

DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Special Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2021

TIME: 5:30 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. Individual remarks are limited to three minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda

4. COVID-19 Funding Requests

a. IMT/Firefighter Proposal

5. Next Meeting

6. 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.

7. Adjournment

ZOOM Meeting Information.

<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

TO Dubuque County Board of Health
FROM Dubuque County Incident Management Team & City of Dubuque Staff
DATE March 24, 2021
RE Answers to FAQs regarding Grand River Center POD Proposal

The Dubuque County Incident Management Team and City of Dubuque staff involved in crafting the Grand River Center Point of Distribution (POD) are happy to provide the following answers to the questions you provided following your March 17, 2021 meeting.

The original proposal and these answers are provided with this frame:

1. The current vaccine providers have worked collaboratively with the IMT to fully vaccinate 17,532 (as of March 23) Dubuque County residents. The information we have received from the federal government and State of Iowa indicates that soon, vaccine allocation will increase significantly. As a community, we must be ready to continue to collaborate to vaccinate the 78,600 adult residents who qualify, and to make sure the increased vaccines make it into the arms of those who need them.
2. Multiple locations and vaccination clinic formats will be necessary throughout the county to meet the needs of all residents. The design of this location prioritizes reaching our low-income, minority and other vulnerable residents. While the Youngers POD location has been quite successful, it is not realistic to require downtown residents to take a long bus ride to and from the site when their time may be constrained by employer demands, childcare availability, or other reasons. We will continue to work with other providers and partners, including Crescent Community Health Center and the Equity Immersion Committee, to make sure this goal is achieved.

Based on the input of the Dubuque County Supervisors at their March 22 meeting, we understand that the costs described below would be directly paid for by the City of Dubuque, and that a Memorandum of Understanding would be developed between the City and County to direct reimbursement for certain approved costs. We are happy to modify this arrangement as directed.

FAQs on the Additional POD Proposal

Funding Questions

1. **What are the potential funding sources and match dollars for this project?** As noted during the BOH meeting, the proposed budget is quickly evolving as we learn more from potential vendors. Updated information is below. Potential funding sources and match dollars for this project include Iowa Department of Public Health COVID grant funds, County American Rescue Act allocation, and Board of Health COVID funds.

Expense	Monthly	Total (Apr-July)	Proposed Source
Garage & Lot Facility Rental	\$2,500	\$10,000	Dubuque County
Exhibit A Facility Rental	\$4,000	\$16,000	Dubuque County
Tables, dividers, cleaning services	\$500	\$2,000	Dubuque County
Wireless internet charge	\$325	\$1,300	Dubuque County
Traffic management signage		\$3,000	Dubuque County
Call center/scheduling software**		\$15,000	Dubuque County
Total Anticipate County Support		\$47,300	
Technology improvements		\$22,700	City of DBQ (FEMA reimb)
Staffing		TBD	City of DBQ (FEMA reimb)*

* The City of Dubuque intends to seek FEMA disaster assistance reimbursement for staff, and will seek Dubuque County financial support for any required local match.

** While a software contract has not been confirmed, the financial commitment from Dubuque County shall not exceed \$15,000.

Capacity Questions

- 2. What is the capacity of the current POD at the Kennedy Mall?** Capacity varies week to week as providers choose to work at the POD on varying days, and their individual capacity changes based on how many boost doses they need to do that week in addition to their ability to administer any prime doses.

Each week, vaccine providers report their capacity for the following week to the IMT. Providers have reported to the IMT that they are not at capacity at this time.

Based on the past few weeks, the IMT estimates max capacity at 1150 to 1500 vaccinations a day.

- a. **Can we add additional providers to the current POD site?** There are currently five providers that utilize the POD site. The IMT estimates that one more provider could be added to this location if needed.
- b. **How many vaccines are provided per hour at the current POD site?** The IMT estimates that about 115-150 vaccines per hour are provided per hour at the POD.
- c. **Could we alter the current POD hours?** The POD is typically open 8-5pm Monday-Friday and Saturdays as needed. POD hours could be expanded to run later if additional providers are able to assist during those hours. Utilizing evenings and Saturday hours, additional providers may be added to the POD. Some providers will prefer administering vaccines at their own sites. Limited internet capability at the POD is a limiting factor for adding providers, but the IMT estimates one additional provider could be added.

Current providers have also shared with the IMT that they can expand POD hours as needed.

- d. Can the current system (POD + Providers + Pharmacies) handle a large increase in vaccine?** This depends on how large of an increase the county receives. At this time, the IMT predicts that with more than double increase in vaccines, vaccination services will have to expand outside of the current POD. There are additional vaccine providers (such as Sam's Club and Walmart) in IRIS that have yet to be allocated vaccine.

Current providers have informed the IMT that they do have provisions in place to accommodate increased vaccine allocations. They have also expressed concern about adding an additional POD site at this time.

Location Questions

- 3. Are there alternative locations in mind for the additional POD site?** Yes, potentially. Various vaccine provider sites (ie pharmacies, clinics, etc) could be utilized, depending on the number of vaccines provided and the target population.
- a. Are there any locations out in the county to utilize?** The IMT has reached out to five county mayors to inquire about alternative POD sites out in the county. These locations are being discussed with the IMT.
- 4. Is a drive-thru site needed or can it be a walk-in site?** Both would be ideal. Multiple formats meet different residents' needs for timeliness and service. While some would prefer the chance to talk with a provider or nurse about the vaccine in more detail, others prefer the quick drive-through option. The proposed budget reserves the parking garage and Exhibit Hall A in the Grand River Center so that the IMT has the option to provide drive-through and/or walk-in service.
- 5. Has anyone been to a drive through?** Research has been conducted, including with the Des Moines Fire Department.

Technology & Other Logistical Questions

- 6. Are there other internet options, such as a hotspot to use at the additional POD site?** There is no increase available in internet capacity at Kennedy Mall POD site due to limited providers and wiring at the mall. The 80M connection from Comelec at (no charge) with failover to Centurylink DSL are the only available service. The mall is lacking in any type of centralized distribution of internet services with all stores on their own. Cafaro (the owner of the Kennedy Mall property) puts quite a few restrictions on what and how to run cabling to each store. Both Centurylink and ImOn have submitted plans for improved internet for the mall. Cafaro wants to charge them for running fiber to the building. This is typically not done.

Hot spots are possible but can cause interference issues with the existing wireless serving the POD. In addition, the more hotspots the more it impacts others using the

same carrier including patients waiting at the POD before and after shots. We require providers at the POD to negotiate wireless at 5Ghz connection and not use 2.4Ghz. We've seen the interference caused by this situation at the Younkers POD.

7. Have other scheduling software been explored? Yes, other software have been explored. City staff used the following criteria to assess software:

- a. Has the vendor worked with cities and counties trying to do patient scheduling for COVID vaccines or are they only working with clinics and other healthcare providers?
- b. Could the vendor provide a solution that was intuitive and could do scheduling, call backs and a mobile app under one contract?
- c. Could the vendor provide a solution with a work flow that easily passes a patient from scheduling – appointment reminder – appointment – check-in – shot – post shot – scheduling of 2nd shot?
- d. Could the solution be set up quickly by the deadline (operational goal: April 5, 2021) with assistance in user training and helpdesk operations?
- e. Was the solution web-based, secure meeting HIPPA and PPI regulations and run on tablets or desktops?
- f. Were our users comfortable and confident it would provide a win-win solution they could see our staff and our community using?

This wasn't a typical RFP where we had a lot of time to evaluate many solutions. We were faced with a request from the incident management team to get a scheduling/patient engagement solution up and running by April 5. It was critical to get a vendor that could get us up and successfully running in two weeks. The other systems evaluated were in the \$60,000 - \$100,000+ range for cost.

Since the BOH and BOS meetings, the City has learned that SolvHealth can no longer commit to serving Dubuque given the rapid demand for statewide software management systems, nationally. The \$15,000 proposed is a not to exceed amount for scheduling software that meets as many of the criteria above as possible, most importantly the ability to be operational by April 5.

It is possible to add additional provider information and if POD participants are willing to integrate scheduling, it can be done. Other users can be added to the City's account.

7. Can the new POD site be brought up in increments and more flexible than a 3-4 month commitment? Yes. The Grand River Center contract allows either party to modify the contract as needed with 21 days' notice.

8. Peosta provided chairs and tables and clean up—will the new POD site? Yes. On-site needs (tables, chairs, pipe & drape, etc) and daily janitorial services are included.

Liability & Insurance Questions

- 9. Will liability and insurance work the same way that it does at the current POD site?** City has ICAP coverage.

Volunteers should be covered for liability purposes. If outside providers/organizations participate and the individuals are being paid by their employer for the time at the GRC POD then their employer needs insurance for their actions/activities.

Questions Specific to the City Fire Department

- 10. Will the firefighters apply to insurance companies for reimbursement of the administration cost for the COVID vaccine?** Yes.
- 11. Would the firefighters be able to set up at the current location at Younkers, utilizing the volunteers and space already set up?** Firefighters would assist a current provider in administering vaccines in order to increase that provider's (and the POD) capability within the limitations noted above about capacity.
- 12. Have the firefighters agreed to working this POD? I have been told that some have gone to their union and are opposing this.** Yes, they have agreed to work in this setting.
- 13. Can the firefighters, instead of having their own POD, supplement the other vaccine providers if needed?** Yes, potentially.
- 14. Are the firefighters willing to work out of other POD locations?** Yes, potentially.
- 15. What about firefighters targeting groups through "messenger" at Comisky Park or somewhere in the neighborhood that is walkable?** We will continue to work with the Equity Immersion Committee to identify the best possible ways to reach residents in this neighborhood. This may be an option, keeping in mind the storage requirements for the vaccine.
- 16. Did the firefighters have all this planned out after becoming vaccine providers? Who allocates the County's vaccines?** The Iowa Department of Public Health to the Dubuque County Public Health Incident Management Team. The fire department has been researching the steps required to become a provider since they were notified they would be able to do so to meet IMT needs.
- 17. With Crescent set to receive doses through the FQHC program around the time the State expects an increase in doses, can the fire fighters assist Crescent with their administrations?** Yes, the fire department could assist CCHC personnel in delivering vaccines they are allotted from the federal source. We would expect to assist with what they set up and help with giving shots only and not appointment scheduling, or other jobs, or the logistics.

18. Can the firefighters work in the POD 6pm-10pm and then work in another provider site? Potentially, although we are committed to continue to maintain a high level of fire protection and paramedic service to the Dubuque community while also providing vaccines and human capacity is limited.

Vaccine Provider Questions

19. Can additional providers still be added to the IRIS list? Any entity can apply to become an IDPH approved vaccine provider. It is an open process.

20. Are there some of the current COVID vaccine providers that want to use their current locations, and will not be using space at the POD at Kennedy Mall? There has been no indication of this and that would likely happen when vaccinations are winding down.

21. Has the IMT sat down with representatives from each of the providers and explained how this additional POD site may affect their allocation of COVID vaccine doses? Since the additional POD site will be activated when *substantially additional doses* of vaccine are allocated, it will not affect the current providers allocations.

22. Is the VNA charging the BOH on top of this reimbursement? No. The VNA is not set up to bill a third-party insurance. VNA is not seeking reimbursement through insurance.

Equity Questions

23. How many doses, including this week, have been allocated and or distributed to the uninsured and underinsured in Dubuque county? Allocations each week are given to the vaccine providers that have the ability to focus on these target groups as they see fit.

24. Has anyone attended an equity committee meeting to ask about gaps that have been noticed in vaccine administration to minority populations? Mary Rose Corrigan is the IMT liaison to the Equity Committee and meets with their facilitator, City Human Rights Director Kelly Larson. The Committee is receiving vaccination data, COVID infection and death data based on race and ethnicity.

25. How many doses of Covid vaccine have been allocated to Crescent, including this week? In total, Crescent has been allocated 168 Pfizer and 200 Moderna vaccines.

26. Has Crescent decided not to utilize their current location and federal vaccines to administer COVID vaccines to the underserved in Dubuque? Crescent has not

indicated they would not be using their clinic site. the only large amount of testing they did is when Epic set up a one-time test clinic at Crescent. Crescent is currently planning for their federal FQHC allocations.