

AGENDA
BOARD OF HEALTH
LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
August 24, 2021

- 1.0 Call Special Meeting to Order, President Randy Owoc
- 2.0 Opening of Meeting
 - 2.01 Declaration of Quorum
 - 2.02 Citizen's Remarks
 - 2.03 Certification of Delivery of Official Notices of Meeting
- 3.0 Board of Health
 - No Meeting Minutes
- 4.0 Health District Staff Reports
 - No Staff Reports
- 5.0 Committee Meetings
 - No Committee Meetings
- 6.0 Old Business
 - No Old Business
- 7.0 New Business
 - 7.01 COVID-19 Current Data and Recommendation for COVID-19 in Schools
- 8.0 Adjournment

1.0 Call to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Health of the Lake County General Health District was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, by President Randy Owoc. The meeting was held at the Lake County Health District offices located at 5966 Heisley Road, Mentor, Ohio, and online via Zoom and link was on the Lake County General Health District website (www.lcghd.org).

2.0 Opening of Meeting

2.01 Declaration of Quorum

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Roger Anderson	Brian Katz	Dr. Lynn Smith
Dr. Alvin Brown	Patricia Murphy	Dave Valentine
Rich Harvey	Randy Owoc	Lindsey Virgilio
Nicole Jelovic	Ana Padilla	Anthony Vitolo
Steve Karns		

Absent: Dr. Irene Druzina

Minutes were recorded by Gina Parker, Deputy Registrar.

Also present from the Health District staff:

Dyan Denmeade	Chris Loxterman	Gina Parker
Ron Graham	Adam Litke	Lexi Parsons
Muhammad Jafar	Matthew Nichols	Mariann Rusnak
Dan Lark		

Also in attendance: David Hackman from the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, Steve Pelton, Daisy Moles, Matt Hoffert, Ivana Brigadr, Anita Dokollari, Petrika Dokollari, Kathryn Hoover, Joe Sorboro, Michele Pokelsek, Annie Payne, Tom Hach, Terry Garcia, Kathleen Schneiderman, Marla Katz, Karen Warner, Diane Popelas, Joshulynn Williamson, Craig Williamson, Laura Wolf, Lorie McCandless, Jennifer Dacar, Doug Laukonis, Tim O'Keeffe, Patti Greaves, Aiden Greaves, Mike Vouk, John Marra, David Bittner, Lisa Reed, Lacey Dolsen, Joanna Polisen, Jen Knaus, Randi Gilmore, Carrie Schaefer, Bill Margalis, Ann Fiorilli, Susan Tullai Guinness, April Bartee, Julia Chase, Patrick Hughes, and other members of the public.

2.02 Citizens' Remarks

Tim O'Keeffe said the Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) Board of Health should not recommend any COVID-19 protocols for K-12 students since the board members can't adhere to the protocols. He read a portion of the June 22nd email he received from Medical Director Dr. Sachin Patel.

Aiden Greaves is a student at Wickliffe High School. He was asked to leave his school for refusing to wear a mask. He said it goes against his beliefs and his airflow should not be restricted. He said students should not wear masks in hot classrooms. Masks are not viable at all, especially in the hot weather like this.

John Marra asked what the point of wearing masks was if students are not wearing them correctly 100% of the time. He said other mitigation strategies are not being followed. He said children are being suffocated and people are hiding behind masks. He said the vaccine can be life-threatening to him since he's highly allergic to bees. He said wearing a mask goes against his religious beliefs.

Kathleen Schneiderman said it's a disgrace that the student who was asked to leave school was denied an education. She said she can't wear a mask and was refused treatment when she went to an express clinic when she was sick. She read the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tips for wearing masks and asked who was monitoring the correct way to wear them at school. She said there should be no COVID protocols in schools. She asked for information on the District Advisory Council.

Joshulynn Williamson is not a medical professional, but she is a mother and a substitute teacher. She said no child can ever comply with mask-wearing because they are not capable of it. She said no one who is able to take mask breaks should be making recommendations to schools without experiencing mask-wearing all day themselves. She said the choice should be up to the parents.

Lorie McCandless said kids are not taking care of their masks. Science can be found for both sides of the debate and parents know what's best for their kids. She said the Board should not word the recommendation harshly and shouldn't mandate anything.

Doug Laukonis keeps hearing about the science, but peer review studies say masks don't protect against the virus. He hopes people know the mask-wearing and social distancing is really about satanic rituals.

Michele Pokelsek said masks don't work to keep out the virus. She summarized information from three studies (University of Louisville, the Stanford Study, and the University of Waterloo). She said it doesn't matter if you wear a mask or not.

Annie Payne said chronic fear can cause serious health consequences. She asked if anyone on the Board has spoken to mental health personnel. She said mental health emergency room visits for 12-17-year-olds in 2020 increased 31% compared to 2019. She said there far greater deaths from suicides and overdoses than from COVID. She said the health department does not have authorization to make medical decisions for families and it should be up to the parents. Ron Graham said that a Board member has spoken to mental health colleagues who said social isolation is the biggest part of mental health issues, not mask use. The Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board said stressors are up for everyone across the board.

Tom Hach read Section 21 (A) – (C) of the Ohio Constitution regarding healthcare. He said no government body can interfere with an individual’s choice of healthcare. The board needs to make their recommendations in a way that that people understand they still have options. He said the delta variant is more contagious, but it is less lethal. He said the decision should be left to the school boards. He said health department “recommendations” mean the same as “mandates” to many school boards across the county.

Joe Sorboro is a registered nurse first assistant. He said no reasonable person would waste their time with masks that don’t work. He discussed the Hegelian Dialectic (order from chaos) and how COVID-19 started. He discussed the ingredients in the vaccines and how they are harmful.

Anita Dokollari is a childcare operator. She said this summer, with 140 kids, their facility had no cases of COVID-19. She said they were already following the recommendations before the recommendations were provided by their licensing board. She said kids do not use masks appropriately and masks are not mandated in childcare.

Lacey Dolsen is disappointed that masks aren’t mandated in her school district. Until all children can be vaccinated, masks should be mandated. She said not many people in the classrooms are wearing them when they are optional.

Joanna Polisena said masks are a valuable tool to stopping the virus. She listed medical organizations that agree. She said that around the world, it is confirmed that masks work and are a crucial tool for defeating this virus. It’s our responsibility to care for the vulnerable among us.

Jen Knaus strongly believes that masks should be mandated. She listed persons and groups who recommend masks. She said we don’t want kids to spread COVID and the delta variant is more contagious and is affecting children more. She said it’s not okay that “learn at your own risk” is the message being sent.

Randi Gilmore said schools are counting on the health department to stand behind them. She is concerned about the schools that don’t have mask mandates. She said we should be listening to doctors and scientists and make decisions based on facts.

3.0 Board of Health

3.01 Approval of Minutes

No minutes to approve

4.0 Health District Staff Reports

No reports

5.0 Committee Reports

No committee meetings

6.0 Old Business

No old business

7.01

COVID-19 Current Data and Recommendation for COVID-19 in Schools

Dr. Lynn Smith moved and Steve Karns seconded a motion to approve the statement of recommendations for COVID-19 in schools as is; 2 Ayes and 10 Nays; motion failed.

Steve Karns moved and Dr. Alvin Brown seconded a motion to approve the modified statement of recommendations for COVID-19 in schools, which removes the word “strongly” in the second sentence as presented to the Board of Health; 9 Ayes and 3 Nays; motion carried.

Statement of recommendations:

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the State of Ohio, your school district, and the expected surge in the next few weeks, the Lake County General Health District recommends that students and staff wear masks and engage in the other prevention strategies identified below so that you have increased opportunities to keep your schools open. Governor DeWine, the CDC, and ODH all strongly recommend mask wearing by all students in a school setting, whether fully vaccinated or not. During his address on August 17, 2021, Governor DeWine noted that the state will not mandate masks in schools and that it is up to school officials to decide whether to require masks at this point.

The steps listed below will help slow the spread of COVID-19 and will help to reduce quarantines:

- Monitor the health and wellness of all students and staff in the building and ask those that are ill to remain at home.
- When there is a medically diagnosed case of COVID-19 on your campuses or in your schools, identify and notify all close contacts and inform them of the quarantine guidelines. Following this procedure, send all information to the Lake County General Health District.
- Use multiple layers of protection in your schools to slow the spread of COVID-19 to include, but not limited to, frequent breaks for handwashing, increased availability of hand sanitizer, socially distance students when possible, and isolate students showing signs of COVID-19 until their parent or guardian can be contacted.

While the use of these protocols will not eliminate all opportunities for COVID-19 to spread, nor will they completely eliminate the need to quarantine, these recommendations of the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health and they are documented strategies to help keep students healthy and keep them in class.

Discussion:

Board of Health members discussed the recommendations regarding masks in schools.

Highlights include:

Matthew Nichols said for the two week-period ending on July 3rd, there were 50 cases of COVID-19 in Lake County. For the two-week period ending on August 21st, there were 491 cases. This is approximately a 900% increase in less than two months. The spread was not seen in the schools last year due to the mitigation strategies in place.

Muhammad Jafar said from August 18th through today, 27 students and 10 staff members tested positive. This is for all public and private schools in Lake County. In addition, 122 kids and 11 staff members are in quarantine. Steve Karns asked if these cases were in schools with mask mandates. Muhammad said the majority of cases were from Willoughby-Eastlake Schools, whose masks were optional until today.

Rich Harvey asked how many schools are currently in session. Adam said a list of schools that are open will be sent to the Board.

Nicole Jelovic asked for the school quarantine protocols. Muhammad Jafar said it is a 10-day quarantine without testing, 7-day quarantine with a negative test (test must occur on day 5 or later).

Lexi Parsons discussed the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) School Reporting for the 2020-2021 school year.

Dyan Denmeade said Lake County is #2 in the state for vaccinations. She provided vaccination rates and reviewed the COVID-19 Supplemental Update. She said we have not received an influx of vaccine requests following Pfizer's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. Nicole Jelovic asked if there was a higher incident rate of COVID-19 cases in schools. Lexi Parsons said Willoughby-Eastlake schools are the only higher one. The other schools have a standard case rate like we saw last year. Lexi said there is not much data as we are only two weeks into the reporting.

Steve Karns asks if the incident rate in Willoughby-Eastlake schools is currently higher than the county as a whole. Ron Graham said it was, but being a small sampling size, he does not want to draw conclusions from it.

Dr. Alvin Brown asked how Lake County compared to surrounding counties. Muhammad Jafar said Lake County is amongst the highest rates of incidents in Ohio. Ron Graham said it's also one of the highest in vaccination rates.

Anthony Vitolo asked if there is any data from schools that have not yet opened. Lexi Parsons said that there are still incidents in those schools due to sports and teachers being on campus.

Ron Graham read the recommendations for schools. He said feedback was received from the schools, Board of Health, and legal counsel. Randy Owoc said it is not a mandate, but it strongly recommends and encourages schools to follow the guidelines recommended by the CDC, ODH, and Governor DeWine.

Anthony Vitolo asked what would happen if there is an uptick in cases. Ron Graham said the health department would continue to support schools to keep students learning in the classrooms.

The use of the wording "strongly recommend" was discussed. Steve Karns asked if it was a normal course of action to use the word "strongly," as he felt it may be considered a political statement as opposed to a health recommendation. Ron Graham said it is not normally used and he would have to see if/when it was used prior. Roger Anderson asked if the CDC, ODH, and Governor DeWine also used "strongly recommended". Dyan Denmeade said they all have used that wording in the past.

Rich Harvey asked why the health department can mandate sewage discharge, but not this.

Dave Hackman stated the state law allows the Board of Health to mandate sewage discharge; it does not allow the Board to mandate masks.

8.0

Adjournment

Brian Katz moved and Anthony Vitolo seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m.; motion carried.



Secretary



President



8-24-2021

COVID-19 Supplemental Update

Top 6 Counties in Ohio by vaccines started:

1. Delaware, 65.47%
2. Lake, 58.11%
3. Cuyahoga, 56.62%
4. Medina, 56.34%
5. Warren, 55.76
6. Summit, 55.55%

LCGHD Vaccination Update

6/1-6-5	719	7/1-7/3	30	8/1-8/7	76
6/6-6/12	326	7/4-7/10	124	8/8-8/14	108
6/13-6/19	628	7/11-7/17	43	8/15-8/21	167
6/20-6/26	222	7/18-7/24	115	8/22-8/28	10*
6/27-6/30	55	7/25-7/31	86	8/29-8/31	
June	1950	July	398	August	361*

*In progress

Lake County has approximately 21,960 residents between 12 and 19. Of those, per ODH, 48.6% have received at least one vaccination. LCGHD has given 40.94% of the given vaccines to those aged 12-19.

With the FDA approval of Pfizer for those 16 and older, we have not noticed a significant increase in vaccination scheduling, phone calls, or walk-ins related to that.

Quarantine Numbers per PCG

8/1-8/7	42
8/8-8/14	127
8/15-8/21	163
8/22-8/28	69*
8/29-8/31	
August	401*

*In progress

Incidence rates reported weekly for most recent two weeks (based on 8/22 ODRS Data Extract):

As of Saturday...	Includes incident cases between (based on event date)	Number of new cases (rate)
6/5/21	5/23-6/5	101 (43.9)
6/12/21	5/30-6/12	77 (33.5)
6/19/21	6/6-6/19	69 (30.0)
6/26/21	6/13-6/26	51 (22.2)
7/3/21	6/20-7/3	50 (21.7)
7/10/21	6/27-7/10	89 (38.7)
7/17/21	7/4-7/17	122 (53.0)
7/24/21	7/11-7/24	158 (68.7)
7/31/21	7/18-7/31	217 (94.3)
8/7/21	7/25-8/7	353 (153.4)*
8/14/21	8/1-8/14	505 (219.4)*
8/21/21	8/8- 8/21	491 (213.3)*

*Preliminary and subject to change as more cases are investigated.

Event date = earliest known date associated with a case. When the case is initially reported, this is by default the date of test specimen collection. Once the case is determined positive and reported to the local health department, the health department makes up to 3 attempts to contact the case for interview. If the case (or case's point of contact) completes the interview, Event Date is then backfilled with the self-reported date of symptom onset. Because of time it takes for case to have symptoms, get tested, get results, results to be reported into the system, and then contacted for interview, this number lags and backfills. This is why last 2-3 weeks are considered preliminary.

ODH school reporting 20-21
school year

Public Schools	Accumulative Student cases	Accumulative Staff cases
Fairport Exempted	2	3
Kirtland	47	11
Madison	66	17
Mentor Exempted	201	95
Painesville City	48	41
Perry Local	50	29
Riverside Local	115	63
Wickliffe City	11	7
Willoughby-Eastlake	48	52

Non public Schools	Accumulative Student Cases	Accumulative Staff cases
All Saints St. John Vianney	2	4
Andrews Osbourne	27	8
Cornerstone Christian Academy	24	7
Hershey Montessori	0	1
Lake Catholic	17	9
Mater Dei Academy	6	4
Mentor Christian School	6	1
Our Shephard Evangel Lutheran	7	1
St. Gabriel	7	2
St. Mary of the Assumption	0	1
Telshe		
Willoughby Montessori	1	0

Non Public Preschool	Accumulative Student cases	Accumulative Staff cases
All Saints St. John Vianney	0	0
Andrews Osbourne	0	1
Hershey Montessori	0	2
Mater Dei Academy	0	0
St. Gabriel	0	1
St. Mary of the Assumption	0	0

ODH school reporting 20-21
school year

Vocational	Accumulative student cases	Accumulative Staff cases
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Auburn	53	2
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Education Service Center	Accumulative student cases	Accumulative staff cases
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Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve	0	4
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STEM	Accumulative student cases	Accumulative staff cases
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ISTEM Geauga early college high school	2	0
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Developmental Disabilites	Accumulative student cases	Accumulative staff cases
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Lake County Board of DD	0	1
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Non chartered/non tax	Accumulative student cases	Accumulative staff cases
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New Life Christian Academy		
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School Age Child Care	Accumulative student cases	Accumulative staff cases
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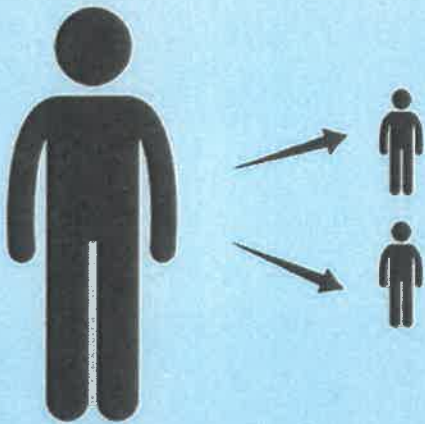
St. Mary of the Assumption		
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Community	Accumulative student cases	Accumulative staff cases
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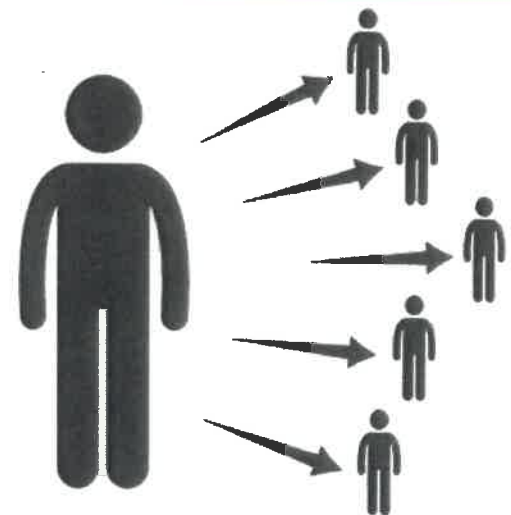
Summit Academy	0	0
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The Delta variant is more contagious than previous strains—it may cause more than **2x** as many infections

ORIGINAL COVID-19 STRAIN



DELTA VARIANT



Vaccines protect you from hospitalization, severe infections, and death



cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS 322041-AA 08/02/2021