

DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Dubuque County Health Department Board Room

1225 Seippel Rd.

Dubuque, IA 52002

(Due to the current COVID-19 situation Board Members and public should attend through ZOOM – link is included at the bottom of this agenda)

Agenda

1. Roll Call

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

At this time, anyone may address the Board on matters of which are on the agenda. Please raise your hand on ZOOM, state your name and home address. Individuals wishing to comment on a public hearing will be given the opportunity during that respective hearing. Individual remarks are limited to three minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

a. February 11, 2021

5. Board of Health / Board of Supervisors Liaison

6. COVID-19 Update

7. COVID-19 Funding Requests

a. Possible action on Vaccination P.O.D. Expenses

8. Mask Resolution Public Hearing

The Resolution was published in three county newspapers on February 17, 2021.

They have also been published as a part of the agenda packet for this meeting.

Therefore, we will waive the reading of the Resolution at this time. The Board of

Health invites those participants who have registered to comment on the Mask

Resolution to address the board. Only those who have registered to speak will be

permitted to speak. Any comments submitted to the board through email by noon

today have been compiled and presented to all Board of Health members in written

form. Those comments will be included as a part of the minutes for this meeting.

This public hearing allows you to share comments with the Board of Health. The

board will not be answering questions during this portion of the meeting. Speakers

will be recognized and “unmuted”. Comments will be limited to three minutes.

9. Mask Resolution Discussion / Action

10. Next Meeting

11. Public Comment

At this time, anyone may address the Board on matters of which are of concern to that person and which are not agenda items. Please raise your hand on ZOOM, state your name and home address. Please be aware that the Board is limited in their ability to respond to such inquiries and Iowa Code prohibits the Board from deliberating or acting on items not appearing on the agenda. Individual remarks are limited to three minutes.

12. Adjournment

ZOOM Meeting Information.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9090167418?pwd=NIhpSndvL2p3emRxZ3N0NFNYMk54QT09>

Meeting ID: 909 016 7418

Passcode: 011350

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Dubuque County Board of Health Special Meeting

Minutes of February 11, 2021

Mr. Bechen called the February 11, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiburger, Katie Jones, Suzanne Stroud, Adam Hoffman, Hendrik Schultz
Members Absent:	Corey Young, Dr. Bobby Koneru, Dr. Valerie Peckosh
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Ben Fischer; Ed Raber, Interim Board Executive Director; Wayne Kenniker; Mike Johnson; Nichole Weber; Brian Meyers

Additional Notes: None

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

None

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Mask Mandate Resolution

Tom Bechen provides BOH members with a background of what possible changes can be made the proposed mask mandate resolution. He also adds that changes were made in the resolution to remove points that were no longer applicable, such as Dubuque County being in the red zone. The conversation then opens to a discussion on the proposed end date to the resolution.

Hendrik Schultz begins the conversation by stating that the numbers in the County and State are looking better than they were in November and vaccine is now available. It is still important to consider not everyone is vaccinated yet. We can assume that maybe 40% of Dubuque County is currently vaccinated or has had COVID-19. We have not yet reached herd immunity. He also adds that there are many new variants that are spreading and additional outbreaks could happen in the near future. Hendrik also adds that it is important to consider how far the County is in our vaccination plan. There are about 100,000 people in Dubuque County and about 25% are 65+. However, 80% of people who are infected are below 60 years old. The other 20% make up 93% of COVID-19 deaths in the County. Can we justify to put this group at higher risk? He suggests waiting to end the mask mandate until phase 1B is complete in Dubuque County; that includes everyone who is 65+.

Diane Pape-Freiburger adds that we do not know what future allocations of the vaccine will be, making it hard to create a timeline. Also, as federal partners/pharmacies join the vaccination plan, we may start receiving less vaccine each week. Diane also adds that this is not just an elderly issue, but that many younger people may see life-long medical issues from getting COVID-19. Tom Bechen comments that it may be difficult to pass the proposed resolution without including an end date determined by metrics such as vaccination rate. Diane responds that the BOH and County Health Department are already looking at COVID-19 data every day, and therefore know when it would be appropriate to remove a mask mandate. However, she understands that the public may be more interested in having an end date on paper. Diane suggests an end date of June 15, this being the last day of prek-12 school and also 2 weeks after Memorial Day.

Hendrik Schultz agrees with Diane and adds that 23-30% of people will refuse the COVID-19 vaccine for a variety of reasons. He suggests a two-fold approach to include a timed end date and a data metric, whichever occurs sooner. Hendrik emphasizes that wording is very important in order for the message to be clear and accepted by the community.

Katie Jones adds her support for Diane and Hendrik's points. She also adds that on Monday, schools go back full-time in person and many teachers are getting vaccinated over the next two weeks.

Adam adds that he is in favor of the two-fold approach to include a timed end date as well as a metric of completing phase 1B. Suzie Stroud agrees. She believes this will show that there is data and rationale behind the BOH decision.

The BOH agrees that phase 1B of COVID-19 vaccinations could be completed before June 15, and that would call for re-assessment of the mask mandate on behalf of the BOH.

Katie Jones asks how the BOH and community will be able to tell when phase 1B is completed. Patrice responds that this is something that is being tracked by the Dubuque County Health Department as well as through IRIS. Typically, 50% of vaccine allocations go to 65+ and the other 50% go to priority occupations. She stresses concern that the State could always allow counties to move on to phase 1C before 65+ is complete. Patrice will take this information to the IMT to better determine how this will be tracked.

The BOH members agree to change the wording at the end of the proposed resolution from "shall remain in place until rescinded" to, "The provision of this proclamation shall

continue until the Dubuque County Incident Management Team declares that Phase 1B is completed in Dubuque County, or by June 15 2021, whichever occurs sooner.”

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to approve the amended, proposed mask mandate resolution. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday February 24, 2021

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to show the notice of public hearing on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 to be published in the papers on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

Hendrik Schultz made the motion to approve the notice of public hearing for publication. Diane Pape-Freiburger seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Wayne Kenniker – Asks about the vaccination process and more specifically, do we know how many county citizens fall into the phase 1B category? Of those in phase 1B, how many want to be vaccinated? It is concerning that there are not answers to these questions when the mask mandate end date is based on completing this phase. Wayne also stresses concern that those 65+ are not always tech savvy and cannot find information on how to sign-up for a vaccination.

Other public comments in the meeting were related to items on the agenda, which cannot be discussed at this time.

6. Adjournment

Hendrik Schultz made the motion to adjourn at 7:12pm. Katie Jones seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

The BOH will still meet Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom. This will no longer serve as the public hearing for the mask mandate resolution.

RESOLUTION

February 11, 2021

The Dubuque County Board of Health voted to recommend to the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors and local governing board for Dubuque County to require face coverings that cover the mouth and nose.

- WHEREAS,** On March 17, 2020, the Governor of Iowa issued a Proclamation of Public Health Disaster Emergency after multiple cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Iowa and the Iowa Department of Public Health determined that community spread was occurring within the state; and
- WHEREAS,** Iowa voters in 1968 passed the Home Rule Amendment to the Iowa Constitution which constitutionalized local control in the State of Iowa; and
- WHEREAS,** The Home Rule Amendment became Article III, Section 39A of the Iowa Constitution granting counties the power to determine their local affairs and government not inconsistent with the laws of the general assembly; and
- WHEREAS,** Chapter 331 of the Iowa Code reaffirms the constitutional grant of home rule authority to counties “to exercise any power and perform any function it deems appropriate to protect and preserve the rights, privileges and property of the county or its residents, and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare and convenience of its residents”; and
- WHEREAS,** Chapter 137 of the Iowa Code grants a county board of health to have jurisdiction over public health matters within the county; and
- WHEREAS,** Governor Reynolds has indicated the Governor’s emergency management authority occupies the field and local governments are not authorized to implement “Stay at Home Orders” or face mask mandates; and
- WHEREAS,** The Governor has failed to perform the necessary analysis as to whether local “Stay at Home Orders” and face mask mandates are irreconcilable with her emergency management action; and
- WHEREAS,** Until that analysis is done, or a court settles the question of preemption, the matter is not settled; and
- WHEREAS,** The White House Coronavirus Taskforce report made the following policy recommendations for counties in red zones:
- Public Messaging
 - Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance
 - Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
 - Do not go to bars, night clubs, or gyms
 - Use take out or eat outdoors socially distanced

- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home and using high levels of personal hygiene, including hand washing and cleaning surfaces
- Reduce your public interactions and activities to 25% of your normal activity
- Public Officials
 - Close bars and gyms, and create outdoor dining opportunities with pedestrian areas
 - Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
 - Institute routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities
 - Require masks for all staff and prohibit visitors
 - Ensure that all business retailers and personal services require masks and can safely social distance
 - Increase messaging on the risk of serious disease for individuals in all age groups with preexisting obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and recommend to shelter in place
 - Work with local community groups to provide targeted, tailored messaging to communities with high case rates, and increase community level testing
 - Recruit more contact tracers as community outreach workers to ensure all cases are contacted and all positive households are individually tested within 24 hours
 - Provide isolation facilities outside of households if positive individuals can't quarantine successfully
- Testing
 - Move community-led neighborhood testing and work with local community groups to increase access to testing
 - Surge testing and contact tracing resources to neighborhoods and zip codes highest case rates
 - Diagnostic pooling: Laboratories should use pooling of samples to increase testing access and reduce turnaround times to under 12 hours. Consider pools of 2-3 individuals in high incidence settings and 5:1 pools in settings where test positivity is under 10%
 - Surveillance pooling: For family and cohabitating households, screen entire households in a single test by pooling specimens of all members into single collection device

WHEREAS, Thousands of students have come to Dubuque county to attend the local colleges and universities and we shift to deliver in-person education for elementary, middle, and high school students, which will further increase the risk of spread of the virus within our community; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Dubuque Community School Board have asked the Dubuque County Board of Health to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and staff in the public schools by requiring face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that face coverings are critical tools in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the virus, particularly when used universally within communities; and

WHEREAS, The IDPH's reopening guidance advises that members of the public consider the use of cloth face coverings when distancing is not possible because wearing face coverings in public places where social distancing measures are difficult (like grocery stores and pharmacies) can help slow the spread of COVID-19, and refers the public to the "local public health agency, the appropriate regulating agency or professional association" with questions about how to implement its guidance; and

WHEREAS, A requirement that persons in Dubuque County wear face coverings is essential to reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and necessary to protect the health, welfare and safety of residents and visitors and accelerate local recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, The 2021 influenza season has commenced with cases already being reported in Iowa, and has the potential to cause a greater burden to the clinics and hospitals in Dubuque County; and

WHEREAS, A requirement to wear face coverings is consistent with the guidance of the IDPH and the Dubuque Board of Health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING AND OTHER VALID EMERGENT CONCERNS, THE DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING:

We hereby determine that a state of public health disaster emergency in Dubuque County exists and continues.

Every person in Dubuque County three (3) years of age or older must wear a face covering that covers the person's nose and mouth when in a public place as follows:

- In public, as opposed to being in one's place of residence, when one cannot stay six (6) feet away from others;
- Inside of any indoor public settings, for example, but not limited to:
 - Grocery stores
 - Pharmacies
 - Hardware stores
 - Retail stores
 - Other public settings that are not one's place of residence and when with persons who do not live in the household;
- Outside, if keeping six (6) feet away from others is not possible; and
- Using public transportation or a private car service (including taxis, ride share, or carpooling).

All business that are open to the public must post signs at the entrance(s) informing customers of the requirement to wear a face covering while inside their business, as stated in this Resolution. Face coverings must be provided by the business for customers who do not have their own.

The following persons are exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Persons younger than three (3) years of age due to the risk of suffocation
- Anyone who had trouble breathing or is on oxygen therapy or a ventilator
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance
- Anyone actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel, although a mask should be worn if possible.

Places and times where persons are exempt from wearing a face covering:

- While traveling in a personal vehicle alone or with household members
- While a person is alone or in the presence of only household members
- While outside, if keeping six (6) feet away from others is possible
- While exercising at moderate or high intensity such as jogging, biking, swimming, or being in or around a body of water
- While seated at a food establishment in the process of eating or drinking
- While obtaining a service that would require temporary removal of the person's face covering
- When federal or state law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of the face covering

The Dubuque County Board of Health continues to strongly encourage citizens to adjust to life with COVID-19 in an open economy, prior to full vaccination of County residents, by:

- 1) Regularly washing your hands for twenty (20) seconds and routinely sanitizing frequently touched surfaces;
- 2) Practicing social and physical distancing whenever possible; and
- 3) Monitoring your personal health and if you are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case, staying home and contacting your medical provider.

The provision of this proclamation shall continue until the Dubuque County Incident Management Team declares that Phase 1B is completed in Dubuque County, or by June 15 2021, whichever occurs sooner.

This resolution of emergency and public danger is part of an ongoing response of the Dubuque County Board of Health to an ever-changing situation to protect public health and safety. This proclamation may be modified or superseded at any time as circumstances warrant. Please be aware these decisions have been made based upon the information available today.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

Thomas J. Bechen, Chairman
Dubuque County Board of Health

ATTEST:
Samantha Kloft, Assistant Health Director
Dubuque County Health Department

2/10/2021

PROPOSED