

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
March 25, 2021**

Members Present by Zoom

Justin Murgel, chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice chair
Mayor Wilmot Collins (departed @ 3:02 p.m.)
Kammy Johnson
Dr. Mikael Bedell
Jenny Eck (arrived @ 1:04 p.m.)
Raymond Berg
Tyler Ream

Staff Present by Zoom

Drenda Niemann Laurel Riek
Eric Merchant Heather Parmer
Kathy Moore
A.C. Rothenbuecher
Dorota Carpenedo
Damian Boudreau
Jolene Helgerson

Guests Present by Zoom

Charles Lane, Deputy County Attorney

Members Absent

Brie McLaurin

Justin Murgel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was established. Introductions of board members were made.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 25, 2021 minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

ACTION

Review COVID-19 Emergency Rules and Regulations: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, highlighted the COVID-19 Dashboard, the HUB map of current numbers of confirmed, active, and recovered cases, age groups, and the number of hospitalizations and deaths. The Board of Health made no changes to the COVID-19 Emergency Rules and Regulations. In answer to a question from Commissioner Hunthausen, Ms. Niemann stated that the board could review the mask mandate each month when we review the rules and regulations. Mr. Hunthausen along with Kammy Johnson requested that the board consider creating a metric number for the mask mandate based on the number of vaccines administered in Lewis and Clark County. No public comment was given.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Board Finance Committee: Ms. Niemann announced that the Finance Committee of the Board will meet in April and asked for board member participation. Ms. Niemann will send an email to board members with more details. Mr. Murgel and Raymond Berg both agreed to be on the finance committee. No public comment was given.

Annual Communicable Disease Report: Laurel Riek, License Establishment Supervisor, presented the 2020 Year End Communicable Disease Report. COVID-19 has affected our reportable disease numbers due to low infection rates or unreported cases due to COVID -19 workload. In answer to a question from Mr. Hunthausen, Ms. Riek said that everyday Licensed Establishment services were postponed in order to respond to COVID-19 but with the decline in cases, staff is starting to begin regular operation.

COVID-19 Remembrance Ceremony: At noon on March 26 at Spring Meadow Park, a few members of the community will attend a COVID-19 Remembrance Ceremony. An aspen tree will be planted to honor the Lewis and Clark residents who lost their lives to COVID-19.

Vaccine Update: Eric Merchant, Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, announced that Public Health will continue with Phase 1a, 1b and 1b+ vaccine rollout until April 1. After April 1, we will begin the rollout of Phase II to all Lewis and Clark County residents ages 16 and up. Vaccine registration is located on our [HUB webpage](#) Mr. Merchant gave a brief update on current vaccination clinics that are happening throughout the county.

Legislative Update:

[HB 121](#) would require elected official approval of local health board and officer actions. HB 121 would require certain rules, regulations, and fees be proposed by a local Board of Health and adopted by the governing body; allowing a governing body to amend a directive, mandate, or order given by a local Board of Health during a time of emergency or disaster; allowing a governing body to amend an order given by a local health officer during a time of emergency or disaster; and providing a definition of “local governing body.” This bill is scheduled for a second reading by the Senate. Representatives for public health asked for an amendment to provide a corrected definition of “isolation” and “quarantine.”

[HB2](#)- General Appropriations Act is in House Committee for deliberation.

[HB 632](#)- Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus and COVID19 recovery funds. This bill is in House Committee.

[SB 199](#)- Provide for the Montana Local Food Choice Act. This bill is being heard in the House Human Services Committee awaiting executive action.

No public comment was given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary