



Grays Harbor County Board of Health

PEARSALL BUILDING
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520

July 22nd, 2021
Board of Health Meeting

Board of Health Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Kevin Pine and Commissioner Jill Warne were also present. The meeting was held electronically through Zoom to allow for social distancing.

Also in Attendance: Mike McNickle, Public Health Director; Jeff Nelson, Environmental Health Director; Dr. John Bausher, Public Health Deputy Director; Wendy Chatham, Clerk of the Board; and Brenda Vail, Board Secretary. Members of Grays Harbor Public Health Department and the public were also present.

Motion: Commissioner Warne moved to approve the April 22, 2021 Board of Health Meeting minutes.

Second: Commissioner Pine second the motion to approve the minutes.

Approval: The motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 22, 2021 was approved unanimously.

Public Health Update- Mike McNickle

- COVID confirmed cases up to 4,355 with 2 confirmed deaths.
- Vaccine doses given in Grays Harbor are up to 66,843. 47.9% of the population in Grays Harbor County is now vaccinated.
- The team at Grays Harbor Public Health has done an excellent job with scheduling and executing the vaccine.
- The testing at the walk up kiosk Curative has increased. The kiosk in Elma is being moved to Ocean Shores due to the Grays Harbor County Fair.
- Grays Harbor Public Health is now holding vaccine clinics at the Pearsall building and reaching out to the homebound populations.
- Emergency Management is still playing a part with respect to the financial reimbursement for regional mass vaccination.
- A new nurse practitioner came on board a few weeks ago which has enabled Family Planning to start seeing clients in person.
- The CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) & CHA (Community Health Assessment) request for proposals is out and we have had a number of quality contractors respond.
- Grays Harbor Public Health is still working on finding a new tobacco program, our numbers our higher in Grays Harbor County compared to other counties.

Health Officer Report – Dr. John Bausher

- Viruses are spread by viral load and Delta's viral load is 1,000 times more than that of COVID 19 and that is why it is a lot more contagious and only 5 minutes of exposure is enough to increase the risk of infection.
- Vaccination is the only defense we have and the vaccine is very effective against the Delta variant.
- We are seeing another resurgence of the virus and we may want to rethink how schools will handle the reopening.
- We have active TB on the Harbor which is being addressed.

Commissioner Raines asked if anyone had any questions:

- GH Public Health Director Mike McNickle mentioned that schools have expressed their concerns to him about opening this fall and how to keep the kids and staff safe.
- Board of Health Chair Vickie Raines discussed the challenging times with the Delta variant being rampant due to the 4th of July holiday and how we need to keep up the good hygiene and not get complacent.

Commissioner Pine asked with the increased number of COVID cases how many were hospitalized and if it has increased:

- Dr. Bausher responded, yes it has increased dramatically in our county but also nationally. 83% of the cases are the Delta variant. The death rate is 99.95 % which are the unvaccinated. Canada is opening their borders with strict guidelines, you have to be fully vaccinated and provide a negative COVID test.

Commissioner Pine asked how many people in our county have tested positive have been vaccinated?

- GH Public Health Director Mike McNickle responded that we do have breakthrough cases, but he would have to get back to Commissioner Pine on the exact numbers.

Commissioner Warne asked if the testing we have been doing is able to tell the difference between COVID 19 and the Delta variant?

- Dr. Bausher responded that the state take's a sample of about 5% of the positive tests to see if it is the Delta variant or COVID 19.

Environmental Health Update – Jeff Nelson, Director

- The IMT was demobilized in June which has helped increase their staffing.
- They are busy processing vendor applications for all the event's happening in the county.
- Septic permits are taking about 3-4 weeks to be approved.
- The chlorine table shortage that was feared did not affect us locally.
- The county's Emergency Expo is this month.

- The city of McCleary's consultant provided a report stating that the drinking water was not contaminated by the construction debris that was left near the well.
- They are conducting mosquito surveillance to check for the West Nile virus.
- A Grays Harbor County facility has had 1 confirmed case of Vibriosis, Jeff listed the symptoms and stated how important it was to keep shellfish on ice.
- They are scheduled to start meeting with Dr. Bausher in August.

Commissioner Raines asked if anybody had any questions:

- Commissioner Pine stated that it sounds like they have been very busy.

Director Mike McNickle wanted to remind everyone about the Emergency Preparedness Expo next Saturday to celebrate all the volunteers who helped with the mass vaccination site.

Commissioner Pine asked what the most reliable sources for COVID 19 and the Delta variant?

- Director Mike McNickle responded that the CDC and the State Department of Health
- Commissioner Raines shadowed Commissioner Pine's questions and concerns.

Debra Barrett Public Health employee spoke with regards to the question "How many people were vaccinated and had breakthrough cases".

Commissioner Pine responded regarding the VARS reporting with adverse effects and if the county follows the guidelines.

- Dr. Bausher spoke about the VARS reporting.

Public Comments and Questions:


Tara Mareth resident of Aberdeen asked the following question, if you happened to have a medical event after the vaccine that is not connected to any previous medical health issue if it could be connected to the vaccine and reported to VARS

Dr. Bausher responded to the question.

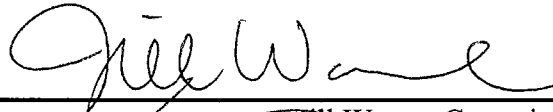
Commissioner Raines stated she would not be able to attend the Emergency Preparedness Expo but wanted to express her appreciation to all the volunteers that helped with the Mass Vaccination Site.

Hearing no additional public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Approved on this 18th day of Oct, 2021



Vickie Raines, Chair



Jill Warne, Commissioner First District



Kevin Pine, Commissioner Second District

ATTEST:



Brenda Vail, Board Secretary