

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

May 10,2021

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Commissioner's Report (Dr. Smith)

- COVID Update
 - Drowning- Sojourner Truth Ulster Landing Park
 - Camp/Pool Season
 - Board of Health Membership
 - a. New Member Packet
 - b. Review of Member Terms and Upcoming Vacancies

MEETING CONCLUSION

Ulster County Board of Health
May 10, 2021
6:30 p.m. (virtual)

PRESENT: Naomi Stevens, Walter Woodley, Tasha DeFelice, Gina Carena, Peter Case Graham, Kathleen Rogan, Stephanie Turco

EXCUSED:

ABSENT:

UCDOH: Dr. Carol Smith, Lissette McNulty, Cynthia Pomeranz

GUESTS: Sherri Danza - Saugerties Schools
Samantha Mercado - NYS COVID-19 School Specialist
Sue Ellen Elmendorf-Lead Nurse, Onteora Schools
Dr. Lisa Kapler - COVID-19 Coordinator -Saugerties Schools
Rosanne Mele - COVID-19 Coordinator, Marlboro Schools
Sandy Hicking
Lisa Pacht -COVID-19 Coordinator, Rondout Valley Schools
Krista Kelly -Lead Nurse, Rondout Valley Schools
Brian Devincenzi-COVID-19 Coordinator, Wallkill Schools
Margaret Short -Lead Nurse, Ulster County BOCES
Naomi Stevens-COVID-19 Coordinator, Kingston Schools

1. **Tonight's Meeting:** Due to the returning of children to the school classroom, this was a specialized meeting schedule with school nurses and/or COVID Coordinators to focus on local school districts. The purpose of the meeting is to address school concerns, successes and to provide appropriate guidance as we move through the COVID pandemic.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the March and April minutes were tabled until the June meeting due to the focus of this meeting.
3. **Commissioner's Update:** Dr. Smith reported on the following:
 - **COVID Overview:** Since the beginning of COVID (3/9/2020), there have been many challenges faced with this revolving pandemic. Dr. Smith reviewed the daily COVID stats (see attached). There are vaccination PODs happening throughout the County. The State is actively doing the best they can to manage this pandemic. The UK strain is now more predominant than the Wutan strain. The 18-24 year old age group has a higher percentage of unvaccinated individuals than other age groups. UC is trying to be in sync with the State guidelines and the State is in sync with the CDC. Dr. Smith is creating an interim guidance which will be distributed to the schools for ease of use. There have been concerns regarding contact tracing and HIPPA law.

Dr. Smith reminded attendees that in such a case as the COVID pandemic, such inquiries are permissible under Public Health Law.

- **Discussion with the Schools:**

Lisa Pacht/Krista Kelly: Wanting the time turn around for vaccinated adults to be earlier for return to work.

Dr. Smith: The vaccination efficacy is two weeks after the second dose. Our primary focus is to prevent the spread of COVID.

Lissette McNulty: Reminder that school nurses have access to NYSIS where vaccination dates can be looked up.

Brian Devencenzi: Use of an individual's vaccination card is acceptable documentation.

Roseanne Mele: Has there been any discussion regarding the 90days after vaccination being exposed guideline?

Dr. Smith: There have been no updates.

Samantha Mercado: It's being looked and under consideration for extending the 90days.

Tasha Defelice: What is our current percentage vaccination rate? What is the goal before COVID restrictions are lifted?

Dr. Smith: Determinations are made as things unfold. Will provide the numbers by zip code on next call.

Dr. Woodley: Reminded attendees that we saw a decrease in numbers and the restrictions were relaxed which resulted in the numbers increasing. Here again too many kids need to be vaccinated.

Naomi Stevens: The County needs to create a reminder to schools that quarantines are still in effect as well as social distancing. Schools don't get quarantine notice with the contact. Schools are receiving different letters from different sources. It should be the same language as the release letter.

Lissette McNulty: Would like to know the source as the letters should be standardized.

Naomi Stevens: Parent's know work arounds using the self-serve letter.

Dr. Kappler: Any guidance on the excelsior QR code use?

Lissette McNulty: No official guidance. But will inquire at the next Epi meeting.

Sue Ellen Elmendorf: Would like no quarantine for vaccinated staff.

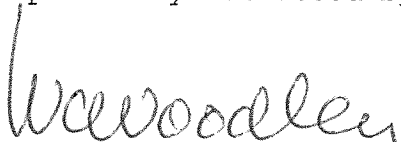
Samantha Mercado: Calling everyone and schools should send a list of staff this includes.

Dr. Smith thanked everyone for taking the time to participate and for the hard work they continue to do.

6. **Adjournment:** Mr. Graham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Woodley and unanimously approved.

7. **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30PM via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted by:



Walter Woodley, MD - Chair