

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 18, 2021

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, in the Large Conference Room (via teleconference), Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (via teleconference) Kevin Acres, Nancy Potter, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey, Jessica Rafter

OTHERS PRESENT: Jolene Munger, Interim Director; Alivia Sheffield, PH Sanitarian; Jenesse Watson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Joseph Lightfoot, Legislator

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

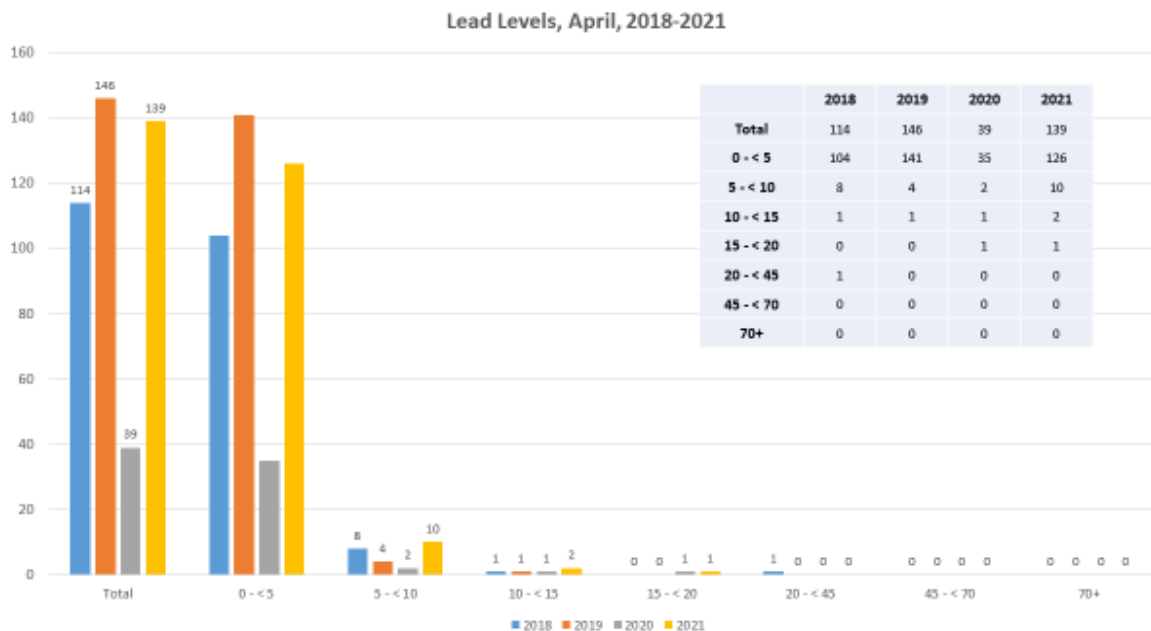
Upon motion by K Acres, and seconded by N Potter, the minutes from the April 20, 2021 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Lead Update: Alivia Sheffield

Lead level comparisons for April 2018-2021



- April 2021 there were (139) lead tests performed, compared to 2020 which was (39) tests.
- Of the (139) there were (13) elevated, which is 9% elevated.
- (10) were between 5 ug/dL and 10 ug/dL
- (2) between 10 ug/dL and 15 ug/dL
- (1) between 15 ug/dL and 20 ug/dL.

These are children under the age of 6 years.

There was a discussion of an occupational exposure and the process for these individuals and their families if they have children in the home.

Sanitarian Update: Alivia Sheffield

There are two open complaints:

- Rat and trash issue. Code Enforcement is working on this, but there are some issues with the owner getting access to the residence. The complainant is getting frustrated, but unfortunately these things take time. We are working with Code Enforcement to see maybe Public Health needs to get involved or if they can resolve the issue.
- Potential water quality issue. Tenant believes the water is unsafe to drink. Landlord has tested for E.coli and total coliforms which came back negative.

COVID-19: Jolene Munger

Cases: Average of 15 cases a day – this is up slightly.

We are seeing an increase in school cases (sports teams). We only had (4) college cases this week. Although a majority of students have gone home at this point, a lot of them have been vaccinated and the colleges have a higher vaccination rate than the county. When college resumes in the fall, all four colleges are requiring vaccination for students – Clarkson is requiring it for faculty and staff as well. No information on whether the other colleges will be requiring it faculty and staff. Vaccination will be mandatory by mid-June for those working with K12 and August for those coming back to college. We should hopefully continue to see a decline in college cases and not have any cases by the time they return.

Vaccine Clinics:

Upcoming vaccination clinics:

- Thursday, May 20, 2021 at Massena Mall – Johnson & Johnson and 2nd doses for Moderna.
- Saturday, May 22, 2021 at SLU from 9 am to 4 pm – Adolescents ages 12-17 years and accompanying family member (Pfizer 1st dose).

We have put together tentative vaccination schedules for area schools:

- Friday, May 21, 2021 in the morning, Madrid-Waddington School.
- Friday, May 21, 2021 late morning/afternoon, Norwood-Norfolk School.
- Monday, May 24, 2021 in the morning, Canton School.
- Monday, May 24, 2021 in the afternoon, Heuvelton School.
- Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at Potsdam Middle School, Parishville-Hopkinton and Colton-Pierrepont schools will be bussing their students to Potsdam.
- Wednesday, May 26, 2021, Massena School and Clifton-Fine School.
- Thursday, May 27, 2021, Brasher Falls School.
- Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in the morning, Edwards-Knox School.
- Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in the afternoon, Gouverneur School.

- Wednesday, June 2, 2021, Ogdensburg Free Academy, Morristown School and Lisbon School will be bussing their students to Ogdensburg.
- Wednesday, June 3, 2021, Hermon-Dekalb School.

This list includes all schools within the county with the exception of Hammond School who we have not heard back from yet. Once these vaccination schedules have been confirmed with the schools, a specific vaccine registration link and Parental Consent form will be sent to the schools to share with parents. Parental Consent forms will need to be returned to the school prior to the scheduled clinic. We will be recruiting vaccinators for the next 2-3 weeks (3-4 per day/ Ogdensburg 8). The schools are willing to provide a nurse for observation. We will return to the schools in 21 days to give 2nd doses. This is a big undertaking as far as volunteers, but it supports the school and families who need it, but may not have access to it. Doing clinics this way will help reduce the risk of vaccine waste.

The 2nd dose (Moderna) clinics are scheduled for Thursday, May 27, 2021, at the Hammond and Brier Hill Fire Departments, and Friday, May 28, 2021, at the Gouverneur and Heuvelton Fire Departments. Providing Moderna at the fire departments we have seen a better turn out than expected. We had (7) individuals show for the clinic at the Pyrites Fire Department and (4) at the Heuvelton Fire Department. We did see a better attendance for Moderna vaccine rather than Johnson & Johnson we provided at Norfolk, Brasher, Winthrop and Hopkinton/Fort Jackson sites.

Dr. Terrence said it was a great idea to go to the schools to help with students who have transportation issues/difficulty getting to vaccine sites. She does hope we can decentralize and begin giving the vaccine in primary care offices as well. She has discussed vaccination with parents and options on where to receive it. Some seem to ready, but thinks they would feel more comfortable getting it from their primary care doctor who they are familiar with than going to a vaccination site.

Dr. Williams shared starting next Monday, May 24, 2021, St. Lawrence Health Systems and Community Health Centers will begin having vaccine available for primary care offices. They will begin distributing about (12) doses per day to the offices located at: EJ Noble Building, Lawrence Avenue, Leroy Street, and the health centers. He will be coordinating with Claxton Hepburn Medical Center as well. For individuals having questions about vaccination they will be able to ask their pediatrician or primary care doctor.

Jolene noted the Public Health Department is still down (2) Registered Nurses. Discussed sharing immunization information with the schools to provide to the parents to let them know they should not wait to get any immunizations needed for the upcoming school year. They should connect with their primary care doctors as soon as possible. New CDC information states there is no time frame required between specific immunizations and the COVID vaccine at this point. Dr. Terrence said she is willing to help out with immunization clinics as she did last year.

Jolene shared effective tomorrow, Wednesday, May 19, 2021, New York State has adopted the CDC guidance for not wearing a mask. Guidance updates will be take place tonight on the forward.ny.gov website. We will have to check the website because they will not be sending updates out to us. If you are fully vaccinated you do not have to wear a mask. Masks will still be required for the following: nursing homes, public transit, correctional facilities, homeless

shelters and schools. If you are not vaccinated you are required to continue to wear a mask. The county is about 50% vaccinated. Individuals not wearing a mask will ultimately be on the honor system as to whether or not they are actually vaccinated. Internally, the department is preparing for a spike in cases in the next few weeks. As far as events, if you and everyone else are vaccinated, you do not have to follow the 6 foot social distancing. If vaccination status is unknown or you are not vaccinated you do have to adhere to the 6 foot guidance. Updated County Fair guidance has been released, she will forward to Ruth for consideration on our county fairs to be sure we are in line with them. Dr. Williams noted the mask wearing/not wearing will be confusing for people, as some are interpreting it differently. Jolene noted some of the questions we are being asked are “what are businesses allowed to ask” and “what are they allowed to require.”

- Businesses are allowed to continue to mandate mask wearing in their stores because they are a private business. (signs posted on entry doors)
- If they believe someone is unvaccinated and unmasked, they can ask them to leave.
- They are allowed to ask their employees if they are vaccinated.
- They can have a policy where if you show proof of vaccination you do not have to wear a mask. If you choose not to disclose, or you are not vaccinated, you do have to wear a mask, as employees.

Dr. Williams noted a challenge St. Lawrence County will have is getting past the 50% vaccination rate. The rate of vaccination had gone up rather quickly, but has now dramatically decreased. Other parts of the state have slowed down, but not nearly as fast as our county. For the age group 60+ we are at 70% vaccination, which is 1% higher than the state average, while the age group 70-79 the vaccination rate is 85%. Jolene noted we continue to provide vaccination for homebound individuals as well (60-70 so far). As they contact the office, we are adding them to the list and getting the vaccine out to them. We are also providing vaccination to the jail population if we have extra doses after a clinic. Dr. Williams noted we need to continue to provide vaccination clinics in different locations of the county to be accessible to anyone who might not be vaccinated due to inability to get to a vaccination site. Kevin noted the key now is provider’s having vaccinations available in their offices – immediate availability.

Jolene shared we have partnered with area businesses to provide vaccination: Alcoa, Corning and Bridge & Port Authority. The Alcohol Treatment Center (ATC) has reached out to us about providing vaccination to new inpatient patients twice monthly.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm.
(via teleconference)

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A