

Regular Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 3/31/21

Attendance:

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Jeff Fore
JD Stewart
Dr. Brian Miller
Brienne Satorius

Guests:

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at about 6:04 p.m. with a roll call vote. With six members answering the roll call, a quorum was established.

II. On a roll call vote, the minutes circulated were approved with six voting aye.

III. Dr. Brian Miller was welcomed warmly by the other members. Dr. Miller introduced himself briefly.

IV. New cases seeing a bit of an uptick, like Sangamon. Testing for COVID-19 has changed as the state will not be supplying mobile testing teams any longer. Health care providers are the primary testing agents now. There may be a program from U of I and their Shield saliva tests. We are awaiting developments on the UI Shield testing program. This is PCR test not an antigen so false positives would not be an issue.

The Greenview vaccination clinic on March 26 went extremely well by all accounts. The appointments and facility arrangements were made by Ryan Heavner and the school staff. The J&J vaccine was used.

Regarding the uptick in cases, the group discussed this as an apparent hump in cases and not a spike; immunizations and previous infections were cited as reasons that a spike is not anticipated. Further, illnesses would be less severe since the more at risk cohort has been vaccinated. The number of persons vaccinated is encouraging. Approaching the issue of persons not seeking the vaccine for whatever reason.

The health department has been working with SIU-SOM on video messaging to reach people that are reluctant. Billboards and newspapers may be best way to reach the community in the county. Four billboards are in place now on the 3W's. Those billboards look great but switching the message to vaccination is timely. The group discussed finding people from the community to feature on each billboard. Message about taking the shot and getting this done. There was some discussion about who might be appropriate to approach about being featured in this campaign.

V. Filling the secretary position was briefly discussed. The regular 2021 meeting dates for the rest of the year were discussed. The group targeted a Wednesday in June and Tuesdays in September and December to coincide with commissioners meeting.

The IPLAN deadline was extended again by the IDPH with the ongoing pandemic work taking priority. The due date for the IPLAN is now September 4 and certification extended until November 3. The priority issues identified are: access to care, child abuse mental health and obesity.

VI. Next meeting date is Wednesday April 14 at 6:00 p.m.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. Jeff thanked everyone on the phone call for all the work through this crisis. The meeting adjourned at about 6:50 pm with unanimous vote.