

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## September 21, 2021

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevin Acres, Dr. Gregory Healey, Nancy Potter, Jessica Rafter, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Dr. Andrew Williams, (via teleconference)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jolene Munger, Interim Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Alivia Sheffield, PH Sanitarian; Jenesse Watson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Renae Johnson, SCHN

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by N Potter, and seconded by K Acres, the minutes from the August 17, 2021 meeting were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

### **Sanitarian Update: Alivia Sheffield**

**There are (2) main open cases and (1) being followed up on:**

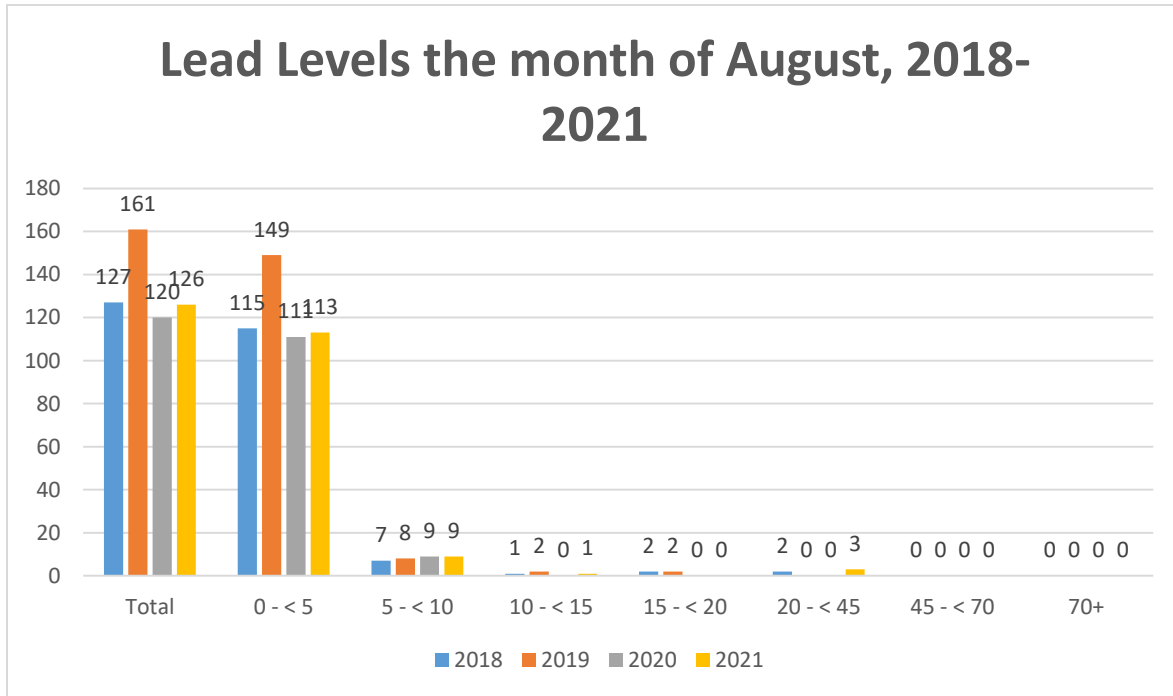
1. Complaint of septic line discharging raw sewage onto someone's property in West Stockholm. At one time there were a number of septic lines from camps hooked up to this line. The challenge will be to find out which camp is still connected. This is technically a code issue, but we will help investigate. A site visit will hopefully take place next week with Code Enforcement. If this goes to an actual law enforcement issue, code enforcement will take it to court. Will be doing a dye test on the house and request they show proof of a legal septic system that is not hooked to this line. Will update as things progress.
2. Complaint of smelly grey water discharging into their own yard, causing a nuisance to neighbors. A certified letter was sent requesting they fix the issue or contact us to come up with some correction actions. Over the next week or so a site visit will be conducted to see if they have complied with the request.
3. Complaint regarding garbage (federal housing). The housing authority will be contacted to be sure there are proper receptacles for the amount of tenants in the apartment building.
4. From last month:
  - Cockroaches due to apparent garbage inside the home - code enforcement took this.
  - Bed bug issue has been taken care of.
  - Rat issue – code enforcement took this.

\*When code takes them, complaints are kept open until we hear they have been taken care of.

**Lead Update: Alivia Sheffield**

Lead level comparisons for August, 2021.

- August 2021 there were (126) lead tests performed
- Of the (126) there were (13) elevated, which is 10% elevated
- 5 ug/dL and 10 ug/dL (9 repeat)
- 10 ug/dL and 15 ug/dL (1 new)
- 15 ug/dL and 20 ug/dL (0)
- 20 ug/dL and 45 ug/dL (3 repeat)
- (2) cases discharged
- (75) on caseload as of end of August



Percent elevated				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Post-2019, ≥ 5 µg/dL	9%	7%	8%	10%
Pre-2019, ≥ 10 µg/dL	4%	2%	0%	3%

**COVID-19: Jolene Munger – Presentation she shares with Legislators**

**Case Update: As of September 21, 2021**

- 10,119 cases
- 25 current hospitalizations
- 539 active cases; 9465 have completed isolation
- 115 cumulative deaths

### **Weekly cases**

- 516 cases this week, which is slightly down from last week
- Average new daily cases is 73.1

### **Weekly school cases**

- 141 cases (K-12) this week – total of 300 cases since September 1, 2021

### **Weekly college cases**

- 28 cases this week – these have been dropping

### **Isolation & Quarantine**

- 540 active cases on isolation
- 1070 individuals on quarantine (does not include those waiting to be contacted)

### **Monthly cases by age group: As of September 21, 2021**

- 1557 cases this month
- 32% in the 0-19 age range
- 36% in the 20-44 age range

### **Hospitalization by age group:**

- 2 for the 0-19 age group
- Most are in the 55-64 age group

### **St. Lawrence County Statistics**

- High Transmission status
- % Positivity rate = 7.4% (6200+ tests)
- CDC website: Jefferson County 8% (2000+ tests) and Lewis County 11% (500+ tests)
- % Total Population Fully Vaccinated – 52.6%
- % 12+ Fully Vaccinated = 60.4% (eligible population)
- % 18+ Fully Vaccinated = 61.7%
- % 65+ Fully Vaccinated = 81.8%

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution – SLC Public Health Department**

- First Doses Administered Overall = 6313
- Second Doses Administered Overall = 5418

During September, every Monday and Wednesday (excluding Holidays), from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, the Pfizer vaccine is available at the Public Health Department. We have also done a second round of school clinics and we have worked with the SUNY schools to help them meet the mandate.

### **Vaccine Administration (this week)**

- SUNY Canton, September 21, 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson
- Canton Central School, September 22, 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer
- Edwards-Knox School, September 23, 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer
- SUNY Potsdam, September 24, 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution – SLC Public Health Department**

- Still working on homebound population
- Working with schools and businesses for onsite clinics
- Actively planning for 5-11 age group
- Actively planning for 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine doses

\*Volunteer Transportation Center (315.714.2034) is helping with transportation needs.

## **COVID-19 Screening Testing for P-12 Schools**

- We are using Quadrant Bioscience and pooled testing (oral mouth swabs)
- Individuals who miss the pooled testing day or are only in school sporadically, we are using the Binax IDNow cards
- This will begin on September 27, 2021 with faculty/staff
- Students are starting on October 4, 2021
- ECLRS training is tomorrow (September 22, 2021) for schools (for use of Binax IDNow cards)

\*Home tests that are FDA approved are accepted by Public Health. Antigen tests are not approved to be used for symptomatic K-12 students/staff to return to school – has to be a PCR.

Discussed the current guidelines for quarantine. Individuals who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks or more past 2<sup>nd</sup> dose or one dose vaccines) the exposure must be after the 2 week period for vaccination exemption. There are no longer any exceptions for essential workers.

## **COVID-19 National Trends: Dr. Williams**

Provided a presentation on national trends, Vaccinations, COVID-19 Vaccination Misinformation, Non-Vaccine FDA Approved Treatment options, COVID-19 Mask Misinformation (links below). Discussion and questions followed.

Mask Evidence Review:

<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/4/e2014564118>

National Collaborative Studying Mask use in School settings:

<https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/masking-in-schools-the-abc-science-collaborative-provides-clarity-on-questions/>

New Randomized Controlled Trials demonstrating mask efficacy in a community setting:

<https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2021/09/surgical-masks-covid-19.html>

Understanding Social Media / Misinformation:

[https://252f2edd-1c8b-49f5-9bb2-cb57bb47e4ba.filesusr.com/ugd/f4d9b9\\_b7cedc0553604720b7137f8663366ee5.pdf](https://252f2edd-1c8b-49f5-9bb2-cb57bb47e4ba.filesusr.com/ugd/f4d9b9_b7cedc0553604720b7137f8663366ee5.pdf)

COVID-19 Data Science (Careful analysis and response to social media misinformation):

<https://www.covid-datascience.com/>

## **Officer Election Discussion:**

This was not discussed.

## **OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS**

N/A

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Walk with a Doc Update: Jolene Munger**

There were 16 individuals in attendance at the last walk

October 3, 2021 in Potsdam

November 6, 2021 – Fort De La Presentation in Ogdensburg

December 4, 2021 in Massena

We are working on getting a new medical examiner. Dr. Livingstone will be coming back. We are working with Dr. Lapoint who is with St. Lawrence Health and it would be beneficial to have him on board – we are working on a contract. A current contract with Monroe County has expired and we are in the process of renewing. We are sending cases to Twin Tier Pathology in Binghamton, they have noted the volume is a little high for what they are able to keep up with.

Coroner information requested by Joe Lightfoot will be provided at a later time as he was not in attendance tonight.

She and Renae are working on preschool transportation. First Student will be gone after next summer. There are a few school districts who are providing this transportation and we are working on getting contracts with them. This will be cost saving to contract with the school districts due to rates. They are in discussions with the schools regarding staffing and hopefully next year there won't be any staffing challenges as monitors are required on the buses.

Kevin shared County Administrator, Ruth Doyle, did a poll of county employees regarding mask mandate – she received 450 responses out of 800+ employees – outcome was 52% to 47% against employing a mask mandate. Jolene noted the Public Health Department has gone back to wearing masks in our office – as an Article 28 clinic, certain parts of our office masks are required. Dr. Williams noted, as the Board of Health, he suggested a member vote on sending recommendation, based on our thoughts, about what should be done for mask wearing.

Letter would be proposed based on CDC recommendations, if you are in a high or sustained transmission status, masks should be worn indoors. He feels people are ignoring this. Noted this is not something that is mandated by the NYSDOH. Letter would read: the Board of Health is recommending at this time that surgical masks be worn indoors by county employees. Kevin asked about more information on mask wearing. \*See links above. Noted the Board of Legislators have been polled a couple of times regarding mask wearing for county employees and it has been voted down each time. Jolene noted there have been complaints of staff refusing to wear masks when going into homes and this recommendation by the BOH should not be just for county buildings, but anywhere indoors, etc. for county employment.

**Upon motion by Dr. Healey, seconded by Dr. Terrence, and unanimously carried, members agreed to submit a letter to the County Administrator recommending mask wearing for county employees in county buildings, on home visits, and any other places their work requires them to go.**

Dr. Williams will do a letter and discuss with Ruth.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

N/A

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

N/A

#### **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm.**

#### **ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP**

N/A