

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
CITY OF DE PERE, WISCONSIN – March 15, 2021**

The Board of Health of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin met in regular (virtual) session on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

After some technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order by Dennis Hibray at 5:10 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Casey Nelson, Kelly Ruh, Dennis Hibray, Teresa Gulyas and Dr. Michael McHenry. Also present were Deborah Armbruster and Kelly Burke.

3. Approval of January 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Michael McHenry made a motion to approve the January 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Casey Nelson seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Update on Covid-19 Response

Deborah Armbruster reported that the number of Covid tests in Wisconsin is down. The number of Covid-19 cases is also down. However, the Health Department does get notifications from the school nurses almost daily regarding positive cases and the classes they are quarantining. The school nurses are also helping with contact tracing of their positive cases.

Deborah Armbruster stated that per the Department of Health Services (DHS) website, the disease activity is still high. Brown County's percent of positives is 3.5%. Wisconsin as a whole has a 2.2% positivity rate. Hospital capacity is at 72%. To date, the De Pere Health Department has vaccinated De Pere's Fire/EMS personnel, Police, Public Health, and many people in the community age 65 and up. In addition, DPHD (De Pere Health Department) is now vaccinating educators and restaurant/food employees. We (DPHD) are following DHS (Wisconsin Department of Health Services) guidelines to determine who the essential workers are and when they qualify for vaccination. We have developed an attestation form for individuals to sign to verify they meet the DHS vaccination criteria. We have had 20 vaccination clinics since January. We have used all Moderna vaccine, except once when we had Pfizer.

Deborah Armbruster reported that the state has asked Public Health to submit numbers of how many educators they have in their district and indicate to the state who will be vaccinating them. The state has allocated vaccine to the vaccinators for the educators. Deborah Armbruster spoke with the De Pere school administrators and gathered the educator numbers. We divided them between Bellin and Prevea to be the vaccinators. These health systems have set aside appointment times just for the educators.

Bellin is opening up a vaccination site at Lambeau Field in conjunction with the Green Bay Packers. Brown County Public Health will be helping to obtain vaccine and their nurses will be helping to vaccinate at Lambeau Field.

Vaccine in our area has not been readily available. Area health systems are receiving 30% of their capacity. The health systems' didn't receive the allocations of vaccine they requested. DHS says that vaccine availability should double beginning in April. We know Wisconsin will be getting some Johnson & Johnson, but we don't know who will receive it.

The DPHD vaccination clinics are going smoothly. We have De Pere EMS at the vaccine clinics at all times. We vaccinate anyone, regardless of residency.

The DPHD has hired 3 nurses as Limited Term Employees. This is being paid for out of our Covid-19 grants. We have hired 2 people for staging, contact tracing and clinic scheduling.

We (DPHD) have put some security measures in place to protect our vaccine. We have started locking our refrigerator and freezer. We also lock the exam room and have a security film on the windows so people can't see in.

We have not had any problems with people who do not agree with the vaccine. We have vaccine clinics scheduled through May. We will continue vaccinations as long as we can. Beginning March 29th individuals with certain medical conditions will be eligible, including being overweight with a BMI of 25 or greater. This could be up to 80% of our population. Hopefully, May 1st it will open up to everyone.

Theresa Gulyas asked if people could schedule appointments now for 3-29 eligibility. Debbie answered that beginning on March 24th people will be able to schedule online and pick their own appointment time.

Dennis asked what our daily capacity was for vaccinations. Debbie responded that we can do 100 doses comfortably. We currently do 2 to 3 vaccination clinics a week. Per Debbie, we are gap filling; our intention is to vaccinate those who can't travel to UWGB or Lambeau Field.

Dr McHenry asked if the health department was having any leftover vaccine. Debbie replied that we rarely get cancellations or no-shows, but when we do we call the people on our waitlist to fill it. We have had some people come in to our clinics late in the day and ask if we had vaccine.

Dennis Hibray asked if the interest in the vaccine was waning. Debbie replied that interest is waning slightly for the 65 and older age group as many of them have been vaccinated, but after the 29th, when new groups are eligible, there should be a lot of people wanting it.

Casey Nelson asked if we do any side effect tracking after giving the vaccine. Debbie responded that we strongly encourage the people to enroll in V-Safe through the CDC to record side effects. Debbie added that we have noticed that more mature adults have fewer side effects than our younger recipients. We have had one anaphylactic reaction who fully recovered.

Dennis Hibray asked who does the follow-up on positive cases. Debbie answered that the follow-up is shared between the State and our department, depending upon our staffing availability now that we are doing vaccination clinics.

5. Communicable Disease report

Deborah Armbruster asked if anyone had questions about the Communicable Disease report. No one had any questions.

6. Update on the Agent program

Deborah Armbruster explained that we were anticipating Trista Groth being standardized by the State last year. We asked the State about it recently and we are hoping that the standardization will happen in fall. Trista is doing great and is confident in what she is doing. Debbie will inform the Board when she has a date for standardization. Dennis Hibray asked if this affects our Agent Program status? Debbie replied that she did ask, and our Agent Status is not affected.

Debbie reported that Trista is communicating with the De Pere Businesses to help mitigate Covid-19 infection. Just last week Trista sent information out to food handlers and restaurant employees encouraging them to get vaccinated.

7. 2021 review of policies and procedures postponed

Deborah Armbruster explained that we have worked on the Policies and Procedures, but they are not completed. We wanted to be thorough in our review of these policies and intend to have them done in May.

8. Annual Report postponed

Deborah Armbruster reported that due to all the Covid-19 efforts, we were not able to get the Annual Report completed yet. We have mainly worked on Covid response all year, so this year's Annual Report may not be as comprehensive as in the past.

9. DHS Grants awarded to the De Pere Health Department

- 1. Awardance of DPH Contract No.43561-6**
- 2. Awardance of DPH Contract No.43561-5 to the Health Department**
- 3. Awardance of DPH Contract No.43561-4 to the Health Department**
- 4. Awardance of 2021 DPH Consolidated Contract No.47645**

Deborah Armbruster wanted to inform everyone where we stood with our Grants. Last year, when the consolidated grants were renewed, the state let us use much of the money for Covid response. This year, we have 4 grant contracts and are anticipating another \$300,000 for Covid response. This grant money pays for our supplies, equipment, and limited term employees. The State does provide some free PPE. The State has been generous in helping meet our needs. We have had enough funds to accomplish what we need to do.

Dennis Hibray asked if the Health Department was doing any tobacco control programs? Debbie answered that we are part of the drug alliance, so we do some tobacco control through that, but we do not receive funding for tobacco control.

Dennis Hibray asked if our other pots of money have been re-designated to Covid (MCH, Lead, and Communicable Disease)? Debbie responded that the only grant that was not flexible for Covid response was Lead.

Dennis clarified that the \$258,000 for Covid is currently being used for running the clinics and paying the additional staff and that we are expecting approximately another \$300,000? Debbie confirmed that was correct. She clarified that much of the funding runs through 2022 which is needed if booster vaccinations will be required for variants in the future.

10. Future Agenda Items

Deborah Armbruster explained that the Board of Health needs to discuss meeting dates as there is a conflict in the council chambers with our current meeting times. Debbie asked if the BOH wanted to do virtual meetings, in person, or a hybrid. Debbie needs to speak with Larry Delo regarding the situation. Debbie believes we can still do virtual meetings because we have the ability to record virtual meetings. If we want to meet in person in the Council Chambers, we would need to reschedule our dates and times. Debbie will confirm this information and communicate with the Board of Health via e-mail to decide what to do for our next meeting.

Casey Nelson thanked the members of the Board, especially the citizen members, since this is his last meeting. He also thanked the Health Department staff and admired the way they handled this past year. Dennis Hibray and Debbie Armbruster thanked Casey for his service on this Board.

Teresa Gulyas reported that in addition to "Cocktails to Go" there is alcohol legislation regarding delivering packaged goods from restaurants and stores to homes. Also, the Governor proposed to add legalizing marijuana (recreational and medicinal) in the next budget. Teresa believes these will be three huge Public Health issues to deal with. Per Teresa, the carry out law may still be in Committee at this time. Teresa stated there was concern about the legislation related to alcohol because of the serious drinking problems in Wisconsin.

11. Adjournment

Teresa Gulyas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Michael McHenry seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Burke
Health Department Administrative Assistant