

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 15, 2022

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center (via teleconference), Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Jolene Munger, Interim Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Renae Johnson, SCHN; Jenesse Watson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Amber Sheppard, Coordinator of QA&I; Anne Marie Snell, Health Initiative

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andrew Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by K. Acres, and seconded by K. Terrence, the minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Marie Snell, Health Initiative was in attendance. She assists the Public Health Department with the Community Health Improvement Plan and with the Bridge to Wellness Coalition and there is a lot of great work happening still. Hopes to be able to attend the Board of Health meetings on a regular basis.

Sanitarian Update: Jolene Munger

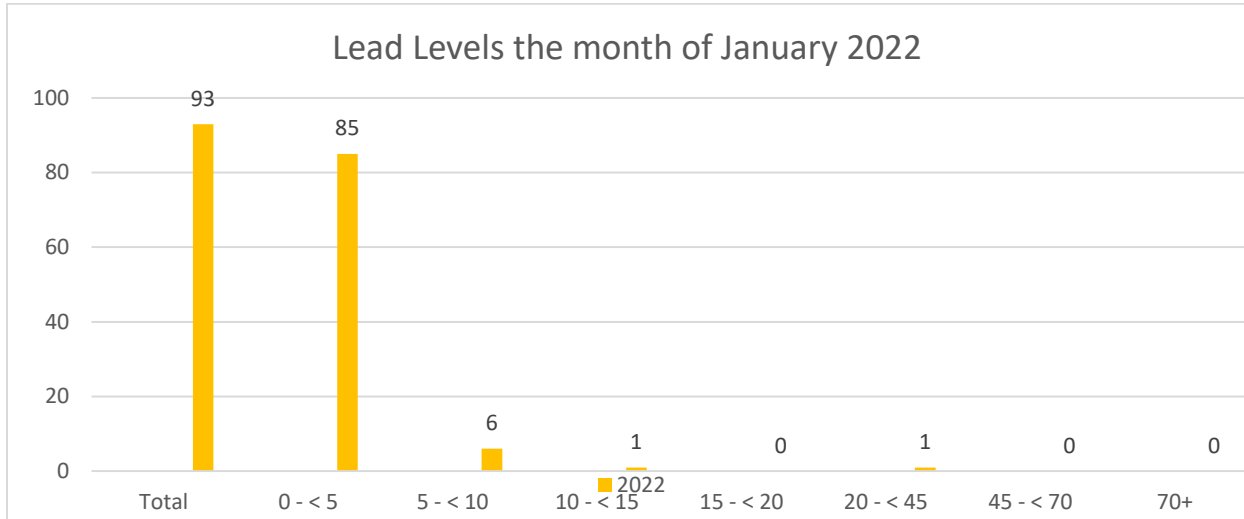
There were (4) calls in January

1. Call from home owner we previously had done a dye test on last fall and noted issues. He wanted us to return, noting the company he hired did not find any issues. We do not repeat dye tests once there is a positive result. Individual referred to Code Enforcement.
2. Landlord/Tenant issue with garbage throughout house – responsibility of the tenant to remove garbage. Landlord referred to Code Enforcement and housing agency.
3. Complaint of rats in trailer after landlord “fixed” sewage issue and left a hole in the floor. Individual referred to Code Enforcement to evaluate the situation.
4. Complaint from tenant regarding a leaking ceiling. Spoke to landlord and Code Enforcement with concerns of water/sewage leaking. Code Enforcement stated it is water and they are working with landlord to have it rectified – enforcement action with landlord may take place.

Jolene shared receiving calls regarding banks requiring water testing for home mortgages. We do testing if there is an issue, but these calls are being referred to Life Science Laboratories, Inc. (testing) in Waddington.

Lead Update: Jolene Munger

- January, 2022 there were (93) lead tests performed
- Of the (93) there were (8) elevated, which is 8.6% elevated
- (78) on caseload as of February 11, 2022.
- 20 ug/dL and 45 ug/dL (1) – on caseload since July, 2021 – followed monthly. Home renovations ongoing – the DOH district office is monitoring environmental piece.



Percent elevated		
	2022	
Post-2019, ≥ 5 µg/dL	8	8.6%
Pre-2019, ≥ 10 µg/dL	2	8%

Jolene noted no guidance has been received on the new CDC regulations as of yet. We are staying steady with our tests – not much has changed. Shared the Public Health Department received the new Lead Grant - includes an extra \$13,000 per year/5 years.

COVID-19: Jolene Munger – slide presentation

Case Update: As of February 15, 2022

- 26,604 cases to date
- 15 current hospitalizations
- 364 active cases, 26,067 completed isolation
- 173 cumulative deaths

Hospitalizations:

- Daily reports include COVID-19 and Incidental COVID-19 cases.
- Hospitalizations are starting to decline.

Weekly Cases:

- These are going down.
- For the last week we have had 672 cases, compared to 955 cases the week before.
- We are still higher than in November, 2021 but we are back down to where we were for some of the December, 2021 rates.

Daily Home Tests: February, 2022

- These have slowed down.
- Under/around 40 tests reported per day.
- Schools will be sending test kits home for students to test prior to return from winter break.

Average New Daily Cases per Week:

- This last week we were at 96 cases per day – lowest we have been this year.
- Last week was 136 cases.
- The prior week was 177 cases.

Weekly school cases: As of February 15, 2022

- These are the cases we know about. A lot of individuals are not answering their phones.
- 112 cases per week for school.
- February – 523 cases. This is a big change from January which was 2,020 school cases.

Weekly college cases:

- Trending downwards.
- Last couple of weeks – about 40 cases per week.

Monthly Cases by Age Group:

- January – total of 6,973
- 33% of cases in 0-19 age range
- 39% of cases in 20-44 age range
- February date – total of 1,865
- 29% of cases in 0-19 age range
- 37% of cases in 20-44 age range
- 13% of cases in the 45-54 age range

Hospitalizations by Age Group:

- January – 121 total
- 26% of cases in 65-74 age range
- February to date – 43 total. We began splitting COVID-19 and Incidental cases.
- 25% of cases in 65-74 age range

Vaccination Status of Hospitalizations: As of February 15, 2022

- 43 total hospitalizations (COVID-19 and Incidental)
- 17 not vaccinated (39.53%)
- 26 vaccinated (60.47%)
- New COVID-19 Dashboard shows a breakdown of cases.

St. Lawrence County Statistics: As of February 15, 2022 (per CDC)

- High Transmission
- Positivity rate – 7.78%
- Total Population Fully Vaccinated – 60%
- Total Population at Least 1 Dose – 63.9%
- Total Population \geq 5 years of age *Eligible Population – 63.2% (67.2% = 1 dose)
- 12+ Fully Vaccinated – 66.5% (70.7% = 1 dose)
- 18+ Fully Vaccinated – 67.3% (71.6% = 1 dose)
- 65+ Fully Vaccinated – 85.2% (90% = 1 dose)

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution:

- First doses administered overall: 7,737 (age 5-11 - 1,032)
- Second doses administered overall: 6,911
- Booster doses administered overall: 3,748

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics: Public Health Department (currently for February, 2022)

- Every Monday and Friday from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
 - Pfizer 12+ - 1st, 2nd, and Booster doses
- Every Tuesday from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
 - Moderna 18+ Booster Clinic
- Johnson & Johnson Single and Booster Doses
 - Tuesday, February 8th from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
 - Monday, February 21st from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Pediatric Clinics (5-11)
 - Every Monday, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 - Every Friday, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

We will evaluate our clinics for March, 2022. We may either reduce timeframes for the clinics or schedule less days per week. We continue to provide boosters for homebound individuals and inmates at the jail when needed.

Updated Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Processes: Effective January 19, 2022

- Contact tracing has shifted to personal responsibility. Individuals testing positive should notify close contacts. If close contacts meet the criteria for quarantine, they should remain at home and visit our website for an Affirmation of Quarantine.
- Case investigations are still occurring. Individuals will receive an isolation order through Public Health or they can visit our website for an Affirmation of Isolation.

The changes have gone smoothly from our perspective. The first week was a little confusing for the public, but things have smoothed out. The VCC (Virtual Call Center) are reducing their staffing by 40% at the end of the month statewide. This should coincide with our caseload, as they will be assigned based off county percentages of cases coming in.

COVID-19 Home Test – What to Do:

There is an online form for submission of positive home tests. If an individual calls and is unable to submit online, the information is taken over the phone and logged in.

Jolene shared there will be drive-thru event on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at the St. Lawrence County Jail. The county will be providing a “COVID-19 Supply Bag” to include home tests, hand sanitizer, cloth/KN95 masks and thermometer. Also included in the bag will be a double-sided flier with information on what to do “If you test positive for COVID-19” and are “Waiting for your COVID-19 Test Results?”

Presentation by Dr. Williams: Slide Presentation

COVID-19 National Update; COVID-19 New York State Update; COVID-19 – St. Lawrence County Update; COVID-19 Hospitalization Patterns -OMICRON; COVID-19 – Vaccine Effectiveness; COVID-19 – Vaccination Update – NYS vs. SLC; COVID-19 – New Data on Vaccine-Induced Immunity; COVID19 – Understanding Immunity; COVID-19 – Vaccine Updates; Influenza Update – “Twindemic”?; COVID-19 – Implications of Public Health

Strategy; COVID-19 – “Protect the Vulnerable”; COVID-19 – Mask Effectiveness Update; COVID-19 – Regulatory/Mask Mandates; The ROAD Ahead...A discussion followed.

Kevin mentioned the discontinuing of posting the township maps. Jolene noted the maps will end on Friday, February 18, 2022 (provided by the Planning Office). Public Health will continue to do the data management for the statistics now provided on the new COVID-19 dashboard – which is a little more work than prior reporting.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Jolene shared the Governor has extended state of emergency for another 30 days, which extended the open meeting act to be able to have meetings via zoom – the new expiration date is the day after the March 15, 2022 Board of Health meeting. Per the County Attorney, we will return to in-person meetings because of the nature of our board. Dr. Williams noted this will be discussed prior to the next meeting on how members feel about in-person meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 7:43 pm. All non-members were excused.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A