

Minutes

Board of Health Minutes

February 28, 2022 via ZOOM

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq., Chairman; Anne Fountain; Dr. Danielle Goodwin, DDS; Dr. Sarah Gamble; Joel Muhlbaum, Esq.; Lauren O'Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC; Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus

Staff: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health; Debora Edwards, Operations Administrator; Deborah Travers, Director of Family Health

Presenters: Robin Clark-Smith, Director of Special Clinical Services; Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno, Public Health Promotion Specialist

The ZOOM Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Robert Carangelo, Esq. at 6:30 pm

Minutes

The minutes of the January 31, 2022 ZOOM meeting were presented. No edits were requested. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted were approved and accepted. **(Motion: O'Keefe / Second: Muhlbaum / Vote: 5 in favor, 2 not present at the time – 0 opposed)**

Presentation Special Clinic Services Division Update: Robin Clark-Smith, Director:

- Continued teaching STIs to the eighth and 10th grade classes in the Greenwich Public Schools and one of the private schools.
- Continue to work with 6th graders on communicable and communicable diseases unit.
- From February through May 2021 the classes were remote due to the pandemic. Starting in June 2021 classes were back in person.
- The Youth Conservation Corp. STI education was able to meet this summer in person at the park.
- The blood borne pathogens program has continued as well. Blood borne pathogen trainings continued with the police, fire and the school employees.
- Performing contact tracing
- Working in the vaccination clinic and booster clinics.

Presentation on COVID-19/ FLU Update: Stephanie Paulmeno, DNP, MS, RN, NHA, CPH, CCM, CDP, Public Health Promotion Specialist

- COVID is the 3rd leading cause of death in the U.S.
- Omicron sub-variant BA2 is 30% more contagious.
- CDC guidelines for home isolation period dropped from 10 days to 5 days with 5 more days of tight mask wearing and social distancing.
- Home Rapid Antigen tests kits were distributed Statewide at no cost.
- Public School Board of Education voted to make mask wearing optional.
- An unvaccinated person is 3-5 times more likely to get Omicron infection than the vaccinated person and 5 times higher risk than people who are boosted.
- Vaccination rates in Town by age groups as reported by the Connecticut Department of Health as of 2/23/22: Ages 5 (five) to 11 (eleven), 50.57% vaccinated equaling 6,470 (six thousand four hundred seventy) residents; 12 (twelve) to 17 (seventeen), 95.32% vaccinated equaling 5,449 (five thousand four hundred forty-nine) residents; 18 (eighteen) to 24 (twenty-four), 96.36% vaccinated equaling 4,037 (four thousand thirty-seven) residents; 25 (twenty-five) to 44 (forty-four), 76.55% vaccinated equaling 13,580 (thirteen thousand five hundred eighty) residents; 45 (forty-five) to 64 (sixty-four), 85.7% vaccinated equaling 18,950 (eighteen thousand nine hundred fifty) residents; 65+ (sixty-five), 96.24% equaling 10,466 residents
- Over 11,000 (eleven thousand) residents have contracted COVID-19, 118 (one hundred eighteen) have died
- Fairfield County is classified as Substantial Community Spread by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Pfizer and Moderna vaccine that have received full approval by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC. Johnson & Johnson (J&J) are approved for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). All three vaccines have received approval for booster shots. Boosters everyone who is 18 or older can get any of the three vaccines. Ages 12-17 years old can only get Pfizer.
- Research is finding post-COVID cardiac ramifications. VA Study showed an increase in 20 cardiovascular problems in the year following even a mild COVID infection. The risk of heart failure was increased by 72% after the post-COVID year. Mayo Clinic found that COVID-19 symptoms can be persistent and damaging to the lungs, heart, kidney, brain and increased the risk of long-term health conditions, which include breathing problems stamina issues, heart complications, chronic kidney impairment, stroke and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Motion to adjourn requested at 7:49 pm by Robert Carangelo, Esq. (Motion: Gamble/ Second: O'Keefe)

Minutes prepared by Debora Edwards, Operations Administrator 3/1/22

Respectfully reviewed and submitted by Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus, Secretary 3/7/22