

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 20, 2020

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, in the Large Conference Room (via teleconference), Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey

OTHERS PRESENT: Dana Olzenak McGuire, Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant; Jolene Munger, Deputy Director of PH; Alivia Sheffield, PH Sanitarian

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 J. Scillieri Smith, the minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Lead Update: Alivia Sheffield

There were four (4) new cases – three (3) under 10 µg/dL and one (1) was 17 µg/dL. She has attempted to make contact with the parents. There were seven (7) retests – four (4) below 5 µg/dL and one (1) above 10 µg/dL

Sanitarian Update: Alivia Sheffield

Issue #1

There seems to be calls every other day regarding rat issues. Particularly in the Unionville/Potsdam area, but also noted significantly in South Colton, Gouverneur and Ogdensburg areas. There is not a lot of documentation on this issue – we can just provide education. Noted an interesting connection with rats and the COVID-19 pandemic – early data on the global emergence of rats in response to social distancing.

Issue #2

We have some reports of mold issues – education has been provided.

Issue #3

There is a septic issue in Massena – lots of individuals are involved. A site visit with Code Officer and Department of Health is planned to get the issue resolved. Dana noted there are two (2) cases of constituents going to the attorney general - neighbor dispute.

Dana shared the public health department approves a whey spreading permit for Losurdo Foods. They want to add a farm to this permit – KAPO farm. Alivia has received a lot of information from Dawn Howard who is helping us with the process. An analysis of the soil will need to be

done. Kevin noted the KAPO planner for the farm should be contacted – put the responsibility on the farm and the planner.

2019 novel Coronavirus: Dana Olzenak McGuire

There are currently 365 cases. As of yesterday there were 19 new cases – 3 more today. That's a total of 22 cases since last Wednesday. There were 2 cases for other counties. Students from other colleges that come home are counted where they were at the time of testing positive.

This past weekend was challenging. Due to an event at a church, there were more than 80 individuals who had to be contacted and quarantined. The diocese was contacted on Sunday and advised that it was important that they follow the guidelines regarding mask wearing and social distancing. The colleges have remained quiet – we have had a few cases, but have been able to keep the numbers down. Colleges are doing well.

K12 toolkit guidelines are quite a challenge. Students experiencing symptoms are being sent home and cannot return to school until they see a provider for an alternate diagnosis or get a test. There are some parents who want to have their child tested instead of going to a primary care provider due to not being able to get in to see someone within the 48 hour timeframe. We do have a pediatric urgent care in place. According to the guidelines, if diagnosis/results are not back with the 48 hour timeframe, we would have to begin contact tracing and mark the student as a case. We have moved the timeframe to 5 days as results are taking longer than 2 days.

There was a discussion on how school communication was confusing to parents. They are confused on what happens after the 48 hours and believe they have to quarantine for 14 days. Kids can return to school after a negative test result and as long as symptoms are improving and are fever free. Dana noted at the 48 hour mark the school submits a form regarding students that have not been seen by a primary care provider and/or awaiting results. From the time of testing, we give 5 days – they cannot return to school until the results are back. We let the school know when the results are back and the student can return to school. If after the 5 day mark we still have no test results, we will consider them positive and being contact tracing. We are staying in contact with the school nurses and families. We are working with area providers who are telling parents the students need to be tested prior to an in office visit – suggesting they provide telehealth visits. It was noted FaceTime is sometimes used. The pediatric urgent care has been seeing about 30 kids per day – there have been 5-7 telehealth visits per day. Dr. Terrence will reach out to Kid's Corner.

Dr. Williams noted 3000 rapid tests have been done. There was a good system going on receiving tests every 2 weeks. Abbott reported this guaranteed delivery has been diverted elsewhere – the new manufacturing plant has an issue and there is no word on when we will get more tests. Discussed antigen testing process and some issues.

There was a discussion regarding different options for testing and the availability of testing machines at CPH.

It was noted the next challenge will be vaccination. Discussed the vaccines available and the concerns regarding the refrigeration and temperature requirements.

Dana discussed the positive case in the Amish community. She did a site visit today. She provided thermometers and the isolation order. This family had a bad experience at CHMC. She also spoke with a Bishop from the community.

There was discussion of the availability of the flu vaccine in area pharmacies (Kinney's, Walgreens and Rite Aid). It was noted the Community Health Center has shots available. The only place for over age 65 individuals is Rite Aid in Massena.

Kevin encouraged Dana and the public health department staff to keep up the good work. We are doing as well as a county could do. Dana noted the staff has really taken this response on and are working very hard and collaboratively – many are taking their laptops home to do contact tracing at night. Dana thanked Dr. Terrence for helping with coverage of the vaccine clinics.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm. (via teleconference)

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A