



Calhoun County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2020

Board of Health

Mary Jo Byrne, Chairperson
Mark Crawford, Vice-Chair
Vivian Davis
Steve Frisbie
Jeannie Goodrich

Health Department

Eric Pessell, Health Officer
Kevin Green
Brigette Reichenbaugh

County

Kelli Scott, County Administrator
Lucy Blair, Communications Manager

Absent

Sonja Elder
Rebecca Fleury

Meeting called to order

Byrne called the meeting to order 8:04am.

Byrne welcomed new board members, Vivian Davis, retired educator from Albion Public Schools, and Jeannie Goodrich, CEO of Summit Pointe.

Agenda

Crawford moved for agenda approval. Goodrich supported. All in favor, motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Crawford moved for approval of the consent agenda. Byrne supported. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment

No public comment

Algae Graham Lake

The Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) is working in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to make residents aware of a harmful algal bloom (HAB) identified on Graham Lake in Leroy Township, Calhoun County. People and pets should avoid direct body contact with algal scums in the lake, water that looks like it has a green sheen or spilled paint on its surface, or water that looks like pea soup. People and pets should also avoid swallowing the lake water.

Calhoun County Schools Update

Calhoun County Schools grades 9-12 are mandated, under the epidemic order, to teach virtual learning only through December 8, 2020. Pessell noted, although there is minimal transmission or outbreaks within schools, data shows that 60% of positive student cases are grades 9-12.

Public Health Orders

Under the new MDHHS epidemic order, beginning Wednesday, November 18, indoor services at bars and restaurants, casinos, theaters, bowling alleys are prohibited, further limits are placed on gyms, and additional restrictions were placed on in-person learning for high school and college students. Gathering sizes have also been reduced.

COVID-19 Response Update

Pessell presented a COVID-19 update. The update included:

- Deaths have increased from 50 to 93 in the last four weeks
- 1000 COVID cases have been reported in the last nine days
- Calhoun County has prioritized contact tracing for people attending K-12 schools and school functions, those in long-term care facilities, high-risk congregate settings, and first responders due to increased COVID cases creating staff limitations.

Staffing Update

Reichenbaugh presented the CCPHD update. The update included:

- Working on holiday staffing to allow time off, especially for COVID response team
- Staffing scheduling to meet new epidemic order that employees must work remotely whenever possible
- Staffing positions update
- Recruiting for COVID positions

Meeting adjourned at 8:54am.

For a copy of the presentation or the Health Officer report, please contact Amanda Smith at 269-969-6477 or via email at asmith@calhouncountymi.gov