

Ulster County Board of Health
August 9, 2022
5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Naomi Stevens, Dr. Ashanda Saint Jean, Dr. Marta Sanchez, Kathleen Rogan, Stephanie Turco

EXCUSED: Dr. Gina Carena

ABSENT:

UCDOH: Dr. Carol Smith- Commissioner of Health

GUEST:

Call To Order: 5:03PM

Old Business

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the July 2022 meetings, was made by Dr. Saint Jean and seconded by Ms. Rogan and unanimously approved.

Commissioner's Update: Dr Smith reported on the following:

- a. **COVID Update:**

- Reviewed the most recent COVID numbers (see attached).
- Ms. Turco inquired as to how many home test results DOH is not receiving. Dr. Smith explained that we really don't know and are strictly reliant on lab results and those self-reporting results that DOH does receive.

- b. **Other Communicable Disease Updates:**

- Monkeypox Update: Dr. Smith shared a Monkeypox Power Point presentation with the Board (see attached).
 - a. Monkeypox is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact. It survives on bedding and towels. The best prevention in reducing the likelihood of getting and spreading the disease is by avoiding close skin-to-skin contact.
 - b. Monkeypox vaccine is currently limited and administered in Ulster, on a case-by-case basis.
- Polio Update: Rockland and Orange currently have active cases. The concern is that the disease is very easily spread. Polio is an enterovirus and individuals can have it and not have any symptoms. Polio is easily avoidable by vaccine; however, the problem is, there is a poor polio vaccination rate among individuals.
- Currently there is wastewater testing being conducted in municipal treatment plants for COVID. The next push in testing wastewater will be for the polio virus.

- c. **Medical Examiner Stats:** The stats for the Medical Examiner's Office were distributed to the Board. (See Attached).
- d. **Open Discussion:** Dr. Smith opened the discussion to Board members with questions.
 - Ms. Turco inquired about the summer camps and if there have been any glaring issues.
 - Dr Smith responded, Frost Valley was very compliant with reporting their COVID cases and responding to those cases effectively. Can't be certain that all camps were or were not compliant with reporting cases. There were a low # of positive cases reported from other camps which might be contributed to the lack of reporting.
 - Ms. Rogan asked if there were any preliminary insights to the forthcoming flu season.
 - Dr. Smith stated that it could be a bad flu season and individuals are strongly encouraged to get their flu vaccine, this includes school age individuals. Viruses know no boundaries, regardless of the type of virus.
 - Ms. Stevens inquired about any "rumblings" of a polio booster being offered.
 - Dr. Smith stated that she has heard nothing about polio boosters but will keep the Board updated.
 - Ms. Stevens also inquired about the status of COVID regarding the reopening of schools.
 - Dr. Smith doesn't know if NYS will release new COVID guidelines for schools. Dr. Smith will share with the Board if and when guidelines are released.

6. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Dr. Sanchez and unanimously approved.

7. Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 5:00 PM, via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted by:



10/25/2022

Stephanie Turco, LCSW - Board of Health Chair