

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
February 16, 2021

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, in the Large Conference Room (via teleconference), Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

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 January 19, 2021 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Lead Update: Alivia Sheffield

There were (116) lead tests performed this month. Of these tests, (5) were greater than 5 µg/dL, with (5) being between 5 µg/dL and 10 µg/dL (5.3, 8, 5, 5.9, 5)

Sanitarian Update: Alivia Sheffield

There are a lot of water quality tests coming up. She continues to provide education and resources. Currently looking into a case of individuals who lives across from a farm who believes this is the source of the well contamination (E.coli). Looking to find a resource for this situation.

There has been a bed bug and cockroach issue that was an easy fix with the landlord.

Dr. Williams asked what the amount of lead testing is at this time. Alivia will check for the next meeting. Dr. Terrence noted testing should be increased due to kids spending more time indoors and eating things they should not be. This could increase the number of tests overall. Feels this would be something to do in the office all at once (Point of Care testing).

COVID-19: Dana Olzenak McGuire

There had been a decrease in cases, but this past week they have increased. Our average number of cases in the first weeks of January was 80-85. From the middle of January until this time in February we have had an average of 50 cases – there have been some days with spikes up to 70-80 cases per day.

This is the 5th week we have been providing vaccines. We have been allocated 200 doses in the first few weeks – more recently 300-400 doses. The focus is still the 1b Essential Worker population (EMS, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, Teachers/K12 and College) – restaurants and grocery stores were added last week and individuals with comorbidities began this week. While we received an increase in allotment, 200 doses for each population (1b and Comorbidity/OPWDD), the state tells us who we need to vaccinate. In the last three weeks we have received a supplemental allotment for these groups (OPWDD and 65+). We have 130 doses to use from the previous weeks left from our OPWDD supplemental allocation, which includes individuals who live or worked in OPWDD homes and those who live in their own home. We had planned a clinic at SLU for Thursday, but we did not receive our vaccine this afternoon due to the weather, so we have moved the clinic to Saturday to allow for the vaccine to arrive and for individuals to register. Each week the vaccine usually arrives on Tuesday so we generally schedule clinics for Thursdays and Fridays.

Our first clinic giving 2nd doses of vaccine (200) at the jail will be Thursday and Friday (Feb 18 and 19). We will be back at SLU for Saturday (tentatively over 500 doses if our allocation arrives). Our supply is still low and we are guided by the state on who we can provide vaccine to. The State sites are able to vaccinate any of the populations – we are not able to vaccinate individuals 65+ at this point (except when a supplemental allocation for this group is received).

Jessica R. noted there was a miscommunication at the pharmacies regarding individuals with comorbidities – they believe they can receive vaccinations from the pharmacies, but at this point pharmacies can only give vaccinations to individuals 65+.

There was a discussion surrounding school sports being able to take place. Though some members had differing opinions on the risks involved, they were able to share and discuss their individual thoughts and concerns on this subject.

Dr. Williams noted Dana is leaving shortly and that she will be missed. Dana noted her goal is to have all the vaccine clinics going well. Kevin shared she will be greatly missed (and so will Marcella, her daughter), and she has done a tremendous job. Also noted the Board of Legislators appreciates her guidance in this matter. Thanked Dana for everything she has done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm.
(via teleconference)

ACTIONS ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

1. Alivia will check for amount of lead testing being done at this time.