

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

April 19, 2022

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, (via teleconference) Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey, Jessica Scillieri Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Kindra Cousineau, PHN; Renae Johnson, SCHN; Amber Sheppard, Coordinator of QA&I; Anne Marie Snell, Health Initiative; Justin Rose, Potsdam/Community; Lisa Criscitello, Assemblyman Walczyk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by K. Acres, and seconded by N. Potter, the minutes from the March 15, 2022 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

COVID-19: Renae Johnson – slide presentation

Case Update: As of April 19, 2022

- 30,085 cases to date
 - New cases 4/19/22: 98
- Current hospitalizations: 15
- 353 active cases, 29,658 completed isolation
- 185 cumulative deaths

Hospitalizations:

- 20 week of April 12, 2022
- 15 week of April 19, 2022
- Up for about 3 weeks – trending down.

Weekly Cases:

- End of March – 1st week of April – 392 cases.
- 2nd week of April – 462 cases.
- April 13th to April 19th – 513 cases.

Daily Home Tests: April, 2022

- Still receiving a significant amount home tests.
- Averaging about 33-38 per day.
- Yesterday (April 18th) 27 home tests – lowest this month was 14 home tests.

Average New Daily Cases per Week:

- This week we were at 73 cases per day.
- Last week was 66 cases per day.
- End of March/beginning of April was 56 cases per day.
- Trending up, but not near our peak.

Monthly Cases by Age Group:

- **March** – total of 1,429
- 27.78% of cases in 0-19 age range
- 36.18% of cases in 20-44 age range
- 15.40% of cases in 45-54 age range
- **April to date** – total of 1,232
- 15.42% of cases in 0-19 age range
- 40.99% of cases in 20-44 age range
- 12.74% of cases in 45-54 age range
- 14.37% of cases in 55-64 age range

Hospitalizations by Age Group:

- March – 46 total with 20 for COVID-19
- 26.09% of cases in 65-74 age range
- 26.09% of cases in 75-84 age range
- April to date – 55 total.
- 10.7% of cases in 75-84 age range
- 27.6% of cases in 85+ age range

Vaccination Status of Hospitalizations: April

- 55 total hospitalizations
- 18 not vaccinated (32.73%)
- 37 vaccinated (67.27%)

Numbers include hospitalizations for COVID-19 and Incidental admissions.

St. Lawrence County Statistics: As of April 19, 2022 (per CDC)

- High Transmission Rate
- High Community Level
- Positivity rate – 8.3%
- Total Population Fully Vaccinated – 61%
- Total Population at Least 1 Dose – 64.6%
- Total Population \geq 5 years of age *Eligible Population – 64.2%
- 65+ Fully Vaccinated – 85.9%

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution:

- First doses administered overall: 7,796 (age 5-11: 1,047)
- Second doses administered overall: 6,961
- Booster doses administered overall: 4,070
- Additional Booster doses: 90

Adults age 50 and older and some immunocompromised individuals are now eligible to receive an additional (second) booster of Pfizer or Moderna at least 4 months after their first booster. SLCPH began providing additional boosters following the NYSDOH guidance provided on 4/1/2022.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics: Public Health Department – April, 2022

- Mondays 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
 - Moderna (18+): 1st, 2nd, and booster; **50+ can receive additional booster**
 - Pfizer (12+): 1st, 2nd, and booster; **50+ can receive additional booster**
 - Pediatric Pfizer (5-11 year olds): 1st and 2nd dose
- Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
 - Pfizer (12+): 1st, 2nd, and booster; **50+ can receive additional booster**
 - Pediatric Pfizer (5-11 year olds): 1st and 2nd dose
 - Janssen (18+): Single dose and booster

Renae noted we have seen a significant uptick in our clinics since the announcement of the 2nd booster being available, which came at the same time our positive case numbers began to rise.

CDC Risk Levels:

Level of Community Transmission – Level of Transmission Risk based on:

- New cases per 100,000 in past 7 days
- Percentage of positive NAATs tests during the past 7 days

COVID-19 Community Levels – Focus on severity of disease based on:

- New cases per 100,000 in past 7 days
- New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day total)

Local COVID Stats are no longer updated daily and posted to the website. Updates are provided on Mondays and Thursdays. *Percent positive DOES NOT include home tests.

Update to COVID-19 Work:

- NYSDOH is ending the COVID-19 virtual contact tracing program on April 28, 2022.
- SLCPH has contracted state nurses through June 30, 2022 who will continue working on case investigations.

Presentation by Dr. Williams: Slide Presentation

COVID-19 National Trends; COVID-19 Community Levels; COVID-19 Community Levels Maps; COVID-19 Variant Trends; Challenges.

Kevin noted a resolution passed to accept grant funding for lab fees for testing water samples. What will the data be used for. Renae didn't have any information at this point, she will discuss with Jolene when she returns on Thursday what actions the Public Health Department will do with the data. Noted the samples we have been receiving from Massena has only been for a short period of time. The State is looking at doing data analysis of the samplings they receive statewide and each county will receive this data. This process is in the early stages, so we are looking at the other trends. Dr. Williams noted there will be a broader discussion on this.

Sanitarian Update: Kindra Cousineau

Calls for March:

1. Garbage/rat complaint in Town of Brasher – Code Enforcement to follow up.
2. Anonymous complaint of tenants not following no smoking rules of the facility – Code Enforcement/Potsdam.
3. Complaint re: Business/Gouverneur spraying something on the ground to kill weeds and it was running onto their property and killing her plants. NYSDOH only regulates what

- happens inside the restaurant – contacted the restaurant, ground is currently covered in snow. They contract with a company for this spraying, this is not done by employees.
4. Inquiry on how to condemn a property - referred to Code Enforcement/Ogdensburg.
 5. Sewage complaint/rental property in Town of Canton – Code Enforcement to follow up.
 6. Rats/garbage complaint/abandoned house and rats going into yards of neighbors – Code Enforcement/Ogdensburg.
 7. Water inquiry looking for company to bring water for portable tank. Referred to NYSDOH for more options.
 8. Mold complaint w/pictures – at Bob’s Motel – Code Enforcement Massena.
 9. Water sample – checking on results to provide products during Maple Fest – NYSDOH.
 10. Septic inquiry re: apartment over garage – Code Enforcement.
 11. Air quality/mold complaint/property owner (Louisville) – had flooding last spring, dealing with insurance company to fix issues. Reports white particles/dust coming from vents, wants PH to test. PH does not have the means to test, nor does the NYSDOH, but they did provide links to companies who can evaluate, etc. Information emailed.
 12. Bed bugs/tenant complaint (Hammond) – recommended she contact landlord to discuss. Bed bug information emailed.
 13. Safety concerns – landlord/tenant issue – Code Enforcement Massena.
 14. Water quality inquiry (Gouverneur) – Construction Company regarding regulations for replacing water tower. Referred to NYSDOH.
 15. Septic/Owner – looking for records of location of septic tank on property. Suggested she contact the town to see if they had any information.
 16. Garbage complaint re: neighbor/family throwing garbage out front door – Code Enforcement Lisbon.
 17. Other – Facility (Potsdam) looking for advice regarding tenant cleaning with multiple cleaning products and causing health issues with other tenants. Suggested facility provide education to all tenants regarding mixing of cleaning products.

Kevin suggested creating/posting a list of categories/issues individuals may have, along with their local Code Enforcement Officer information vs. what issues the NYSDOH District Office in Canton should be contacted for.

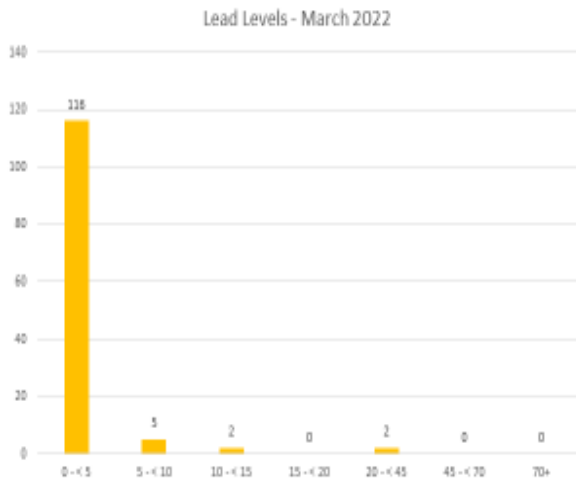
Lead Update: Kindra Cousineau

- March, 2022 there were (125) lead tests performed
- Of the (125) there were (9) elevated, which is 7.2% elevated
- (79) on caseload as of April 5, 2022.
- (2) discharges
- 20 ug/dL and 45 ug/dL (2 total)
 - 7 year old on caseload since 2018 with original BLL of 68, which has been slowly declining – currently in HUD safe housing.
 - 8.5 year old whose BLL has been slowly decreasing since September, 2021. The home has undergone renovations and family is working with the NYSDOH Environmental to safely abate what lead hazards may be left in the home.

Miranda provided a lead presentation to the Community Health Center of the North Country to encourage lead testing at ages 1 and 2 – lead rates are at 40% testing for 1 and 2 year olds.

Dr. Terrence shared a barrier is that testing is ordered, but not being followed through with. Noted they need to continue to work on getting point of care testing in the offices – feels this would bring these numbers up. NYS recommendation is all children need to be tested at ages 1 and 2. She noted the PHD has done a great job of educating. Dr. Williams noted the Community Health Center has begun point of care testing.

Lead Update March 2022



125 total tests for the month of March – of those 9 were considered elevated (7.2%).

79 Active cases as of 4/5/2022.
2 Discharges.

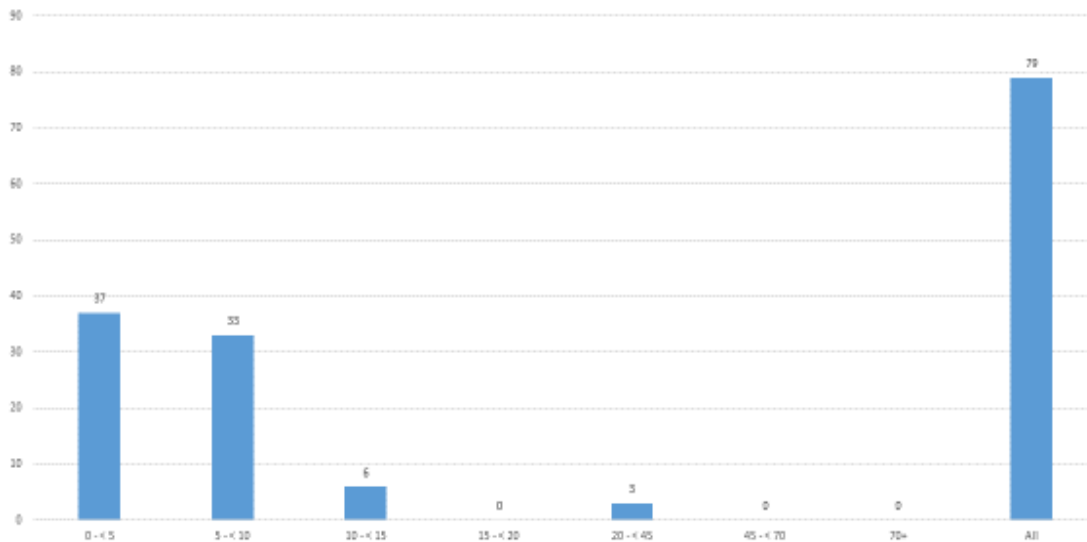
Provided presentation to Community Health Center of the North Country Office to encourage lead testing at ages 1 and 2.

Percent Elevated		
2022		
Post-2019, $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$	9	7.2%
Pre-2019, $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$	4	3.2%

*The above graph represents children tested for the month of March – it is only a snapshot of children in the LPPP who were re-tested or tested for the first time during March.

*The graph below shows the active caseload of children enrolled in the LPPP – not all children in the program are tested monthly.

Current Active Cases (as of 4/5/2022)



Flu Update: Kindra Cousineau (as of April 16, 2022)

Flu Season 2021-2022:

- October, 2021 – 4 cases
- November, 2021 – 6 cases
- December, 2021 – 270 cases
- January, 2022 – 207 cases
- February, 2022 – 75 cases
- March, 2022 – 215 cases
- As of April 17, 2022 – 179 cases

2021: January to April

- January, 2021 – 11 cases
- February, 2021 – 2 cases
- March, 2021 – 154 cases
- April, 2021 – 0 cases

2020: January to April

- January, 2020 – 372 cases
- February, 2020 – 1021 cases
- March, 2020 – 419 cases
- April, 2020 – 11 cases

2019: January to April

- January, 2019 – 252 cases
- February, 2019 – 247 cases
- March, 2019 – 346 cases
- April, 2019 – 165 cases

Link sent to members prior to the meeting as of April 9, 2022.

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/2021-2022/flu_report_current_week.pdf

This is the updated report received during the meeting as of April 16, 2022.

https://apps.health.ny.gov/pub/ctrldocs/alrtview/postings/NYSDOH_Weekly_Flu_Rpt_20220416_16504_03263930_0.pdf

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

Public Health Annual Trainings:

Renaë reminded members the annual trainings need to be completed and sent back to Shannon. Dr. Williams requested these be emailed to members again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A