

LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
LEWIS AND CLARK PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE ROOM

ZOOM Web Meeting

October 22, 2020

(Note: Meeting time 1:00-3:00pm)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

1:00	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	
1:00	<b>REVIEW OF AGENDA</b>	
	1. Review and Revision of Agenda .....	Pg. 1
1:05	<b>MINUTES</b>	
	2. Minutes of September 3 and 24, 2020 .....	Pg. 2
1:10	<b>BOARD DISCUSSION</b>	
	3. - Finance Report for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter FY21	
	- New Staff Introduction	
	- PHAB Annual Report .....	Pg. 16
2:00	<b>HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT</b>	
	4. Report on Current Health Department Issues.....	Pg. 17
2:30	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	
	5. Public comments on matters not mentioned above.....	Pg. 18

**Adjourn**

*Our mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County Residents*

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**LEWIS & CLARK CITY/COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Helena, Montana**

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting Date**

**October 22, 2020**

**Agenda Item No.**

**1**

Minutes     Board Member Discussion     Staff & Other Reports     Action     Hearing of Delegation

**AGENDA ITEMS:** Review of Agenda

**PERSONNEL INVOLVED:** Board Members

**BACKGROUND:** Time is allowed for board members to review the agenda and to add any new agenda items.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED

**BOARD ACTION:**

**NOTES:**

	M O T I O N	S E C O N D	A Y E	N A Y	A B S T A I N	O T H E R
Bedell						
Berg						
Collins						
Eck						
Hunthausen						
Johnson						
MacLaurin						
Murgel						
Ream						

**LEWIS & CLARK CITY/COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Helena, Montana**

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting Date**

**October 22, 2020**

**Agenda Item No.**

**2**

Minutes     Board Member Discussion     Staff & Other Reports     Action     Hearing of Delegation

**AGENDA ITEMS:** Minutes September 3 & 24, 2020

**PERSONNEL INVOLVED:** Board Members

**BACKGROUND:** Upon approval, the minutes represent official actions of the Board of Health. Every effort is made to have these recommended minutes accurately portray the proceedings and procedures of the board.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED

**BOARD ACTION:**

**NOTES:**

	M O T I O N	S E C O N D	A Y E	N A Y	A B S T A I N	O T H E R
Bedell						
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Hunthausen						
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MacLaurin						
Murgel						
Ream						

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES  
1930 9<sup>th</sup> AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.  
September 3, 2020**

Members Present by Zoom

Justin Murgel, chair  
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair  
Mayor Wilmot Collins  
Brie McLaurin  
Kammy Johnson  
Jenny Eck  
Raymond Berg  
Tyler Ream

Staff Present by Zoom

Drenda Niemann  
Jolene Helgerson  
Jacqueline Isaly  
Eric Merchant  
Kathy Moore

Members Absent

Dr. Mikael Bedell

Guests Present by Zoom

Nicho Hash, Deputy County Attorney  
Charles Lane, Deputy County Attorney

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of board members were made. Mr. Murgel read the protocols for today's meeting.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No additions were made.

**ACTION ITEM**

Order of the Health Officer 10-2020: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, spoke of the work Public Health and both school districts have accomplished in the last month developing plans for back to school and having spectators at sporting events and the work Public Health is doing to slow the spread of COVID-19. Ms. Niemann shared the Public Health Dashboard and highlighted the cases by day for Lewis and Clark County since the pandemic started. While assisting the school districts with developing their plan to reopen, Ms. Niemann recommended to the school districts that they wait to see the impact of cases before considering adding another layer of risk associated with spectators. Ms. Niemann read a section of July 7, Order Health Officer 10-2020 referencing the addition of spectators to youth activities. She said in order to allow fans at youth activities, the board must consider an amendment. Ms. Niemann presented the draft language for an amendment to the July 7, Order Health Officer 10-2020 (see Attachment "A"). If the board chooses to amend the order, Ms. Niemann recommended that the Board take careful consideration of the timing in which the amendment will take effect.

Mr. Murgel asked for board member discussion. In answer to a question from Commissioner Hunthausen, Ms. Niemann read the draft amendment for consideration as part of the official record. She also said staff would update the order with statistics to match what is currently happening in the community. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Niemann said the recorded youth activities plans itself is not part of the order. School Districts across the county, however, have submitted plans and allowed Public Health to be a partner to help with making sure the plan is done as safely as possible. The amended order if the Board chooses today, would apply to spectators alone, not including those involved with the youth

activities. In answer to questions from Commissioner Hunthausen, Ms. Niemann said while the Board is deliberating on the timing of effective date of the amendment, they should consider that the virus has an incubation period of two weeks. Public Health will not see the impacts of back to school, students participating in activities, or Labor Day weekend until two weeks after. Ms. Niemann said she does not foresee the need of an additional amendment to the order if cases rise within the school districts. In answer to a question from Ms. Jenny Eck, Ms. Niemann said that due the Governor's clarification of the 50 rule outlined in the Governor's Directive for Phase Two, the 50 rule doesn't apply to youth activities itself. Our order is intended to come alongside of the Governor's directive and that of rule 50. Public Health is suggesting youth activities themselves are not subject to the order, just the plans for the spectators. The way the order reads, the limit of the number of spectators at events is between 50-250 with a plan submitted to Public health for review and approval. Everyone at the event is required to physically distance at least six feet and the plan is operational and enforced at the time of the event. Eric Merchant, Communicable Disease Prevention Division Administrator, asked for a clarification that the general community youth activities are still subject to the Governor's 50 rule. Only school sanctioned activities would no longer be subject to the 50 rule. The youth activity itself, along with the number of players, coaches, assistants, and referees is still subject to 50 when it is not a school sanction activity. Ms. Niemann said the amendment reads that youth activities is defined as community based and school sanctioned, which would no longer be subject to the order. It would be only the spectators. The Governors clarification was only applicable to school sanctioned activities. In answer to a question from Commissioner Hunthausen, Ms. Niemann said Public Health was very thoughtful when they presented and adopted the original order to limit events, activities, groups and gatherings of between 50-250 people. At the time in early July, Public Health was seeing significant spikes across the nation, the State of Montana, and in Lewis and Clark County associated with group gatherings and events. That is what precipitated this order. Mr. Merchant referenced a memo for justification for a cap on gatherings (see Attachment "B") when making the decision for the order. In answer to a question from Tyler Ream, Ms. Niemann said she is looking for direction and feedback to this amendment and the timing of the implementation of the amendment. Mr. Ream said this amendment is a step forward. He is confident in their ability to adhere to the amended order to allow spectators at school activities. He believes the Helena School District (HSD) has a strong plan in place for spectators that they could implement quickly and even have a soft launch right now. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Mr. Ream said the HSD is working to have consistency with the school districts when developing their plans. Tim McMahan, Athletic Director for the Helena School District, said the plan is defined, as an activity spectator pass. Distribution would be initial contact with families to identify who will be receiving passes. In that definition, it is defined as immediate family and limited two per fans. Those passes would be distributed to the immediate family, which is defined as individuals living in the same home as the participant or, in the case of a separated family, a parent residing in another home. Those passes would only be for those identified by a form that will be sent to the kids and then returned before passes will be handed out. Superintendent Ron Whitmoyer with East Helena Public Schools said East Helena's plans is similar to Helena's and follows the recommendation of Public Health. In answer to a question from Mr. Berg, Ms. Niemann said, we have already seen cases associated with back to school and school activities in our county. Ms. Niemann could ask the State for an epidemiology report for other counties if need be. Ms. Niemann said she did not have an exact case number for Lewis and Clark County at that moment, but could follow up with additional information if the board desired. Mr. Berg also voiced his concern regarding a number of people coming together whom may or may not physically distance or wear their masks, which will then lead to more cases and contacts. He felt we are moving too fast. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Mr. McMahan said, at this time HSD and other Double A schools are not having out-of-town spectators. The HSD wants to see how it goes with home spectators before allowing out of town spectators. Dan Rispen, Principal at the East Helena School District, said their submitted plan has different levels: A, B, & C. Level A would only allow two parents or caregivers per student

participant in the contest and only for the home team. We would consult with Public Health when deciding on changes to the plan. In answer to questions from Brie McLaurin, Mr. Ream said parents of the athletes and school officials have been working together on a plan to address those not following the physical distancing and mask requirements at school events. Dr. Harkins, with St. Peter's Health (SPH), said SPH is in unified command with Public Health and that is why our community has been successful at keeping this virus at bay, so we don't overwhelm our health care system. We agreed to the layering and gradually increasing risk to prevent the virus from spreading, but then to contain it quickly when you have an outbreak. We do support spectators, not getting into the order, interoperations, and legal pieces, but staying in our lane and presenting to the community what we believe is a safe way to introduce spectators as a next layer of risk. Mr. McMahon explained the actions they took when a student did become COVID positive along with direct contacts to that student. In answer to a question from Mr. Berg, Dr. Harkins said the COVID virus can affect the organ systems and the disease process can last for months. It can happen, but it's not often or easy to predict who that might happen to. In our community, very few of our COVID positive patients have required any hospitalization. We have had only 13 COVID positive patients that have need hospitalization most have recovered some 3-5 months out. In answer to a question from Commissioner Hunthausen, Ms. Niemann said Public Health had asked the school districts to submit their plans as soon as possible for review. We do have them, and they are in the review process right now. We anticipate within the week they will be complete. In answer to questions from Ms. Eck, Dr. Ream said the HSD's would need the plans approved today in order to have the plans in place for this weekend's scheduled sporting events. Dr. Ream also clarified his earlier remarks regarding soft opening and their ability to have spectators at the two weekend home games.

There being no further board member discussion, Ms. Eck made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Hunthausen seconded it. Ms. Eck made a clarification to her motion to approve the Health Officer Order 10-2020 effective immediately and that statistics will be updated to the amendment to the effect of current status.

Mr. Murgel open the discussion up for public comment.

Kim Beatty said kids have been practicing with their sports teams for two weeks and school has been back in session for a week. We have only 14 active cases with a population of 69,000. No people are in the hospital. One new case has been reported in the last 7 days. We have flattened the curve. Parents have submitted a spectator plan to the Health Department on August 25 and schools submitted spectators plans on August 27. All are strict and conservative. All require wearing masks, social distancing, and sanitizing. Schools working with parents, athletic directors, MHSA, and OPI will be well-positioned to ensure the continued safety of our community by allowing our parents to participate in our children's lives. I would like to focus on how quickly Public Health believes they can review and issue decisions on our spectator plan. I know that the Public Health Department has as added almost 50 employees to their staff in the past few months to address COVID-related issues. I urge this board to allow spectator plans and to approve them in time for parents to attend sporting events this weekend.

Tyler (No last name given) said, as you look at this count that Mr. Ream and Mr. Tyler had mentioned about trying to follow other Double A schools and you keep using this number of 250. Let's, for instance, use football. You have players on the sideline at the Double A level, [and] it's a little different over at East Helena, you're going to have 60 to 70 players on the sideline. That's only two participants per each one. That puts you at 140. I think it's important to recognize many of these players have split custody situations, where they have a stepfather or stepmother also brothers and sisters. You have 60 to 70 participants; football is going to be the most. Not that volleyball, soccer, cross-country and golf is not just as important, but not having a provisions in place right away for all the parents. Keep in mind that at the

Double A level, we have already lost two football games. We are losing the two non-conference games. Now were down to eight. The longer it takes to go into this situation... these seniors are missing out. Please factor that in if you can say we can have 250 at a soccer or football game, we will have some flexibility to be able to have both sets of parents along with stepfather or mother. If you approve for 250, how can we get there? I do believe we can social distance. The parents have come out strong saying that we need to do temperature checks. We will social distance. We will police ourselves. We will make sure, because it is important that they all be there.

Kim Ramorini, Superintendent and Principal at Augusta Schools, thanked everyone for their hard work. I would like you to implore some consideration and some common sense towards our smaller schools and communities. Our board is checking in with Helena schools and getting their input and talk of other Double A schools. What about our smaller schools. What about our Class B schools. We are in this county. We are a town of 400. We are a high school of 20. We have one single fall sport team, which is volleyball with 8 girls on it. We are not all schools with hundreds - if not thousands - of students with multiple sports. Every decision we make based on Helena and the large schools there [is] an even more massive effect and impact on our smaller community schools. We have done our work. We have completed a great reopening plan with our local county health department. We submitted a plan for spectators long before this rule came into place. Please allow our school district to make their own plans and their own decisions for the sake of kids, which [is] our number one priority as well; not just the public health board. Every decision made in Helena has a huge impact on our small schools. I would really like you to be thinking of them when you are making these decisions.

Phil McGovern, with the Helena Youth Soccer Association, said that they have the honor of hosting the Helena high school soccer games. Today I am talking more about our games. The Helena Youth Soccer Club has a competitive side to it that plays teams out of town. I would like to thank the Board, Ms. Niemann and the sanitarians I have been working with. It is very heartening to see that youth sports is included in that draft. Our plans have focused on the spectators and being allowed to have them. I am more concerned where they go when they are not at our fields. In the summer, we separated the field and marked how many personnel were on the field to be under 50. We were allowed to have designated areas for spectators in which we separated them by families. We would be willing to have everyone wear masks regardless of the six feet spacing. We can even go as far as cones and barriers between sittings. The Bozeman Blitz vs the Helena Arsenal. I just want you to keep in mind there are other useful things to do to bring in people from out of town. If that is still our focus as part of the spectators, we will need some guidance on that. I believe the high schools, the agencies, and our soccer club can keep people safe. We can keep them separated on the fields and do what we have to do for the kids. We did it this summer. We are good at it. If we continue to focus on where the spectators go after their game, we have to put it on the adults to be responsible that when they go into Town Pump that they wear their mask like they are supposed to and watch their congregation. There are certain parts that the school district of [we] can control.

Amy Pfister said there appears that there is an assumption made that by not allowing out-of-area spectators to attend these athletic events that they will not travel. That it's an assumption that they are going to stay home. I can tell you that as a parent, I believe this is [a] very inaccurate assumption that is being made. I ask why wouldn't we provide [a] safe, socially distanced environment that is controlled, sanitized, and everyone is wearing masks. Instead of having no control over those spectators who technically can go freely to a restaurant, a bar, a tailgate, or even a home gathering to watch that game, which we can do freely today. I would like to ask you to pause and ask yourselves, why can parents today go to a restaurant in any city in any state. Why can we go buy a ticket to an event like a monster truck rally in any city or state but there is hesitation on the Boards part to allow those same parents to sit and

socially distance in a masked environment watching our children? I encourage you all to allow all parents to attend games safely. Allow them to be there to not only mentally and but physically support their children.

Tom Rolfe Candidate for County Commission, thanked the Board for making this easy for the public to be involved. Please think about the mental health concerns that have been caused over the last few months by isolation for the family, friends and the family activities that have be squelched. When I think of people dying in the hospitals by themselves, it bothers me. It's time for us to consider working towards helping people get together safely. I encourage you to work in that direction. I was bothered by the folks in the school districts [who] were told that it would take too much time to get the problem solved and maybe open up things faster. This is where those of us that seek to participate in public policy feel can step out and try to move timelines up a bit and try to make things happen for the public. I can encourage you to do that. Let's look at the long-term effects of isolation from family and friends that is so much a part of who we are.

Howard DesRosier- thanked the Board for holding this meeting. I would like to know how overwhelmed our health care system [has] been. How many beds do we have at St. Peter's for COVID? How many have been used and how many are available for COVID? If you don't know the information, how many people under the age of 64 in our state that have died from COVID? I think that would be a good place to start. If you understand the virus, our kids have worked out all weekend, all year, all week, and every month this summer. Their bugs are our bugs. I fail to see how, as Ms. Niemann said, that it would be a far greater risk to add fans in the stands. Social distancing outside with masks, which are above your guidelines by the way, how that increase the risk to our community.

Stacy Springer said my comments are in support of creating a safe, socially distanced, self-controlled gathering of a limited number of spectators at community, youth and sporting events. Regarding spectator plans for these events, the streamline submission and review of spectator plans both of the volunteer organizations who created them and for the Health Department with the responsibility reviewing and approving these plans, I respectfully ask for guidance to these volunteer community organizations and I ask for expedited review and feedback of these plans. There are organizations that do events this weekend and parent would very much like to be there. Every child deserves the support of family being present at their events. It deepens relationships. They need family there in case of the awful immediate health care event that may occur in these sporting events and for the mental health of the youth in our community. My request is not based on an entitlement position of parents but rather out of deep compassion for the variety of families that makes up our community. We have traditional families, blended families, and step-families. Having families there at events in a limited number shows their kids that what they are doing is important. It reiterates that this is good for their mental health and combats the isolation that so many kids and families have felt during this time.

Representative Julie Dooling said that Dr. Ream pointed out that that they have already had experience with graduation this year allowing parents in a large area. I don't think needs to put a time limit on this as to when this can be implemented. The school districts have already done this. They have already gone through graduation. They have already had their practice run. Let them implement what they have. They know their school districts better than we do. I am concerned that these kids' activities are receiving extra scrutiny when they are not even in the high-risk demographic. Their parents and grandparents are, but these kid's activities are receiving a lot of extra scrutiny when there are other events going on in Helena alone that have allowed other people older adults, higher demographics to continue on. I feel that has been a little unfair. Last week I was in on a Zoom meeting organized by the Health Department. Ms. Niemann's presentation expressed that they need to take personal responsibility. Please let us take

personal responsibility. Let the schools do their job. Let them take care of the kids and let us take personal responsibility for ourselves. We will mask up. We will do the right thing.

Representative Mary Ann Dunwell said I don't think that everyone is comfortable with anything that is going to be decided. I am not completely comfortable with the amendment. It's the best that Public Health Department can do. I just finished listening to today's press conference by Governor Steve Bullock. It struck me that he said that we are averaging 800 case weekly statewide. He also encouraged people to be cautious this Labor Day weekend because we are certainly not out of the woods. This is a new normal. I do appreciate the fact that you are looking at the time frame for rolling out the spectator part of the plan. I would like to see us wait two weeks incubation period that Public Health Officer Drenda Niemann mentioned especially after Labor Day weekend. I am parent who has raised a son. I was a sports mom and I understand the value of a family coming together to watch their children. Our community is a team as well. The rules sportsmanship are respect. I would encourage our community to exercise respect and to adhere to the enforcement at these games. Wear masks and social distance. We do know that the Dr. from St. Pete's said when we scream, yell, and cheer for our team it propels droplets. We need to be cognizant. This Labor Day we are going to thank all the workers who have helped get us through this coronavirus. From the front line, medical and public health professionals, teachers, and our parents, I encourage us to thank them.

Jenise Cockhill thanked Dr. Harkins for all of your thoughtfulness regarding this issue. I would like to comment that the intent of this special meeting was to address youth sports and high school activities. My comment is for Ms. Niemann and the rest of the Public Health team, please give priority to all of the schools in Helena and the rest of the county when reviewing spectator plans. The teams and sports that are in progress right now will be over soon. Those parents will be missing opportunities to cheer on their children. Put those plans first.

Heidi Freeland Kester, registered nurse in the community, I am not commenting under the capacity with Blue Cross Blue Shield HMK. I am commenting as a registered nurse for 14 years. My question is the safety our students on the field and the parents being there in case of an injury. Yes, we have accepted the risk as parents that our children are in sports. I am fearful for us as a community in Helena. It's a cross in the paper that a child was injured and had to be Life Flighted out. The parent was not there to make the call. Something happened [unintelligible] loss of a limb. There are a lot of Life Flights that go on in this state. They are children injuries. There are lot injuries that do happen in sports. I have a big concern how did we even get to this where the parent is to be separated from their child while playing contact sports. I would like us all to think about that as well if we could. Helena is the only one where a parent can't be with the child. I don't think we want to go down that road. We should have an answer as soon as possible of our spectator plan that we have submitted.

Dan Purdom, thanked the Board. I have been to every single baseball, football game for my kids. Never missed one in my child's life. I don't want to start now. I have already had to miss two. For this to keep going and not to be approved right now and for me to be able to attend my kids scrimmage tonight. But apparently that is not going to happen. My kid is 18 and a senior at Capital High. This is a season where scouts are out looking at our kids to get scholarships and to perform at their highest level. My kid wants to be the best he can be. For us not to be able to cheer and get behind our kids that are on the field to be the best they can be is a slap in the face to everybody that has a kid in football or volleyball. I wanted everybody on the Board to know that it is important to us parents. I wanted you to hear if from the community and the parents that for us to not to be there to cheer for my kid. If you think that parents not cheering for kids on the field is very important to those kids, you can go ask any Capital High kid if they

have heard Titan Prudom's father screaming from the stands. I guarantee you every one of them knows what I sound like. I'll be darned if I am going to miss any more games for my son.

Silver Beaty, said my husband is deployed so it's already hard enough with the idea of my kids not having their dad to be at their events. There is a family in this community that has a father that is terminally ill and has two kids in sport right now. I want to encourage the Board to whoever has these plans to prioritize them. Every weekend is weekend that that family and their father is not getting to watch his sons play.

After no further public comment, the motion carried 7-1.

Ms. Niemann thanked the Board of Health and said that it was important that she had the support from the Board before she moved forward with any amendment to the order. She will commit to making the amendment effective today. We also commit as a Health Department to work back with all of the schools in the county as well as community and youth sports organizations to ensure that spectator plans are reviewed in a timely manner.

There being no additional public comment on matter not mentioned above, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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Justin Murgel, Chair

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Drenda Niemann, Secretary

Question Report  
Report Generated:  
Topic

9/15/2020 16:37

Webinar ID

Actual Duration  
(minutes)

Board of Health 939 7887 7189

Actual Start Time  
9/3/2020 12:42

137

Question Details  
#

Question

Asker Name

Asker Email

1 Is a representative from the MHSA going to be in attendance today?

Lawrence Sickerson

lsickerson@mt.gov

2 Will you have a place where written public comment can be submitted?

Kim Beatty

kim@bkbh.com

3 Just a note that the chat has been disabled. Could we get chat enabled?

Amy Pfister

amynpfister@gmail.com

4 Thank you.

Amy Pfister

amynpfister@gmail.com

5 Can you please open the chat box?

Amy Pfister

amynpfister@gmail.com

6 Please explain the inconsistencies of allowing the concert this weekend at the civic center, but not allowing spectators attend their child's events.

Jamie-CHS Bruin Mom

stacybaird@mt.net

7 Jolene, I have lowered my hand

Stacy Baird

amynpfister@gmail.com

8 My public comments are too lengthy for this Q&A box. Is there another way I can submit comments?

Amy Pfister

amynpfister@gmail.com

9 Also, will spectators be permitted at school events under this amendment? Or will separate spectator plans still need to be submitted to an approved by the Health Department?

Kim Beatty

kim@bkbh.com

10 Yes Please

Kim Beatty

kim@bkbh.com

11 What is the basis of the 250 person limitation? The number seems arbitrary in context of the Governor's plan to reopen the State and inconsistent (more restrictive) with Health Department protocols utilized by other Montana counties with higher active case counts.

Amy Pfister

amynpfister@gmail.com

12 Please review these plans as soon as possible. We have been exposed to these kids the last several weeks as they live with us. Parents should not be restricted and never should have been. This was an administrative error and we should not be penalized any longer. Thank you!

Eric Lilletvedt

mtlilletvedts@gmail.com

13 Lewis and Clark is the only county out of 56 counties without a spectator plan in place. Parents are really hoping that we can move along with the other counties to get a plan in place. Our highest case day is 10. This is not a spike based on our county population. We are at 200 today for total cases in our county.

Lisa

schlosser@bresnan.net

14 Ms. Niemann just answered my earlier question, but raise a follow-up question: How quickly will proposed spectator plans be reviewed and adopted or rejected after submission?

Courtney McAdams

courto73@yahoo.com

15 Jolene - I had a follow up question. Did you see that? I am not sure how to reply to you because that function has been disabled.

Kim Beatty

kim@bkbh.com

16 What is the basis for separating spectator attendance from the "student activity" itself? Did the governor make the distinction or is the Health Board arbitrarily making this distinction? Are events/activities (not school-related) with spectators similarly separated? If social distancing considerations permit, can attendance (as spectators) be planned as separate "events" when spectator groups are isolated (such as home vs. visiting fans)

Kim Beatty

kim@bkbh.com

17 With our low case numbers overall all, why is Lewis and Clark county the only one with this directive and without a spectator plan? What is making us different from other counties? Yellowstone county has 2,200 total cases, with 982 current cases now. Their health officer announced yesterday that school districts in Yellowstone county can make their own spectator plans. All other AA schools are allowing spectators. Please get on the same page and momentum with other schools. The timing should be now. We are already late to the show. Fall sports will be over in a less than 2 months. Thank you.

Eric Lilletvedt

mtlilletvedts@gmail.com

18 There are grants available from the State thru the Dept of Commerce for county public health departments if more employees are needed for contact tracing.

Courtney McAdams

courto73@yahoo.com

19 Why is the Health Department able to place an acceptable number at 250, but unable to suggest an acceptable plan instead of placing that burden on the schools and having the option to reject it?

Rep. Julie Dooling

jd2.dooling@gmail.com

20 Thank you Dr. Ream! Yes, boys high school soccer has practiced together since June 15th. There have been no cases and no issues. They are all on 2 buses today to Kalispell. Everyone had a mask on, an assigned seat mate for the whole season, no shared food or drinks and social distancing when possible. There are already guidelines in place that are successfully controlling Covid-19. Please approve HSD plan today. Thank you.

shirschi

scott@montanaradio.com

21 How many cases associated with students, you said you are seeing them and the public wants to know! Back up your statements, please or don't make such statements.

Courtney McAdams

courto73@yahoo.com

22 Please provide clarification on the increases seen with return to school as the graph posted at the outset of the meeting showed a decreasing trend with minimal cases over the last several days.

Lisa

schlosser@bresnan.net

Charlene Nichols

charnichols197@gmail.com

23	Respectfully, You can look at your dashboard Ms Drenda Neimann. Pull up your Lewis and Clark data on your COVID by the numbers. It is broken down by age as well.		Heidi_Friedlander-Keaster@bcbsmt.com
24	I'd kindly appreciate knowing exactly how many cases are truly associated with back-to-school situations. That's a very interesting statement given the statistics presented.	U322147	
	I'd also like to know what the plan is for addressing parents who have Seniors if the Board chooses to make L&C remain the only county in the state to not allow spectators.		silver.beaty@outlook.com
25	My husband is terminally ill. He wants nothing more than to watch his son play his senior year of football for the Helena High Bengals. He also wants nothing more than to see his sophomore son get a chance on the JV team. The thought of us not being able to watch hurts. Why do these decision makers think they know more than our medical professionals? The CDC, etc.? How can they do this to us? Football, XC, soccer, etc. are all outdoor activities and there is more than enough room to social distance, even with 250 spectators. You, the board, have taken this to the extreme.	Amy Adams	amys.mess@yahoo.com
26	It seems our students and athletes are being trusted to social distance and wear masks at school but you are already prejudging parents and determining we are not trustworthy to wear masks and social distance. Give us a chance. We understand the seriousness and are will follow all the health guidelines if given the chance.	Kelly Byron	aaronandkellybyron@icloud.com
27	I agree that if you are indicating there are definite cases related to student activities and/or school then you should be able to speak to specific numbers. If you are unable to back up the statement with real data, I have a hard time being able to believe the statements are valid.	Monica	monica@lawyerinmontana.com
28	Are other agencies able to comment or ask questions of the Board.	Phil HYSA Arsenal	info@helenasoccer.org
29	I am on a Montana map showing no new cases of Covid in our county! Please back up your statement about increasing numbers. Where are you getting that data?	Julie Lamb-Heller	julie@century21hr.com
30	Should it be asked here or by raising hand?	Phil HYSA Arsenal	info@helenasoccer.org
31	In addition to COVID-Positive data, please also consider other impacts of extended isolation on public health, especially upon youth. Your decisions impact more than graphs showing COVID statics. Thank-you.	Eric Lilletvedt	mtlilletvedts@gmail.com
32	What happens when an athlete gets injured in another town? Who is responsible for making medical decisions that a parent, who won't be able to attend, would normally make?	Magnitude Booth Staff	nferros@magnituede.com
33	Can someone provide data showing that having out of town spectators in a controlled environment that is sanitized, social distanced, and masked increases the risk of contracting Covid-19? It appears there is an assumption that parents will not travel if they are not allowed to attend as a spectator, which is an inaccurate assumption. Why not provide a safe, limited capacity, controlled environment instead of those same individuals going out to bars, restaurants, tail gate or home gatherings?	Amy Pfister	amypfister@gmail.com
34	We can go almost anywhere out of town freely, but not sit in safety watching our children.	Amy Pfister	amypfister@gmail.com
35	Thank you	Phil HYSA Arsenal	info@helenasoccer.org
36	Eric was talking about high school events being different than community youth activities... However the draft amendment states community and school based activities being exempt. please explain what he is talking about.	Jamie Green	beautygreenlashe@gmail.com
37	Have any of the public health officials considered the risks associated with mental health of our community members with all the emphasis on COVID? Should we not be considering suicide of our youth as a serious side affect of all these restrictions? Do you not remember Lewis and Clark County has one of the highest suicide rates for our youth, I believe this is a greater risk to our teens and families. It's time to open your eyes and stop the fear about COVID. It's not deadly, suicide is!	Lisa	schlosser@bresnan.net
38	While I understand the need to err on the side of caution with Covid, I would second Eric Lilletvedt's comments. Please ensure that mental health is a factor in the equation when considering allowing spectators at our kids' school activities.	Mike Fasbender	mj.fasbender@bresnan.net
39	When you day plans are in review, does your lack of staffing negatively affect those of us waiting to know if we can watch our own kids? Make it happen, and stop messing with our lives. Stop the bureaucratic excuses!	Lisa	schlosser@bresnan.net
40	i find highly incompetent that Drenda makes a blanket statement we have many cases is local schools yet can't give a number. Extremely disturbing to create fear and not be able to produce the data. Even though with in the last 2 weeks there have been a only a handful of cases in the county(many days zero) and you have no idea the number attributed to schools. Please be prepared next time before giving a blanket statement - highly unprofessional. For the record what is the process to have the county health officer removed from their position	Mike	mroberts3344@gmail.com
41	You will prompt I presume :)	Phil HYSA Arsenal	info@helenasoccer.org

42 so no spectators only parents of home teams... very disappointed!		jkadt1904@gmail.com
43 Why only parents of home team?	Jim knight	jkadt1904@gmail.com
44 Vote before input???	Jim knight	jkadt1904@gmail.com
45 There aren't enough home games for you to not put this up to the front of your line. Please reconsider.	Jim knight	rmiller173@gmail.com
46 Whats allowed for fans at sporting activities.	rmiller	amjeffgordan24@gmail.com
47 Several questions after listening to the board conversation:	Anthony McClain	
1. The proposed amendment language specifies community & school sponsored "Youth events":		
a). Is this only for highschool sponsored youth activities, or all levels of school youth activities?		
b). Why make the "school sponsored" designation (in conversation earlier) ? Will there be separate consideration (using similar criteria for planning and restrictions) for other community events (outside of a change in the reopening phase)?		
c). Is this for all events/sports or only for outdoor events?		
2. Layering risk seems to be a common sense approach; Once a plan is adopted, how easily can it be modified as it proves necessary?		
3. Some student cases are sure to occur throughout the county. Are there mandated guidelines on how a program deals with these cases or is that a part of the plans to be proposed?		
48 How does this work for small fry?	Joseph Krall	kralljoseph@hotmail.com
49 You knew this was coming. School districts have submitted plans way before now. How can you not have something in place for this weekend?	lisa	lisalarsonstyle@gmail.com
50 The school opening plan states that less than 20 active cases would allow schools to switch to Phase 2..... which opens up more freedoms. What is the status with this?	Amy Adams	amys.mess@yahoo.com
51 When you say, student athletes, are you taking into consideration Cheer & Dance?	denise	DENISERWOLF@GMAIL.COM
52 As spectators for community-sponsored events are subject to the order, please offer guidance for parent/guardian spectator plans for these community events. This is intended to streamline workflow on both sides. Respectfully, Stacy	Dawn	lawndane@yahoo.com
53 Chat feature seems to be disabled	Springers	stacylhspringer@gmail.com
54 I would like to extend a huge heartfelt thank you to all of the school district officials participating in this meeting, for all of the work you already have completed in getting plans in place and ready to be implemented. Kudos!! I would urge the Health Board to expedite approval of these plans.	Sean Logan	slogan@helenamt.gov
55 Our Parent spectator plan was submitted on August 25, when will we get approval/denial? Also, would like to ask why HSD plans for spectators cannot be given priority as the intent of this Special Meeting was for youth sports.	Mike Fasbender	mj.fasbender@bresnan.net
56 Jolene, Thank you very much for facilitating, I appreciate your efforts.	Jenise Cockhill	jenise.cockhill@yahoo.com
57 Phil	Phil HYSA Arsenal	info@helenasoccer.org
58 Please put the HSD plans on a fast track for today so that parents can watch the soccer games this weekend! We missed last week and today in the Flathead. Please allow the school district to get tickets out to parents for this Saturday. Thank you!	Phil HYSA Arsenal	info@helenasoccer.org
59 Thank you for holding this meeting and allowing and accepting public comment. Please consider reevaluating the 250 person limit on activities. This review should be scheduled if not specifically incorporated into the Ordinance. Failure to do so falsely assumes that the need to limit attendance at activities will extend indefinitely. Please adopt a more robust Order contemplating regular review to update evaluation criteria that are situation/event specific.	Courtney McAdams	courto73@yahoo.com
60 Please expedite this process as soon as possible. We've already started to miss events.	Eric Lilletvedt	mtlilletvedts@gmail.com
61 is the mental health of our children being taken into consideration. I did not see any discussion of Mental Health of the kids and no medical experts commented on that.	Sean Logan	slogan@helenamt.gov
62 Mary Ann Dunwell our kids have been practicing for almost 3 weeks, we do NOT need another 2 weeks. Step back, you are not representing our district well by your closed minded statements!	Brent Hoffman	bhoffman@atsfsi.com
Let's talk about mental health, what about that?		
63 My comment. We can literally drive to any city in Montana, shop, dine, eat, go to community activities as long as we follow the mandates. It makes no sense to restrict family members and those in the same circles cab	Lisa	schlosser@bresnan.net
	Renee	rlittle@mt.gov

64 to attend games safely. Socially distance and masking up.

65 So no cases basically for 2 weeks, plans were submitted Aug 25 and 26. You have hired 50 plus people - little to no cases. What are your people doing Drenda - no reason these plans should be sitting what are your employees doing.

66 Please make Helena, East Helena, Augusta school spectator plans a priority. The curve is flattened due to our county's adherence to the safety protocols in place. Asymptomatic, masked parents/guardians can safely social distance while enjoying their child's physical activity.

67 Thank you for taking the time to listen to us parents regarding this important matter. My husband and I have been attending our children's sporting events since they have been 3 years old and now our youngest is a junior in High School. Please believe me when I say it is my goal as a parent and spectator to make sure my son, his teammates, his classmates and other spectators remain safe and covid free. We will comply. Please allow us to watch our children. So much has already been taken away, please don't take this away.

68 Thank You!

69 Can we get copy of the amendment sent to us

70 Agreed - Thank you Kelly Burton. Make this a priority for our kids and their families.

71 info@helenasoccer.org

Renee

rlittle@mt.gov

Mike

mroberts3344@gmail.com

Kelly Burton

kjhuxtable@gmail.com

April Greene

greene\_829@msn.com  
slogan@helenamt.gov

Sean Logan

info@helenasoccer.org

Phil HYSA Arsenal

kramorini@mtwain.k12.ca.us

Kim Ramorini

info@helenasoccer.org

Phil HYSA Arsenal

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES  
1930 9<sup>th</sup> AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.  
September 24, 2020**

Members Present by Zoom

Justin Murgel, chair  
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair  
Brie McLaurin  
Kammy Johnson  
Dr. Mikael Bedell  
Jenny Eck (arrived @ 1:09 p.m.)  
Raymond Berg (arrived @ 1:08 p.m.)  
Tyler Ream

Staff Present by Zoom

Drenda Niemann      Shelly Maag  
Jolene Helgerson  
Jacqueline Isaly  
Kathy Moore  
Eric Merchant  
Damian Boudreau

Guests Present by Zoom

Representative Mary Ann Dunwell

Members Absent

Mayor Wilmot Collins

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of board members were made.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mr. Murgel announced that the PHAB Annual Report will be moved to the October agenda. No public comment was given.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August 27, 2020, minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

WIC Presentation: Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, gave a WIC presentation (see Attachment “A”) in which she highlighted who WIC serves, explanation of benefits, education, referrals, outreach, and WIC outcomes. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Ms. Isaly said that WIC data showing an increase in the need for WIC benefits is slowly becoming available. No public comment was given.

Local COVID-19 Decision Making Dashboard and Criteria Memo: Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, presented the updated Local COVID-19 Decision Making Dashboard and the criteria in which those decisions are made (see Attachment “B”). In answer to questions from Kammy Johnson, Mr. Merchant said at this time there is not enough data to connect the rise in cases to a cluster. We need an epidemiologist to start working on the data to get that answer, he added. We are seeing public compliance regarding contact tracing, but do, at times, see resistance. In answer to a question from Jenny Eck, Mr. Merchant said we do see some push back from those who are asked to isolate. In answer to a question from Mr. Murgel, Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, said the State Health Department is working with Legislature leadership on the development of their COVID plan for the

upcoming legislative session. Ms. Eck said the current session cannot make decisions for the next legislative body, which will not happen until the elections in November. This why the development of the plan is not finalized. Mr. Merchant further discussed the reopening of schools and colleges in Lewis and Clark County. Thoughtful plans have kept cases in our schools and colleges low compared to other larger school district in other counties. Mr. Murgel asked for public comment.

Representative Mary Ann Dunwell addressed her concerns regarding the mask mandate violations at the Capitol and the reluctance of some her colleagues not abiding by the Governor's mandate, while staff within the buildings are being endangered by their actions. She asked the Board of Health to enforce the mask mandate. Ms. Niemann said Public Health has received mask complaints for the Capitol Building. She said we have been working with the Department of Administration, Legislative Services, the Legislative Leadership Committee, and Governor Bullock to hold accountable those who are not following the Governor's Directive. In answer to a question from Ms. Eck, Ms. Niemann said sorting out the jurisdiction regarding the State Capitol has been difficult. We are working with our county attorney's office for further clarification of our enforcement process. Ms. Eck requested that Ms. Niemann keep the Board updated on this topic.

### **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Ms. Niemann shared the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality web page <https://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/> and discussed the complications wild fire smoke can have with those suffering from COVID-19 symptoms.

Public Health has reactivated their Facebook Community Heroes public nomination for an individual or business working to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is tracking positive COVID-19 cases in all schools and colleges in Montana and has a webpage for the public to view the data. Ms. Niemann will send the link to the Board.

Ms. Niemann highlighted the COVID-19 Dashboard and the State of Montana COVID-19 map of current numbers of confirmed, active, and recovered cases, and the number of hospitalizations and deaths.

No public comment was given.

There being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 2.59 p.m.

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Justin Murgel, Chair

---

Drenda Niemann, Secretary

**LEWIS & CLARK CITY/COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Helena, Montana**

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting Date**

**October 22, 2020**

**Agenda Item No.**

**3**

Minutes     Board Member Discussion     Staff & Other Reports     Action     Hearing of Delegation

**AGENDA ITEMS:** Board Member Discussion

**PERSONNEL INVOLVED:** Board Members/Staff

**BACKGROUND** Financial Report 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr FY21; New Employee Introduction; PHAB Annual Report

**HEALTH DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED

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**BOARD ACTION:**

**NOTES:**

	M O T I O N	S E C O N D	A Y E	N A Y	A B S T A I N	O T H E R
Bedell						
Berg						
Collins						
Eck						
Hunthausen						
Johnson						
MacLaurin						
Murgel						
Ream						

**LEWIS & CLARK CITY/COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Helena, Montana**

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting Date**

**October 22, 2020**

**Agenda Item No.**

**4**

Minutes     Board Member Discussion     Staff & Other Reports     Action     Hearing of Delegation

**AGENDA ITEMS:** Health Officer’s Report

**PERSONNEL INVOLVED:** Drenda Niemann, Health Officer

**BACKGROUND:** Ms. Niemann is providing a report on current Health Department issues.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED

**BOARD ACTION:**

**NOTES:**

	M O T I O N	S E C O N D	A Y E	N A Y	A B S T A I N	O T H E R
Bedell						
Berg						
Collins						
Eck						
Hunthausen						
Johnson						
MacLaurin						
Murgel						
Ream						

**LEWIS & CLARK CITY/COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Helena, Montana**

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting Date**

**October 22, 2020**

**Agenda Item No.**

**5**

Minutes     Board Member Discussion     Staff & Other Reports     Action     Hearing of Delegation

**AGENDA ITEMS:** Public Comment

**PERSONNEL INVOLVED:** Public and Board Members

**BACKGROUND:** Time is allowed for public comment on matters not mentioned in the agenda within the Board of Health’s jurisdiction.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDATION:** n/a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED

**BOARD ACTION:**

**NOTES:**

	M O T I O N	S E C O N D	A Y E	N A Y	A B S T A I N	O T H E R
Bedell						
Berg						
Collins						
Eck						
Hunthausen						
Johnson						
MacLaurin						
Murgel						
Ream						

**Attendance Record for the  
Lewis & Clark City-County Board of Health**

**FY 2021**

	Jul	Aug	Sept 3	Sept	Oct	Nov/Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bedell	X	X	O	X								
Berg	X	X	X	X								
Collins	X	X	X	O								
Eck	O	X	X	X								
Hunthausen	O	O	X	X								
Johnson	X	X	X	X								
MacLaurin	X	X	X	X								
Murgel	X	O	X	X								
Ream	O	X	X	X								

**Legend:**

X = Present

X<sub>p</sub> = Present by phone

--- = Not a member of the board at that time.

O = Absent

\* = No meeting held

P = Strategic Planning Session

T = Training

Andy Hunthausen-vice chair  
County Commissioner  
316 N. Park  
Helena, Montana 59623  
447-8304 (W) 447-8370 (Fax)  
E-mail: [ahunthausen@lccountymt.gov](mailto:ahunthausen@lccountymt.gov)

(1)  
Pleasure of L & C County Commission

Mayor Wilmot Collins  
City Commissioner  
316 N. Park  
Helena, Montana 59623  
447-8410 (W)  
E-mail: [wcollins@helenamt.gov](mailto:wcollins@helenamt.gov)

(2)  
Pleasure of City of Helena Commission

Tyler Ream  
Superintendent, Helena School Dist. No. 1  
55 S. Rodney  
Helena, Montana 59601  
324-2001 (W)  
E-mail: [tream@helenaschools.org](mailto:tream@helenaschools.org)

(3,a)  
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Mikael Bedell  
710 Madison Ave  
Helena, MT 59601  
208-630-3848 (c)  
E-mail [mbedell@sphealth.org](mailto:mbedell@sphealth.org)

(3,b)  
Term expires - June 30, 2022

Kammy Johnson  
2030 Cromwell Dixon Ln  
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Helena, MT 59602  
799-3654 (W) 458-1956 (H) 439-0914 (C)  
E-mail: [kjohnsonmt@gmail.com](mailto:kjohnsonmt@gmail.com)

(3,c)  
Term expires - June 30, 2021

Raymond Berg  
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431-9861 (C)  
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(3,d)  
Pleasure of East Helena City Council

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461-0784 (C)  
E-mail: [brie@hmhb-mt.org](mailto:brie@hmhb-mt.org)

(3,e)  
Term expires - June 30, 2022

Justin Murgel- chair  
2502 Gold Rush Ave.  
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422-9928 (H)  
E-mail: [Justin.Murgel@PacificSource.com](mailto:Justin.Murgel@PacificSource.com)

(3,f)  
Term expires - June 30, 2021

Jenny Eck  
730 Stuart St.  
Helena, MT 59601  
459-1082 (C)  
E-mail: [jennyeck4mt@gmail.com](mailto:jennyeck4mt@gmail.com)

(3,g)  
Term expires - June 30, 2021

Updated July 2020

*"To Improve and Protect the Health of all Lewis and Clark County  
Residents."*



# LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

1930 Ninth Avenue  
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Fax: 406.457.8990

## MEMBERS

Jenny Eck	Term expires - June 30, 2021	Second Term
Justin Murgel	Term expires - June 30, 2021	First Term
Mikael Bedell	Term expires - June 30, 2022	First Term
Brie MacLaurin	Term expires - June 30, 2022	First Term
Kammy Johnson	Term expires - June 30, 2021	Second Term
Tyler Ream	Superintendent of Schools	
Andy Hunthausen	Pleasure of Lewis & Clark County Commission	
Mayor Wilmot Collins	Pleasure of Helena City Commission	
Raymond Berg	Pleasure of East Helena City Council	

## MEETING DATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in Room 330 of the City-County Building.

July 23, 2020

August 27, 2020

September 3, 2020 (special session)

September 24, 2020

October 22, 2020

December 3, 2020

January 28, 2021

February 25, 2021

March 25, 2021

April 22, 2021

May 27, 2021

June 24, 2021

July 2020