

**DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING**

DATE: January 26, 2021

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Derryl Block, RN, PhD, President
Heather Breuer, DMD, Vice President
Lizy García, Secretary
Rukisha Crawford
Lorraine Daly
Carlos Dominguez, DVM
Erik Englehart, MD
Patricia Faivre
Jessica Harrill, JD
Anita Zurbrugg

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Stromborg, MD

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Gonzalez, MPH, *Public Health Administrator*
Cindy Graves, RN, MSHA, *Director of Community Health and Prevention & Health Promotion and Emergency Preparedness*
Greg Maurice, LEHP, *Director of Health Protection*
Dytania Washington, MS, *Director of Administrative Services*
Chessa Kendrick, *Administrative Support and Marketing Manager*

CALL TO ORDER

The DeKalb County Board of Health meeting of January 26, 2021 was called to order at 5 pm by Dr. Block, President.

VIRTUAL MEETING GUIDELINES

Mrs. Gonzalez provided an overview of guidelines for the virtual Board of Health Meeting.

AGENDA

On a motion by Anita Zurbrugg, seconded by Jessica Harrill, the Board of Health Meeting Agenda was approved. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Full Board

On a motion by Lorraine Daly seconded by Dr. Breuer the Board of Health Minutes of the Meeting for November 24, 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR (via Zoom) *

None

PRESENTATION

1. COVID-19 Situational Update

Ms. Gonzalez started the COVID-19 situational update by discussing the current case count and number of deaths in the County. As of 1/26/21, DeKalb County had 7,855 confirmed COVID-19 cases including 93 deaths. Charts showing cases and deaths by age were presented. Ms. Gonzalez discussed cases by gender showing that there are more cases in females and discussed cases by race demographics. Cases by week and month show that the County saw the biggest spike of cases around November. Cases by zip code show that there have been cases in most of the zip codes throughout the County. Ms. Gonzalez presented the weekly summary including negative tests reported and number of individuals recovered.

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update of the current Long-Term Care facilities that are listed in outbreak status. The County as of 1/26/21 had five facilities in an outbreak. The other current outbreaks based on category of established were presented. The chart shows a significant decrease in outbreaks in other types of facilities. There was only one manufacturing and 2 congregate living facilities considered in outbreak status which is a significant decrease from the last Board of Health meeting. The week of 1/10/21 through 1/16/21, DeKalb County was still in warning level due to increased test positivity and number of new cases. Region 1 metrics overall were improving.

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the current public facing metrics for Contact Tracing. This includes number of cases attempted and interviewed along with number of contacts attempted and interviewed. The current Contact Tracing Grant is funded through May 31, 2021.

On January 22, 2021 updated guidance was provided on sports for all youth and adult recreational sports. Sports were put into risk categories based off of the current mitigation strategies a region might be in.

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on the current school recommendations. DCHD recommended that the adaptive pause not be extended. This is due to the considerations of COVID-19 vaccine availability, BinaxNOW antigen test availability and county level metrics.

DCHD is working with partners to implement BinaxNOW testing. An organization will need to complete an application, sign an MOU, register to report, assure that testing staff complete online modules and schedule an onsite training and observation provided by the DCHD lab director. These antigen testing kits are only used for symptomatic individuals. Currently DCHD has one first responder partner, one school partner, and two pending school partners.

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on the current mitigations. DeKalb County moved back to Phase 4 on January 25th after being in stricter mitigations since October 2020. DCHD has received 287 mitigation complaints and 106 general complaints including masking and social distancing.

Throughout November and December, DCHD worked with IDPH to coordinate mobile testing sites throughout DeKalb County. DCHD tried to ensure that testing locations would be accessible throughout all areas of the county. In the two months, over 2,600 people were tested.

Ms. Gonzalez presented on DCHD's current COVID-19 vaccination efforts. The COVID-19 vaccine through DCHD is for individuals who live or work in DeKalb County. Due to pre-determined allotment's by IDPH each week, it can make planning for clinics difficult due to inconsistencies in the allotment and last-minute notice of supplies. DCHD is currently administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine that requires a 2nd dose typically 28 days after 1st dose.

DCHD is currently vaccinating individuals who qualify in Phase 1A and Phase 1B. Phase 1B includes frontline essential workers and residents age 65 and over. As of the BOH meeting, there were 11 clinics held which include mass vaccination clinics and events for targeted populations. DCHD has transferred 1,200 doses to Northwestern Medicine for healthcare personnel in Phase 1A. All clinics require registration due to the limited amount of vaccine availability. As of this meeting, over 2,000 individuals received their vaccine from DCHD.

Ms. Gonzalez discussed the process of a vaccine clinic. First individuals will check-in which allows paperwork to be reviewed. Second, individuals are screened to determine monitoring period time and any health concerns. Third, individuals receive the vaccine. Lastly individuals are monitored for the required time.

DCHD is able to hold mass vaccination clinics with help to the long-standing partnership and plan to utilize the NIU Convocation Center as an identified Point of Distribution (POD). DCHD's Volunteer Management Plan incorporates the partnership with NIU nursing programs for supplementation of staffing for vaccine clinics. A newly developed partnership includes collaboration with NIU Athletics to provide athletic trainers to assist in screening of patients before they receive the vaccine.

DCHD set-up a vaccine notification system that allows individuals or businesses to sign-up to receive notification and registration when they are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This helps anticipate vaccination numbers per phase and to contact individuals on a rolling basis when working through each phase. Individuals can go to the Health Department website to complete the form. People are able to sign up as an individual or a business. The business list helps determine Closed POD opportunities to work with the business to provide vaccine opportunities for eligible staff. To date, over 16,000 individuals and over 300 businesses have signed up on the website.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that IDPH data reported will look different than vaccine data reported by DCHD. This is because IDPH is reporting individuals vaccinated who live in DeKalb County whereas DCHD is vaccinating individuals who live or work in DeKalb County.

Current challenges that DCHD faces includes vaccine availability, call and email volume related to COVID-19 vaccine, communication coming down from the state level is slow, and managing misinformation on vaccine. DCHD is working with Northwestern Medicine to provide allocation to help vaccinate individuals 65 and older and partnering with Greater Elgin Center for Family Health for allocation of vaccine to patients in identified phases. IDPH is expanding vaccine availability to pharmacies and plans to use the National Guard to staff additional state sites.

Ms. Gonzalez discussed that additional funding for vaccination efforts was announced from IDPH. The grant is for COVID-19 vaccination efforts but is significantly under expected allocation. The grant period runs from December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

COMBINED REPORT

As noted.

FINANCIAL DATA

On a motion by Anita Zurbrugg seconded by Dr. Breuer, the Financial Statements for the months of November and December 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Patricia Faivre seconded by Jessica Harrill, the claims for the months of December 2020 and January 2021 were approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Gonzalez shared the 2021 Committee level appointments. Board of Health members will be serving on the same committees in 2021 as they did the previous year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS

As noted.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Lorraine Daly seconded by Dr. Breuer, the Board of Health adjourned at 6:26 pm. Motion carried.



Lizy Garcia, Secretary
DeKalb County Board of Health

(January)