

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Monday, February 28, 2022**  
**Madison County Health Department, Wampsville, NY – ZOOM meeting**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Endres, DVM – President  
Wendy Cary – Vice President  
Jennifer Meyers, MD  
Rachel Elder, MD  
Marla Velky-Reger, LCSW-R  
Gerry Edwards, MD  
Sam Barr, DMD

**EXCUSED**

Alex Stepanski, Board of Supervisors Representative

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Seelan Newton, MD, Medical Director  
Eric Faisst, Public Health Director  
Aaron Lazzara, Director of Environmental Health  
Shawn Prieto, Director of Administrative Services  
Deanna Matt, Confidential Secretary to the Director of Public Health

Board President Dr. Endres called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

The Board reviewed the January 2022 minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Elder, seconded by VP Wendy Cary, and approved by all.

**Audit of Claims**

The record of claims will be distributed for review and discussion:

- Closed all 2021 expenses
- Pre-school and Early Intervention expenses are on par for February
- Administration expenses consisted of annual payments for NYSACHO and VMSG software
- Environmental spike in expenses for the one-time purchase of wastewater sampling equipment – program implemented last week
  - The cost for the wastewater sampling will increase moving forward – 100% covered by federal grant

Motion to approve the audit of claims was made by Dr. Elder, seconded by VP Cary, and approved by all

**Situation Update – COVID-19**

**COVID Cases on 2/28/2022**

New cases: 7 new today, 12 over the weekend (7-day avg = 9)

Active: 23 – 2 currently hospitalized (Note: January 9<sup>th</sup> we had 723 active cases)

Deaths: 129

### Rate of New Cases in Past Seven Days per 100,000

MC = 102.9      NYS = 94.7

- CDC changed their guidelines on Community Levels on transmission – where 100 was previously the level considered *high transmission*, that level has now gone up to anything over 200 considered *high transmission*.
- CDC is also looking at severity of hospitalizations rather than percentage of
- With these new guidelines, Madison County is considered in the *low transmission* level – which is why the state lifted the mask mandate for schools.
- Changes have been noted on our webpage

### Percent Positivity 7-Day Average

MC = 3.8%      NYS = 1.9%

### Percent of Breakthrough Cases among Fully Vaccinated Residents

MC = 7.8%\*      NYS = 8.8%

### Percent of Hospitalizations among Fully Vaccinated Residents

MC = 0.17%\*      NYS = 0.30%

*\*Madison County data verified thru Feb 23, 2022*

### Madison County Hospital Capacity

Average Acute Care Beds Available: 30%

Average ICU Beds Available: 50%

### COVID Vaccination

Percent of 18+ Population with at least 1 Dose: 84.4%

Percent of Total Population with at Least 1 Dose: 75.6%

Percent of Total Population with Completed Series: 70.4%

### Population with at least 1 dose by Age Group:

| Age   | Madison County | Central New York | New York State |
|-------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 5-11  | 34.4%          | 35.6%            | 38.8%          |
| 12-17 | 67.2%          | 65.3%            | 76.4%          |
| 18-25 | 59.5%          | 68.8%            | 85.2%          |
| 26-34 | 74.9%          | 72.8%            | 86.3%          |
| 35-44 | 82.8%          | 81.5%            | 93.0%          |
| 45-54 | 77.6%          | 74.8%            | 87.5%          |
| 55-64 | 92.8%          | 88.7%            | 95.4%          |
| 65-74 | 99.0%          | 99.0%            | 99.0%          |
| 75+   | 99.0%          | 97.7%            | 93.0%          |
| Total | 75.6%          | 78.1%            | 88.9%          |

*As of 2/28/2022*

- In April or May of 2020 we set a goal of 65% of Madison County population be fully vaccinated – we have exceeded that, and hope to continue with this increase
- Will be starting a marketing campaign targeting the 18-25 age bracket not attending college – as they are largely unvaccinated

### Website Metrics

| Measure   | Current Week | Previous Week | Trend     |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| CDC Level of Community Transmission*                                      | LOW          | HIGH          | IMPROVING |
| Percent of County Population Completed Vaccination Series                 | 70.6%        | 70.4%         | IMPROVING |
| Percent of County Population with Booster Vaccination                     | 33.8%        | 33.5%         | IMPROVING |
| Central New York Region: Average New Hospitalization Rate per 100,000 Pop | 1.8          | 2.4           | IMPROVING |
| Central New York Region Hospitals: Average Acute Care Beds Available      | 12.0%        | 11.0%         | IMPROVING |
| Central New York Region Hospitals: Average Intensive Care Beds Available  | 15.0%        | 13.0%         | IMPROVING |

As of 2/28/2022

\*CDC released new metrics to evaluate level of community transmission: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>. In short, CDC is placing more emphasis on hospital capacity and no longer using percent positivity as an indicator.

- Vaccinations are continuing, but are beginning to slow. All upcoming clinics are listed on our webpage
- Our testing at Morrisville concluded the end of January
  - NYS has a testing site on SUNY Morrisville campus – Bailey Hall
  - Our office has not continued testing, but have offered assistance at Oneida Health with their clinics – will likely end this week
- Regular meetings with Colleges, K-12 Schools, and Hospitals have been reduced to every two weeks
- Internal programs and activities are starting up again
- Mask mandates are set to be lifted later this week in schools
  - Call tomorrow with NYS to go over these guidelines
  - Metrics for these decisions was discussed – Dr. Edwards feels that providing data to the public and schools is a good option for helping with understanding these decisions as they come and change
  - Schools can make the decision on their own masking policies
    - We are unsure of what Madison County schools will be doing until our call with them later this week
- Discussion occurred to provide clarification on indicators, transmission determinants, and the changes that have evolved
- The transition from mask mandate to mask option will take some time, and attention the adjustment is going to be very important

## Reports

- Director's Report – Eric Faisst
  - Starting to get back to our regular programs and operations
  - Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Improvement Plan (CHIP) are due at the end of this year
    - Beginning that process
    - Partnering with the two hospitals and the Rural Health Council
    - Taking the CHIP that was completed just before COVID and adding behavioral health as a result of the assessment that the Mental Health Department conducted recently – developing strategy
    - Calling it a CHIP “Light”
    - Have met with some community partners and begun to work on strategy development
    - We will forward information from these meetings to the BOH
  - Staffing
    - Hired Office Assistant for Early Intervention/PreK – she started last week
    - Continue to try to hire a Health Statistician – we have interviewed a few candidates, but unable to secure at this time
      - Looking forward to May graduates for more options
    - In the process of getting a new Environmental Health Sanitarian to be the Project Coordinator for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) grant
  - Healthy Neighborhoods Program slated to start in May – still waiting on the state for further details on getting started
    - Reaching out to other counties who have that program for assistance with us getting ready to start in May
    - Have met with some community leaders, and more pending to introduce this program
  - Clarification of previous discussion (January meeting) regarding Chairman Becker's proposed plan to move Animal Control and Codes under Public Health. If this occurs it would have an impact on the Department and the HNP program – both pros and cons
  - Discussion occurred regarding Environmental Health Division reports regarding rabies and restaurant inspections
- County Report – No Report
- City of Oneida – No Report
- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Newton
  - Held a Quality Assurance meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> after a long period of not having one – went through chart audits – all looked good
  - 281 confirmed cases of flu B so far – most were not vaccinated

## **Old Business**

- Updates on the Mobile Home Parks
  - D&R
    - Control modules and pumps are available – will be following up on installation status and consequential testing once installed
      - Will reach out this week to determine where the owner is with bed #1, and get a construction plan for bed #2
  - Mapleview Manor
    - Discussion in February determined that any remediation would not be cost efficient and not possible
    - Both parties have agreed to close the park – owner signed agreement (Will provide to the BOH tomorrow)
    - The agreement outlines what the closure will look like and some of the items MCDOH is asking for
      - Any homes left behind will be required to be boarded up and brought to building codes standards
      - Have to keep power and water on until July 29, 2022
    - They waived the right to a hearing
      - Their lawyer did contact us, and is working with the County Attorney to set up a meeting to ensure understanding of terms
    - The Operator is notifying the tenants
      - Once County Attorney meets with their lawyers and understanding is determined, we will go door-to-door to tenants and explain further why and what is happening, when it is being done
      - There are 15 occupied mobile homes – occupancy is 22-24 units
      - There is not a lot of assistance that can be offered to the tenants
        - We have reached out to DSS and Community Action Program – neither have responded
        - We have let the Town Supervisor know as well

## **New Business**

- Credentialing of Dr. Newton and the Prevent program
  - Dr. Newton remains in good standing

Motion to approve Dr. Newton's credentials made by Dr. Elder, seconded by Dr. Meyers, approved by all

- Review of By-Laws
  - Dr. Meyers made the suggestion previously to discuss the bylaws more thoroughly in an in-person meeting
  - Suggestion made to correct any typos and/or gender pronouns ahead of discussion

- Send those edits to Eric ahead of time to be made to send out and review via email

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Elder, seconded by Dr. Barr, All in Favor – 7:04pm

**Next Meeting March 28, 2022**  
**VIA ZOOM – Link to be delivered via email**

*Respectfully submitted by Deanna Matt*