



Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

BOARD OF HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING

December 21, 2020

8:15 a.m.

A special meeting of the Board of Health was held on Monday, December 21, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss vaccine distribution.

Board Members Present:

Terry Bell
Chief Clark J. Crago
Patrick Macedonia, M.D.
Jean-Philippe Rigaud

Staff:

Kelly Wilson, Fiscal, Grants & PI Officer
Jodi Norris, Director of Fiscal and Admin.
Hannah Piko, Director of Nursing
Rick Stead, PHEP Coordinator
Dr. Mark Kissinger, Medical Director

Absent: N/A

Prosecutor:

N/A

Guests:

See sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bell called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION DISCUSSION

Mr. Bell turned the meeting over to Dr. Macedonia to lead the discussion on the vaccine distribution. Dr. Macedonia said he thought it was important to bring the Board and employees of the health department together to understand the distribution process. The Ohio Department of Health has laid out the guidelines. The Moderna vaccine has been approved. Hannah Piko and Dr. Kissinger will bring us up to date. Dr. Macedonia then turned the meeting over to Dr. Kissinger.

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dr. Kissinger reported that the health department would be receiving 400 doses of the Moderna vaccine within the next several days. The health department is working in accordance with the state's Phase 1A plan. Phase 1A covers healthcare workers and personnel who are routinely involved in the care of Covid-19 patients. The residents of nursing homes and nursing home staff are being sourced by CVS or Walgreens. Residents and staff at assisted living facilities would come under the health department, but most of them seem to have their own source of distribution. We do not have any local psychiatric hospitals so we do not have to worry about that group. Next is those with intellectual disabilities and mental illness (i.e. Shaffer Plaza). We will be responsible for this group. Since we do not have any veteran's homes here locally, we won't have to worry about that group. And last, we will have to take care of the EMS responders in Phase 1A.

There are supposed to be five doses per vial, but some of the vials have more than enough doses for five to seven in a bottle. The FDA has said that we are permitted to use the remaining amounts. Thus, we can stretch the supply. There are a lot of refrigeration and storage rules. The Pfizer vaccine has similar rules. Folks getting the Moderna shot for the first dose should get the Moderna as the second dose. There is no advice on mixing these. If you've already had Covid, the vaccination is still being recommended.

Dr. Macedonia pointed out that those guidelines are different than the ones he has dated December 15th. Dr. Macedonia is not sure which one we are following. Hannah Piko pointed out that the state had sent us a spreadsheet that is very specific showing the population we are responsible for in Phase 1A. When the list is totaled it is 424 doses, and this excludes EMS and healthcare personnel needing vaccinated. Dr. Macedonia said this is his question about how we are going to prioritize these people. These are all questions we have to decide as to how these are going to be distributed. Nurse Piko said that if they've had Covid within the last 90 days, it has been suggested we can push these folks back. Dr. Macedonia said that Trinity got lost in the distribution somewhere. He does not know the details of all of it, but they are asking that the health department vaccinate some of their workers with the first shipment. They did a survey of frontline people wanting vaccinated and about 50 folks would like to be vaccinated. The details received from ODH allow the local health department to vaccinate workers in hospitals not receiving the vaccine. Trinity anticipates getting the vaccine sometime between Christmas and the new year. Dr. Macedonia thinks we should seriously consider doing this. Dr. Kissinger said that he agreed.

Dr. Macedonia asked Nurse Piko what her plans are for distribution as far as resources. Nurse Piko stated that at the beginning of the process, the state did make an exception that EMS personnel would be permitted to distribute vaccinations. She has talked to Chief Crago and Rob Herrington as far as getting some of their times to assist in the vaccination process. In addition, she plans on reaching out to the nursing schools for volunteer nursing students, who can also

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

assist in the observation period after the shot is administered. Dr. Macedonia stated that he has spoken with some folks who are willing to step up and assist. He has about six or seven of them. Nurse Piko stated she believes that we will continue getting pushes of the vaccine 400 or less at a time. She does not believe it will be any time before February where we move into mass distribution. They will use fire stations as sites to get some of the 1A personnel done, working in conjunction with Rob Herrington. They have about 175 EMS workers who have indicated that they want the vaccine. Only about 35% of the total EMS personnel have indicated that they want to receive the vaccine. Dr. Kissinger said that the other question is that if we have 400 doses now, are we going to hold back 200 doses for the second shot? Nurse Piko said that the state has directed that we are to distribute all of the 400 doses and that 400 additional will be sent for the second dose for those who receive the first dose. Dr. Kissinger said that the first dose is 70% effective and after the second dose, 95%. Dr. Macedonia asked who is responsible for making sure that folks return to receive the second dose. Nurse Piko said that they will be setting up a reminder recall for all of those receiving the first dose. They will also be contacted via phone.

Dr. Macedonia asked about what forms will be required for those receiving the vaccine. Nurse Piko said that she has not yet received those yet. From what she's learned from ODH, there is going to be a very specific consent form that will need signed. She has not seen it yet. It is supposed to come as an entire packet (the consent form and vaccination card). We are supposed to receive our ancillary kit prior to receiving the vaccine shipment. She anticipates it will all come in the ancillary kit.

Discussion then went back and forth between the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine and storage capacity. We have an agreement with Trinity for additional storage capacity. Dr. Macedonia asked if we are sure that we are receiving the 400 doses because there have been reports throughout the state that they were promised a certain number of doses and then they ended up receiving less. Dr. Kissinger said that we have been told to anticipate receiving the 400. Nurse Piko said that the state system for ordering vaccines shows JCGHD for 400.

The discussion then went back to distribution. Dr. Macedonia asked if we receive today do we plan on distributing tomorrow or the next day? Dr. Kissinger asked if we can give facilities their allotment. For example, Shaffer Plaza, can we say here are you 50 doses and then allow them to give the vaccination. Dr. Macedonia said that we are not allowed to do that. Nurse Piko said that she agrees with Dr. Macedonia and that we are not allowed. If we have partnerships we are going to use to distribute the vaccine, we have to fill out specific paperwork, but she has not yet looked into that yet. Dr. Macedonia said he read somewhere that he believes the health department must be involved. EMS was approved early in the pandemic by the state to be able to administer the vaccine. Dr. Macedonia and Nurse Piko discussed the vaccination training that those administering the vaccine have to go through. Nurse Piko said the training is on the CDC web site and that any of the EMS workers who will be administering the vaccine can go out and

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

complete it. She said that she will make sure Rob Herrington receives it. Anyone willing to volunteer can complete it. She said one can get through it quickly.

Nurse Piko then brought up the subject about the schedule. If we receive the vaccine on December 23, are we going to be distributing on the 24th and 25th? Dr. Macedonia said that it's probably not practical to think that we are going to do it on Christmas day and Nurse Piko agreed. She doesn't know what type of turnout we would have for that. Chief Crago said maybe we should think about shooting for Monday the 28th. Dr. Kissinger talked about having the crash bag on site at any locations and Nurse Piko said that would be taken care of. Chief Crago stated that we wouldn't have to worry about that if we are doing them at the fire stations.

Dr. Macedonia asked if our priority is EMS staff. Nurse Piko asked if we will have to direct Trinity's staff to come to one of the other locations to receive their vaccination. Nurse Piko said that we could set up at Trinity to do them. Dr. Kissinger said that they suggested they want to distribute themselves. Again, Dr. Macedonia said that he doesn't believe they can do that. Nurse Piko said that the health department has to be present to give the vaccination. Rick Stead then said we are not permitted to allocate our allotment to Trinity to do their vaccinations and that the health department must do the vaccinating. Nurse Piko said that all of the vaccines we administer have to be uploaded in to the ECW within 24 hours to get uploaded into Impact.

Dr. Macedonia then asked if it's fair to say we will begin on the 28th? Nurse Piko said that as long as we receive the vaccine as scheduled, that was doable. Chief Crago asked how we would ID the folks that would show up for the vaccine. How will we verify they are EMS workers. Rick Stead reported that Rob Herrington will be providing a list of EMS workers who have indicated that they want the vaccine. Then, when they show up, they will provide an ID or they can show their certification card.

Mr. Mayo who was in the audience interrupted and asked if each agency could just send a list of who was to be vaccinated and they would just bring their ID plain and simple. Dr. Macedonia said it's really not that plain and simple because we are trying to follow state mandated roll out and there are restrictions. Discussion went back and forth about the list that the state sent us.

Mr. Rigaud asked about staffing and how are we with that. Nurse Piko said that it is her and two other nurses. Dr. Macedonia told Nurse Piko he would get her a list in the next few days of the folks that said they'd like to help.

For Monday the 28th, the locations would be Brilliant, Wintersville and TEMS. The EMS folks would show up to one of these locations and times will be set up. Dr. Kissinger said that these are low risk environments and if someone goes down, EMS is available.

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mr. Morelli interrupted from the audience and said that he will have quite a few people calling him and wanting to know how the meeting went. He wants to know if he is correct in saying that the purpose of this meeting is to set the plan of how it's going to be done. It doesn't seem to him like the health department has a plan now. He is not pushing it on anyone, but if we get vaccine tomorrow, do we have any idea what we are going to do. Dr. Macedonia said this meeting today is to lay out the plan. The goal is at the end of this meeting is to have the plan on how we will distribute this first 1A shipment. Mr. Morelli asked if we are pushing back what some people refer to as a lifesaving vaccine two days because it's a holiday. Nurse Piko stated that she doesn't even know if ODH will ship anything on the 24th. At this time, we don't even know when it is coming. Rick Stead spoke up and said part of the problem is that the plan is evolving. We receive it from the state and then later, we get changes to that plan. We have to be flexible. The timing is bad obviously due to the holiday. We cannot tell anyone at this time what day it is going to arrive. It may not come until Saturday.

Dr. Macedonia asked Dr. Kissinger when does the immunity begin after the vaccine is administered. Dr. Kissinger said it is about two weeks. Both vaccines are about the same. Dr. Macedonia reminded folks that this is not a live vaccine. If you get the vaccine and then come up positive for Covid, there is no relation between the vaccine and then testing positive.

The discussion then shifted back to the list provided by the state and that there are some on the list which are individual residences and no phone numbers are listed. Mr. Gentile spoke from the audience and said that he feels that we should only have one location and it would be done more safely and efficiently. Chief Crago said that creates issues for logistics as far as pulling first responders out of their home base going somewhere else and what if there would be an emergency. Mr. Mayo then asked if there's a way that we can put a committee together to assist Hannah. He said he would be willing to be on the committee. Chief Crago said that he believes there is a chain of command set up, even outside of the health department that we must follow. Mr. Mayo said that no one is talking about any chain of command. He wants to know what we are doing. He said there are concerned people at the meeting. Rick Stead said that we have to start somewhere and we were given the list and we will work the plan. For continuity of operation, we need to keep it in house. Mr. Mayo said we've spent 15 minutes or so trying to figure it out and he assumes we have no system in place. Mr. Mayo continued on about the discussions that took place. Kelly Wilson spoke up and said that she believes we are making this way more difficult than it has to be. She pointed out that the health department has competent staff here at the health department. The bottom line is that we are getting 400 doses of the vaccine. We have a list. Kelly offered to personally contact everyone on the list for Hannah. We will then confirm the locations/dates/times for when go time comes. The plan will be put in to action. The communication has been great and the affected parties will come together and carry out the plan. We are speaking about 400 doses, not mass vaccination at this point. A mass vaccination plan is in place, but we're making things so difficult and keep rehashing the same things over and over. The holdup is that we don't know when they will ship it or when we will

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

receive it. We might even know later today more information since there are calls scheduled for today. The holiday seems to be the thing that is creating more havoc with shipments/receipt dates. Dr. Macedonia also pointed out to the audience that we just received all of the information from the state two days ago. It's not like we've had time to get the details worked out when we didn't know how the state would be putting things into action. To sit here and say we had no plan is incorrect. The vaccine just received approval. Nurse Piko pointed out that we've had the PHEP plan, which is for mass distribution, but we are having to alter the plan because this is not mass distribution. It is distribution to a very limited, essential population. The mass distribution plan has to be scaled down. Chief Crago said that it also makes it difficult that without having a special meeting, it's difficult because the Board can't speak with the staff. That is the purpose of coming together today.

Dr. Macedonia said for clarity's sake, we have identified the urgent needs. Is there anything else we should be talking about? Things change daily, sometimes twice in one day. The best we can do now is do what we've talked about today. As far as the list, Kelly will reach out to the individuals and get list of the names for the folks wanting the vaccine. We will then provide them a tentative date. Nurse Piko said that some of the ones on the list will have a bit of a hold up anyway because they will have to get a responsible third party to sign for them.

Mr. Gentile spoke up from the audience and said that Rob Herrington is probably one of the most organized guys in the state and if we contact him and ask him for a list of EMS workers that need vaccinated, he will provide that. That will take care of 175 doses. Rick Stead spoke up and said that he has already been in contact with Rob Herrington about this. Mr. Gentile then asked if the 50 doses we are giving to Trinity will be replenished to the health department once Trinity gets their doses. Nurse Piko pointed out that this had nothing to do with the health department. He said he's not pointing fingers, but he gets questions and that he had gotten a call over the weekend about this. Dr. Macedonia said that he believes the doses will be redistributed once Trinity gets theirs. He doesn't have that in writing, but it is a mutual understanding. Mr. Gentile said that he just wants to be able to answer questions. Mr. Morelli then spoke up and said that no one is sitting here pointing fingers at the Board or the health department. He said he thinks they are saying that we're here, we're interested. Some of them are getting phone calls from the community wanting to know when they can get the vaccination and what the plan is. He wants us to know if we need help, they're here. It seems to him like Nurse Piko is getting a lot thrown on her. He is there to help and wants to know what the plan is. Dr. Macedonia thanked him and said that everyone is getting phone calls and unfortunately, some of the questions cannot be answered. Rick Stead that he wants to make sure that everyone understands that we are following the guidelines from ODH and that the residents need to understand that. Nurse Piko pointed out that in the time we've been here in the meeting, the e-mail could have come in saying when our shipment will arrive. Things are just moving so quickly. The state will continue to do pushes of doses and we will not be having to order them.

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mr. Mayo spoke up about the holiday. Christmas is just a day. Every now and then, you might have to work when you may not want to for the greater good of the public. This is life and death so whether it's Christmas or the New Year holiday, the schedule should not work around it. He is willing to volunteer to do whatever he can, even if it is on Christmas. Dr. Macedonia said that he doesn't disagree with Mr. Mayo but many people will volunteer their time, but there are people that are employed that can't. If they wish to give up their time, that's fine, but they can't mandate an employee to work. Mr. Mayo asked for this to be explained to him. He said that Mr. Mavromatis can mandate somebody has to work. Nurse Piko reminded everyone once again that ODH hasn't even mentioned distributing any vaccines on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The ODH will most likely be closed. Mr. Gentile then stated that if folks are county employees, they have designated county holidays. If they choose to work, that's fine, but if they work for the county, they are entitled to the county holiday. Nurse Piko said that they will be working on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day regardless. Mr. Gentile said if they want to fall back and say they don't have to, it's there. Mr. Bell stated that he thinks Mr. Gentile missed Nurse Piko's comment. Mr. Gentile said all that is he talking about is if they choose not to, they are a county employee and they can say they don't have to since it's a published county holiday. Mr. Bell said he would be extremely amazed if any health department employee did that. Mr. Gentile said he's not saying they would, but he's just trying to answer the question.

Mr. Mayo then asked about how we would proceed from here for how it will work for additional groups. Will there be another meeting? Will we start planning now or wait until we know it's coming and try to put it together in two or three days. Nurse Piko again pointed out that we have a mass vaccination plan. This plan has been used before (H1N1). Our planning started when we did the drive-thru flu vaccine. It was a test run also to see how things look and what worked well and what didn't work well. Yes, it was on a smaller scale, but lessons were learned. A lot of things have gone on in the background that go into the bigger plan. Tents and supplies have been ordered and other things have gone on that all go in to this mass vaccination plan.

Dr. Macedonia noted that CVS and Walgreens have been contracted by the government to perform vaccinations in all nursing homes and long-term care facilities. It's important to note that the health department does not have to plan for accommodating these.

Mr. Mayo asked who was paying for the vaccines and if there will be any additional staff. Nurse Piko pointed out that vaccines are free; however, she did want to bring up to the Board to ask if we want to charge the administration fee for administering the vaccine. If we want to do so, we will have to collect all of the insurance information, etc. from those receiving the vaccine. Although the revenue would be good, collecting all of the information is cumbersome and time consuming. Dr. Macedonia said that he really thinks it's not worth the extra effort. Mr. Mayo wanted to know if we will get additional staff. Kelly Wilson and Nurse Piko explained that we do have extra staff through some of our grants. One has been extended so far; however, we have not yet received word if any of our other grants will be extended.



Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Mr. Bell asked if there were any additional questions and Mr. Balakos brought up the subject of enforcement and a brief discussion occurred and then Chief Crago interrupted and stated that the purpose of the meeting today was to discuss vaccine distribution and we are now discussing another subject.

Mr. Bell then asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Adjourn</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2020-194	Dr. Macedonia moved and Mr. Rigaud seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Macedonia 2 nd – Rigaud Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia - Aye Rigaud – Aye

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. in the Trumbull Towers Building, 2nd Floor.

ATTESTED:

Mr. Terry Bell, Board President

Kelly Wilson, Fiscal, Grants & PI Officer