



## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**Sam Jarvis, Acting Director**

**Board of Health**  
**Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP**  
**Tatiana Izakovic, MD, MHA**  
**Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS**  
**Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA**  
**Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS**

### **JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**May 19, 2021**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**4:00 pm**

**Call to Order:** Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**Roll Call:** Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS; Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA; VIA TELECONFERENCE: Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS; Tatiana Izakovic, MD, MHA; Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP

**Staff:** Sam Jarvis, Acting Director; James Lacina, Environmental Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Business Manager; James Bechtel, Systems Analyst; Susan Denny, Secretary II; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I VIA TELECONFERENCE: Becky Hackett-Leas, Oral Health Coordinator; Debbie Ackerman, Data Specialist

**Others Present:** Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Rubin to approve the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes; seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meeting Date and Time:** June 16, 2021 in Conference Room 203 at the Health and Human Services Building.

**Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues:** None

**New Employee Introductions:** None

#### **DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):**

- **Mask Regulation Discussion** Wallace opened discussion by reporting the CDC has issued new suggestions for relaxing the mask regulations across the country. He noted Johnson County's Face Covering Regulation now appears to be outdated. Assistant County Attorney Lynn Rose provided a resolution to rescind the regulation to BOH members for approval before sending to the Board of Supervisors. He asked for BOH members to comment on the resolution or to modify the existing regulation. Rubin supports rescinding the regulation with suggested changes to the document for more clarity. Izakovic supports rescinding the regulation and added she has reviewed changes that the University of Iowa Hospitals &

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Clinics are making and has concerns about the need for consistency across Johnson County, especially Iowa City and Coralville to minimize confusion to the public about wearing masks. Wallace concurred that the scope of relaxation for mask wearing is a common issue. Bosch is in favor of rescinding the regulation. She commented on the widespread access to vaccines and added the CDC guidelines were not as confusing as they might seem. She would like to be clear that individual businesses can require masks or possibly proof of vaccination, similar to having to show a membership card, such as is required by COSTCO, for instance. Bosch also would like to clarify to vaccinated citizens of the high efficacy of the vaccines. Wallace reported Bosch had emailed similar comments to him and he agrees that even though regulations for face coverings can be rescinded, care should be taken that individual businesses should have the right to insist on mask wearing if they feel it necessary. He is also concerned with school policy as a separate problem, which is still up to local school boards. Wallace would like to encourage continued mask mandates within the school system. Bosch commented elementary students up to sixth grade are not a significant risk according to CDC data. She believes the age group from 12-18 years that is able to be vaccinated is at higher risk, but expects Johnson County vaccination rates for that age range may be high by the time school starts. Wallace asked Jarvis if Public Health has data on immunizations in that population. Jarvis responded there was not as yet, but when Pfizer was approved for the 12-18 year age group, they were able to see a spike in the number of vaccinations. Public Health will continue providing vaccine clinics to schools. Pollock commented on Izakovic's concern regarding consistency for cities and businesses, etc. He summarized what he was hearing from BOH members as rescindment of the regulation would not supersede any local decision to require masks in a business or school or other entity and concern about sending mixed messages about the BOH position. Wallace clarified Izakovic's concern about the County's mandate affecting cities in Johnson County that have lifted face covering regulation. Rose explained the Johnson County regulation is technically still in place and covers all of Johnson County. If the BOH elects to rescind the mask regulation, this will not have any effect on the ability of the school districts or private businesses, etc. to require mask-wearing in their facility. Rescinding the BOH regulation will not take away the ability of a smaller entity to require mask-wearing. Pollock asked if the reason for considering rescinding the regulation is because the BOH no longer views the risk as great as before, or because it's been rescinded by other entities. Bosch commented that as Johnson County has the highest immunization rate in the state and the vaccine has been available to the highest risk citizens, she feels the risk here is very low. Pollock asked why rescind the face covering regulation if risk is low for fully vaccinated people as opposed to changing the regulation making it a requirement for those not vaccinated to continue wearing a face covering. Rose responded that would present a legal issue as it would distinguish between people on the basis of a health status, which is protected information, and would be very difficult to enforce, especially as people are not obligated to present proof of vaccination. It would be extremely difficult to defend in court if challenged. Rubin commented she would support the resolution to rescind the face covering regulation moving forward to the BOS with some changes in wording. Bosch proposed the BOH recommend that Johnson County follow CDC guidelines. Wallace responded that would not address the punitive language included in the face covering regulation. Rose noted the CDC guidance applies to individuals, whereas the BOH is promulgating regulation for a population and the BOH would not be able to create regulation based on CDC language. Rubin added the CDC is not a regulatory agency and the guidance is only a recommendation, primarily written for fully vaccinated people. Wallace asked the BOH members to include a suggestion to the BOS that they continue reminding businesses that they can ask their staff and customers to wear a face covering, if they wish. Rose described the process to move the resolution forward to rescind the face covering regulation. She stressed the timeline required to complete the process is mandated by Iowa Code as a legislative process. Wallace asked if BOH members would like to proceed or if they had further comments. No further comments were offered.

**Motion** by Bosch to accept the modified language with non-substantial wording changes and begin the process to move the Resolution to Rescind the Face Covering Regulation to the Board of Supervisors for final approval; seconded by Izakovic. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Expenditures Over \$3,000:**

- **21-07 Clinic Exam Room Update:** Meyer presented the Clinical Services request for approval of a remodel in room 118-A, one of two remaining exam rooms that need updating. Meyer described the work proposed, including carpet removal, additional office equipment, and electrical upgrades. The remodeling total request is \$5,569.50. Wallace asked if this is a continuation of an ongoing project. Meyer confirmed it was. Rubin asked for clarification for budget implications; specifically how the project is being funded and the impact to the JCPH budget, also whether to expect another additional request for a second remodel. Meyer responded that due to other department expenses that were reimbursed by FEMA there was county funds that could be reallocated to this project she also reminded BOH members that FEMA funding does not show up on the JCPH budget. Meyer expects there will be an additional request for the remaining exam room proposed in FY22 or FY23.

**Motion** by Bosch, to approve Clinic Exam Room remodel expenditure; seconded by Pollock. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Applications, Contracts and Agreements:**

## **OTHER**

- **Report on School Dental Screening Audits:** Becky Hackett-Leas described the dental audit procedure requiring kindergarten and ninth grade newly enrolled in school to receive a dental screening to produce a dental certificate with a statement of findings. Certificates are collected by the schools, the BOH designee, Hackett-Leas, Oral Health Coordinator then audits the certificates. Hackett-Leas reported statistics and results and the number of schools audited. She gave a short history of the audit program and difficulties experienced resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Training sessions via Zoom meetings were offered to school staff by JCPH. Rubin asked if because fewer kindergartners and ninth graders were not able to be screened, if there was a possibility of screening first graders and tenth graders to make up for those students who were not screened, due to COVID19. Hackett-Leas responded the I-Smile at School program is exploring this idea, but as an Iowa Code regulation requirement for kindergarten and ninth graders, she will need to propose the idea to her state consultant to see if that could be possible.

- **Innovative Practice Award:** Jarvis reported JCPH has received national recognition through the National Association of City and County Officials (NACCHO) Innovative Practice Award. He reminded the BOH they approved funding in the April 2020 meeting for the Qualtrics program to aid in streamlining processes and interactive uses and investigations. Jarvis described how the program was able to save time and promote results. He applied for the award in October, 2020 and was informed recently that JCPH was awarded one of the 2021 Innovative Practice awards. The award includes a complimentary stipend to attend the NACCHO 360 Conference and through JCPH Preparedness funds, Jarvis was able to add four additional stipends for more staff to attend. Also included with the award is an in-kind contribution of \$2,000.00 from a vendor providing technical assistance. Wallace discussed sending a press release to recognize JCPH receiving the award. Rubin would like to provide the information to Becky Nowachek, IDPH Region 6

Community Health Consultant, so that IDPH is notified of the award as well as adding it the calendar for the next Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) meeting.

- **Director Search - timeline:** Wallace reported the process for receiving applications will end at midnight on Monday. The following morning BOH members will receive the final list of applicants and instructions for a scoring system provided by HR. He reminded BOH members they are scheduled for a first round of interviews on June 7.

**Reports / Inquiries:**

**County Attorney:** None

**Members, Board of Health:**

Pollock commented on the ever-changing COVID-19 proclamations, whether in-person Board of Health meetings would now be required. Rose responded to Pollock’s comment that while the Governor’s emergency proclamation is in effect, in-person meeting requirements are suspended. Izakovic will not be able to attend BOH meetings in person from June 1, 2021 through August 9, 2021. She will be able to participate in BOH meetings via teleconference.

Rubin reported the University of Iowa College of Public Health “Heroes” award has been awarded to all Public Health departments in Iowa. Due to the high number of awards, the college was not able to present plaques to the departments, but Rubin and Wallace ordered an award for JCPH on behalf of the Johnson County BOH and presented the plaque to Jarvis to recognize JCPH receiving the Hero award from the College of Public Health.

**Director:**

Jarvis thanked the BOH for the plaque and for working with the Face Covering Regulation. He thanked the Johnson County community for practicing safety measures and added Johnson County fared better than the majority of counties in Iowa.

Jarvis reported Domain 7, the Vaccine Planning Team has several clinics planned for April. They will focus on high school students at all area high schools with the help of community partners. Also a drive-through food/vaccine clinic with a second scheduled for May 27, 2021 is planned. Both Moderna and Johnson & Johnson were offered at the drive-through clinic and he reported there was a good turn out, from the community.

Wallace adjourned the meeting at 5:01 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

June 16, 2021

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Date

Submitted by:  
Susan Denny  
Secretary II

Signature on File

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Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, Chair