

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 2/3/21

Attendance:

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Brienne Satorius
JD Stewart
Dianne Markley

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. with a roll call vote. With four members answering the roll call, a quorum was established.

II. On a roll call vote, the minutes circulated were approved with five voting aye. (At this point, Brienne Satorius joined the meeting.)

III. COVID case numbers are going down. The latest numbers were discussed. These numbers are similar to Sangamon's with wide range of ages being reported as new cases. Menard is out of orange status.

Sunny Acres outbreak status is nearing a close. The outbreak would close without a new positive case for 28 days. The vaccination status of resident's was reviewed. Roughly 50 residents and 30 staff have had second dose of vaccine; that's slightly more than half the residents but only about one-third of the staff.

Phase 4 mitigations are in place now. Quickly reviewed the status of businesses open under this phase. Mask wearing in the community is not great. Even with vaccination, persons may still be infected and just not sick. There is not data about whether those vaccinated could be asymptomatic spread.

Regarding appointments for vaccination, concern about the difficulty with scheduling an appointment to get vaccinated. 611 people have been vaccinated in Menard (1st and 2nd dose). Some people are cancelling which opens up vacancies in the schedule. The availability of vaccine is holding back appointment scheduling. In Menard, the vaccines are being done in the health department. Vaccine shipments from the state are only now becoming reliable.

Members expressed strong desire to have more clinic hours and perhaps a mass event. Supply is a big issue. With second doses starting, first dose appointments are reduced, which exacerbates the dilemma. The on-line scheduling is an issue for some elderly or technologically challenged. The group discussed which Menard county locations might be suited for an on-site clinic. Also, Menard county residents can schedule to be vaccinated at the Sangamon HD site.

The group reviewed reactions to second doses, the availability of vaccine at other sites like pharmacies and the prospects of the new variants.

IV. Finishing the community needs assessment was discussed; an extension will be requested from the state. Difficult to complete this with all the COVID activities.

V. Officers for the current year was identified as an agenda item for next meeting.

VI. Next meeting date is Wednesday, February 17 @ 6 pm.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm with unanimous vote of the five members.