



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cattaraugus County
Health Department

Established 1923

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Joseph Bohan, MD, President

Giles Hamlin, MD, Vice-President

Kelly J. Andreano, Legislator

Zahid Chohan, MD

Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.

Richard Haberer

Theresa Raftis

David L. Smith, Mayor

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

MINUTES

April 7, 2021

The 894th meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health (BOH) was held virtually on April 7, 2021.

The following members were present:

Joseph Bohan, MD

Giles Hamlin, MD

Zahid, Chohan, MD

Legislator Kelly Andreano

Richard Haberer

Theresa Raftis

Mayor David L. Smith

Kathryn Cooney-Thrush, NP, MSN

Also present were:

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH, Public Health Director

Ashley Milliman, County Attorney

Legislator Richard Helmich Jr.

Legislator Kip Morrow

Legislator Ginger Schroder

Legislator Rick Smith

Raymond Jordan, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian

Debra Lacher, Secretary to the Public Health Director

Collette Lulay-Pound, Administrative Officer

Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald Reporter

Lynne Moore, Director of Patients Services

Dave Porter, Hearing Officer

Dr. Paul Schwach, Clinical Physician

Matthew Tyssee, Resource Specialist

Gilbert Witte, MD, Medical Director

Eric Wohlers, Environmental Health Director

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bohan. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Dr. Bohan asked the Board for a motion to accept the March minutes that were distributed by Email. Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Health (BOH) meeting held March 2, 2021, the motion was seconded by Dr. Hamlin and unanimously approved.

Dr. Bohan announced that in May we will hold an in person lunch Board meeting but will offer an option for those who would still prefer to virtually attend.

Dr. Watkins added that we will be hosting the next BOH meeting at the Old Library Restaurant, and the facility appears to have all the audio visual accommodations needed.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Dr. Watkins informed the Board that as of April 5, 2021 New York State (NYS) reported a total of (1,902,751) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and (40,861) deaths. NYS also reported a one day total of (5,748) new cases of COVID-19 statewide.

The number of patients currently hospitalized with COVID-19 statewide as of April 5th, was (4,533) of which (937) were in intensive care units.

Finally, the number of deaths being reported on April 5th in NYS from COVID-19 related complications were (48).

Dr. Watkins reviewed the Cattaraugus County COVID-19 tracker which revealed that there has been (4,896) confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the County. Most of the cases have been in the southeast quadrant where there were (2,723) cases identified. The number of COVID-19 tests that have been administered in Cattaraugus County was (128,071) of which (123,175) were negative and (4,896) were positive. This reflects a (96%) negative rate and a (3.8%) positive rate. Looking at the number of hospitalizations in Cattaraugus County, of the (220) active cases (13) are hospitalized. Seven are at Olean General Hospital (OGH), (3) are at Bertrand Chaffee, (1) is at Sister of Charity, (1) at Oishei Children's and (1) at Buffalo General.

A breakdown of the (4,896) positive cases shows that (4.4%) were healthcare workers, (21.8%) were asymptomatic, and (44.2%) were contacts of other positives. The age range of 20 thru 29 is where the highest number of positive cases are occurring. Previously the age range of 50-59 was where the most cases were identified. The younger population is not only showing more positive cases but this population has a higher COVID-19 hospitalization rate as well.

Dr. Watkins shared a dashboard, which is a metric used by NYSDOH to determine how well a county or region is doing. He stated that the number of percent positives cases are based on the number of COVID-19 test administered and the number of positive cases confirmed. In Cattaraugus County, as of April 5, 2021, the daily percent positive was (2.4%), the 7 day rolling average percent positive was (2.8%), and the 14 day rolling average percent positive was (3%). This is a lot better than what is being seen in Western New York (WNY) overall. WNY is starting to show an increase in the positivity rate with a daily positive rate of (6.2%), a 7 day rolling average of (4.6%), and a 14 day rolling average of (3.9%). Both Erie and Niagara counties are reporting an uptick of positive cases.

Of the (4,896) positive cases in Cattaraugus County, (4,602) have been categorized as recovered, and there are (202) active cases at this time. The total number of deaths in Cattaraugus County has increased since the last meeting, as (92) deaths have now been recorded in the County due to complications from COVID-19. This reflects a (94%) recovery rate and a (1.9%) death rate, compared to NYS which has a (2.4%) death rate.

The treatment for COVID-19 is a cocktail that involves the administration of three potential medications during a patient hospitalization; a steroid, an antiviral and an anticoagulant. For those who are not hospitalized a recommendation of one of three monoclonal antibodies can be offered to those individuals. Monoclonal antibodies should be given within 10 days of the onset of symptoms and can be given in a clinical setting or hospitalized for a day of observation.

Medicare will pay for COVID-19 tests, monoclonal antibodies, and COVID-19 vaccines.

The biggest concern with COVID-19 at this time is that the virus is mutating. Scientists use a process called genomic sequencing to decode the genes and learn more about the virus.

Genomic sequencing allows scientists to identify COVID-19 and monitor how it changes over time into new variants,

The COVID-19 variants talked about in past meetings included the United Kingdom (UK) variant called B.1.1.7, the South African variant called B.1.351, and the Brazil or South American variant called P.1 and B.1.1.28. Additionally, we discussed the NYC variant called B.1.526 and the California variant which is called B.1.427/B.1.429. Recently we learned that there is now a double mutant strain which was first detected in India, and it has a mixture of two previously known variants. This strain has two mutations E484Q and the L425R. The E484Q is indigenous to India and the L425R is a mutant seen before in California. This double mutant strain was found in San Francisco just last week and the variant is believed to be more transmissible. The mutations are on the part of the virus that attaches to cells, possibly making it easier for the virus to latch on. There is no definite evidence that this double variant is more virulent or causes more severe diseases. Currently the developed vaccines that we have, have proven to act against the new strains of variants and should be protective against this newest variant.

The three vaccines available are; the Pfizer vaccine which has an efficacy rate of (95%) against preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection, the Moderna vaccine which has an efficacy rate of (94%) and the Janssen/Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccine which has an efficacy rate of (72%). All three vaccines work incredibly well to reduce the risks of COVID-19.

In Cattaraugus County (13,783) residents are fully vaccinated, (21,409) or (27.9%) of the population of the county has received a first dose vaccine. Cattaraugus County is lagging behind NYS who has administered first dose vaccines to about (33%) of the state's population.

Twelve residents or (0.09%) who were fully vaccinated have tested positive for COVID-19, which is considered a breakthrough. Four residents or (0.2%) who received one dose of vaccine have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Of those (12) residents who were fully vaccinated and tested positive, (3) were vaccinated with J&J, (4) with Moderna, and (5) with Pfizer vaccine. Eight were females, (4) were males, (7) were asymptomatic, and (5) were symptomatic. There were two deaths, (1) female and (1) male of those who were fully vaccinated. The question is whether these fully vaccinated individuals are really contagious and a study by the CDC to answer this question is underway. As there is no definitive answer at this time, we are isolating these individuals. We do not know what is causing these breakthroughs, although we highly suspect that these individuals were infected by one of the variants. In addition, we do know that the vaccine does not provide a (100%) protection against contracting the virus but the vaccine does give a person protection from developing severe infection and protection against hospitalization. Although the vaccine is very effective against severe infection we must still encourage residents to continue to wear masks, socially distance, and to wash hands frequently.

Vaccine supply has started to increase and the department is now receiving (1,000) to (1,500) doses per week, and most appointments are being filled. The Governor has now opened the prioritization group to anyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine. Those now 16 years of age and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine, and those who are (18) years of age and older can receive either the J&J or the Moderna vaccine.

Influenza season is still around however, not much influenza has been reported this year. Dr. Watkins shared a bar chart of laboratory confirmed influenza cases in Cattaraugus County (from 2019-2021), currently there are (52) case of influenza. He also shared a graph of superimposed influenza surveillance reports that compared several influenza seasons (2017-2021) which showed that there has not been a lot of influenza in NYS in 2020-2021 compared to the previous years. He stated that the flatten curve for influenza in 2020-2021 is due to using COVID-19 public health interventions including wearing face coverings, socially distancing, avoiding congregations and washing hands.

Dr. Bohan asked what percentage of the most vulnerable population (those age 60 and over) have been vaccinated. Dr. Watkins stated that he did not have any specific number in front of him but he believes that this population is the largest population vaccinated so far, mainly because this population were the ones that were vaccinated first. The prioritization group expanded to include those that are 30 years of age and older just one week ago, and this week included those ages 16 years of age and older. Dr. Bohan asked if the people that are newly diagnosed are they given regeneron. Dr. Watkins stated that Dr. Witte could probably address that question. Dr. Witte stated that he has used it several times on patients, they are scheduled to go to the hospital for an infusion and it takes about one hour but the patient must be isolated from other patients who may be immunocompromised. Regeneron cannot be given to everyone, but if given early to those who are at risk, it makes a difference.

Legislator Andreano asked about the breakthrough patients, wondering if data was available to tell what their blood types are. Dr. Watkins replied that the information was not acquired from the residents. He added that the State discussed possible interest in conducting genomic sequencing on several of the specimens. Legislator Andreano also asked about the (74) quarantined travelers wondering if they were from out of the country since the Governor lifted the quarantine for travelers within the States. Dr. Watkins stated that this includes St. Bonaventure's International students, and those who came in prior to the Governors lifting of the quarantine restriction.

NURSING DIVISION REPORT: Mrs. Moore reported that the homecare census is (272) with (17) prospective admissions. There were (99) admissions last month, and (102) discharges.

The homecare staff assisted with vaccinating over (200) homebound individuals within the community last month, in a four and a half day period. There is another round planned with the J&J vaccine probably next week or the following week. Currently there are (100) individuals on the waiting list to be vaccinated in their home.

In the lead program Gayle Faulkner did retire on March 26th and Melissa Chamberlain who was previously a homecare nurse has taken over that role. Mrs. Chamberlain is following (123) children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL) [normal <5ug/dl]. The highest is a child with an EBLL of 36ug/dl, who was within the normal range last year, so she will continue to follow up.

Clinic testing for HIV, there were (12) test performed in Olean, (3) in Machias, and (8) in Salamanca with no positives results.

STD report for March, there were (16) positive case of chlamydia; (3) confirmed cases of gonorrhea; (6) positive cases of syphilis, and one giardia patient who was a child that probably contracted it from water in the home.

In the month of March, there were (6) Hepatitis C chronic cases; (1) hepatitis B case and no hepatitis A cases.

In March tests for influenza resulted in (11) positive for influenza B, and (4) positive for influenza A.

In addition, there were (2) positive salmonella cases who despite several attempts to contact have not responded; letters were sent to the homes.

In the month of March there was (1) rabies post exposure prophylaxis series administered due to a raccoon exposure; and (1) bat exposure in a bedroom and the post exposure prophylaxis started at the end of February and was completed in March.

Dr. Bohan asked if the vaccine given to the homebound is the J&J, Mrs. Moore replied yes.

ENFORCEMENT LIST: Mr. Porter, Hearing Administrator Officer reported on the administrative hearings held March 16, 2021.

DOCKET #21-002:

Respondent: Ours, LLC, 2703 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760, DBA Renna's Pizza, 400 North Union Street, Olean, NY 14760. Lonnie Ours, 472 Barden Brook, Eldred Pa, 16731.

Violations: Violation 10NYCRR Subpart 66-3.2(c) Operator failed to enforce use of face covering by food service employees at all times while at their place of work. Repeat violation cited on 12/17/20 during a complaint investigation.

Recommendation: The \$500.00 civil compromise offered be changed to a \$500.00 fine to be paid on or before 4/30/21. A \$10.00 per day per diem will be levied for every day not in compliance. Send BOH order to respondent's home address in Eldred, Pa.

A motion was made by Mayor Smith to accept Mr. Porter's recommendation, seconded by Dr. Chohan, and unanimously approved.

DOCKET #21-003:

Respondent: Duane Hepfer, 1044 Butternut Brook Rd., Portville, NY 14770.
Location of property 1581 Olean-Portville Rd., Olean (T).

Violations: (1) Sanitary code subsection 16.3.2 failed to obtain a "permit to construct" an onsite waste water treatment prior to constructing a replacement leach field at his residence.
(2) Sanitary code subsection 16.5.2 utilized a replacement leach field for his onsite waste water treatment system without a "permit to operate" issued by CCHD.

Recommendation: The \$100.00 civil compromise offered be changed to a \$100.00 fine. The fine must be paid on or before 4/30/21. A \$10.00 per day per diem will be levied for every day not in compliance.

A motion was made by Dr. Bohan to accept Mr. Porter's recommendation, seconded by Dr. Hamlin, and unanimously approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Mr. Wohlers reported that the spring rabies clinic was held two weekends ago at the DPW garage in Little Valley and was not well attended, with only (140) vaccinated. The next clinic will be held either in June or July, and the department will be using the same format of required pre-registration.

Seven animal specimens have been submitted to the States rabies lab, including (4) bats, (2) cats, and (1) dog; all were negative.

Environmental health staff is assisting with the COVID-19 vaccination clinics instead of doing environmental health field work. Staff continues to field daily calls regarding COVID-19 guidelines and complaints. There have been a number of changes in the State COVID guidance in the last several weeks.

Phone calls are starting to come in from the campground operators who hope to open either later this month or next month prior to Memorial Day weekend; therefore seasonal water system startup procedures have begun.

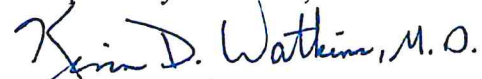
The State has advised that children's camps will be allowed to open this summer, and they will need to work closely with Local Health Department regarding their COVID safety plans.

Old/New Business: Dr. Watkins reminded everyone that the next BOH meeting will be at the Old Library, and those who prefer to join by Zoom will be sent an invite. In addition, a copy of the article regarding "Can Vaccinated People Spread the Virus" will be sent out by email.

Mayor Smith thanked Eric, Ray, Dr. Watkins and the Health Department staff who have done a tremendous job over the last year who have represented us so well during this pandemic.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Dr. Hamlin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin D. Watkins, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary to the Board of Health