

Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 13, 2022

Present: Betsy Wiest, Lisa Karle, Mary Viglione, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Pat Tracy, Pat Stucke, Jenn Woodard, Laura Luther, George Fickenworth, Danielle Brooks, Niken Carpenter, Colleen Hammon,

Not Present: Gary Horton, Liz McCormick, Lisa Boyd, Missy Niedzielski, Chelsea Bates, Kathy Lamb, Niken Carpenter, Steve Walters, Cris Taylor, Darrell Smith, Mary Sackett, Barb Lewis, Jennie Hagerty, Mary Louise Imbrugio, Sherrai Holland, Rita Scrimenti, Dave Deter

The meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

George Fickenworth: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

Health Provider Updates:

Laura Luther, Health Department:

- COVID cases have increased. Yesterday there were 135 cases – big spike over the past few weeks.
- Most at risk population are the 65+ population. Not seeing as many deaths as at the same time last year.
- Has seen a 15% positivity rate in Erie County which is a 5% increase over the past 7 days. Numbers can be skewed as many people are conducting at home tests and not reporting to the Dept. of Health so our numbers could be higher. Have seen a 23.7% increase in testing in Erie County.
- Vaccinations, boosters are highly recommended as well as wearing masks.
- Booster information: Some individuals are eligible for 4th dose (2nd booster) if you are 50 years or older if your booster is 4 months or older, individuals who are 12 and older who are immuno-compromised.
- For anyone who received a J&J vaccine and followed up with a J&J booster, it is recommended they get a Pfizer or Moderna booster as long as it's been 4 months since the booster. FDA is authorizing the use of J&J only when no other COVID vaccine is available, or they are only willing to get the J&J vaccine. Dept. of Health supply of J&J has expired, and they are not ordering more.
- Continue to offer vaccine clinics and PCR testing in community. Check to DOH website for more information.
- Mask mandates for shelters – Congregate care settings are still required to mask as they have been included in the same requirements as medical settings.
- The question was asked if mask mandates will come back to the general public. Laura doesn't feel the DOH will be moving in that direction at this time because of the political atmosphere.
- What is the affinity of the 65+ who are at risk? Laura does not have statistics on this group but will provide to the team either via email or at the next meeting.
- Is DOH still providing Sanitary Package with hand sanitizer – particularly for the New Americans ceremony? These packets are provided by State Dept. of Health. There is a team at the DOH who can provide these. Contact Steve Walters for more information.
- For Ukrainians coming to our area who cannot show proof of vaccination, per best practice, they can restart their vaccine series here with Moderna or Pfizer.
- Is it the BA2 strain at this time? Laura felt both BA1 and BA2 (from Omicron) are out at this time. They are seeing new variants come out that are variants of variants. They should probably be their own standalone variant.
- If someone self-tests and is positive, what number do they call to report? Laura suggested contacting the DOH at 814-451-6700 but indicated they don't have the capacity to intercept all those calls at this time.

They are building a tool for their website for people to report. Laura will let us know when that launches. PCP's are reporting those who call them with positive reports into a database available to them.

- Do we have any data about the 2nd booster symptoms? DOH has not heard of any studies on this. On the plus side, any symptoms are controlled and will dissipate within 1-2 days. Laura indicated that the "worst case symptoms" tend to stand out over the vast majority of those who have few, if any, symptoms.
- DOH has a COVID Clinical Team – any COVID questions, call the team at 814-451-6700.

Sherrai Holland, Community Health Net: No available for the meeting.

Homeless Provider Updates:

Colleen Hammon: No new updates.

Niken Carpenter (City of Erie): Celebrate Erie will occur this year 8/19-21/22. The website is: <https://www.celebrateerie.com/> Niken indicated that when someone sponsors a Ukrainian family, the sponsor is responsible for connecting the family to a job, health providers, education, provide housing, transportation. For the Ukrainian refugees, we won't have the health information because of private sponsorship. The Afghanistan refugees were able to stay in the military camps who were able to collect and ultimately share their health information with sponsoring communities. Many of the Ukrainian refugees will be women/children as the men stayed in Ukraine. This will present a different set of challenges. Many area businesses are collecting needed items to send to Poland for the refugees. On 5/23/22, Title 42 will be lifted by the US Govt.

Danielle Brooks (CCBH): No new updates.

Leatrice Schoolcraft (Erie County): No new updates.

Pat Stucke (MHA): No new updates.

Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper): No new updates but is concerned about rising cases and possibly changing back to take-out again.

Mary Viglione (CCBH): No new updates.

Betsy Wiest (SPH): No new updates.

Jenn Woodard (COC): No new updates.

Additional Conversation Notes:

Jokes for the day:

Do you know why American's are so good in playing Rubik's Cube? Because Americans have a history on separating colors.

Why did the cross-eyed teacher lose her job? She couldn't control her pupils.

The date for the next meeting is Friday, May 27, 2022 via Zoom.