to pass the mandate - **Level Two:** Students who, by the nature of their activities, are at increased risk of contracting or spreading the virus be tested prior to the beginning of school. This high risk group includes those involved in athletics and performing arts. 2nd by Dr. Pearson, passed with a vote of 5 yea 2 nay (pending legal review).

Dr. Renfroe motioned to amend Level Three to read: All students grade K through 12 be tested for presence of the COVID virus at least three weeks prior to the beginning of school. 2nd by Dr. Leighty, passed unanimously.

Dr. Renfroe motioned to recommend **Level Three:** All students grade K through 12 be tested for presence of the COVID virus at least three weeks prior to the beginning of school. 2nd by Dr. Leighty, passed unanimously.

Level Four is dropped.

In summation:

The Public Health Order as passed by the Grant County Health Board (Pending legal review):

In addition to the recommendations and requirements set forth by the CDC, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana High School Athletic Association and the Indiana State Department of Health the Grant County Health Board is mandating:

- **Level One:** At least three weeks prior to the beginning of school testing for presence of the COVID-19 virus for all school personnel, paid or volunteer.
- **Level Two:** Students who, by the nature of their activities, are at increased risk of contracting or spreading the virus be tested prior to the beginning of school. This high risk group includes those involved in athletics and performing arts.

In addition to the recommendations and requirements set forth by the CDC, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana High School Athletic Association and the Indiana State Department of Health the Grant County Health Board is strongly recommending:

- **Level Three:** All students grade K through 12 entering the school system be tested for presence of the COVID virus at least three weeks prior to the beginning of school.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm

Next regular meeting August 17, 2020

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Street