

TO: Summit County Board of Health
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R Lopez
RE: BOCC and BOH Joint Work Session of August 10, 2021
DATE: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Elected Officials: Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Josh Blanchard– Commissioners
Jaime FitzSimons - Sheriff

Staff: Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Molly Boyd, Human Resources Director; Nicole Valentine, Communications Director; Adam Kisiel, Public Affairs Coordinator; April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (in person or via Zoom): Alison Mathes, Ann Marie Damian, Anne Lowe, Bryan Webinger, Jenna deJong, Jessica Hindmarch, Scott Reid, Scott Verlinde, Shannon Haynes,

I. Standing Agenda Items/Updates

Public Health Director Updates

i. Local and Regional/State COVID Case and Hospitalization Statistics and Trends

Amy Wineland gave an overview of the latest case data with cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

Overall, the number of cases are increasing across the state, with a rise in the new Delta variant, particularly in the southern states. The Delta variant is 100% responsible for all breakthrough cases.

The Delta Variant is more contagious than previous strains and may cause more than twice as many infections. The concern with this variant is that the longer it spreads, the higher the risk for other variants to develop, like the newest Lambda variant first identified in Peru.

The Delta variant is now dominant in England where cases and hospitalizations are up. The Delta variant emerged there earlier than in the US. So far it shows that younger people are infected at higher rates with 15-24 year olds hospitalized at rates similar to 50 year olds. Pediatric hospital admission there are at or near January peak numbers for younger children.

In the US, pediatric hospitalizations are increasing each day which makes sense as children under 12 cannot be vaccinated. Right now, 65% of cases are in those unvaccinated. Vaccines protect

individuals from hospitalization, severe infections and death. The number of people getting vaccinated has started to increase once again. Summit County is 3rd in the state with the number of people vaccinated but it is also seeing an increase in cases due to the high number of visitors who may be unvaccinated.

Booster doses are being considered for immuno-compromised individuals but have not been approved yet.

The Summit School District and The Peak School have released back-to-school guidelines and they have determined that children and staff will need to wear masks, even if vaccinated. The goal is to keep as many students as possible with in-person learning.

ii. Local Testing Statistics and Program Update

The Summit Community Care Clinic is administering tests at their clinic. Another testing site is at the Community and Senior Center parking lot and it is administered by Mako from 9am to 6pm. To find a testing location or to register for a test please visit:

<https://www.summitcountyco.gov/1324/Testing>

Commissioner Lawrence asked for a way to increase testing options in the county, even if it requires involving the state in order to offer options to individuals, especially those on the south side of the county who'd prefer not to drive through the roundabout construction site.

iii. Vaccine Distribution Update

Public Health continues to hold Vaccination Clinics and everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated. They will also hold vaccination events at the High School and Middle School during back-to-school events. They are working in encouraging

For additional information on vaccine clinics, please visit:

<https://www.summitcountyco.gov/1423/Scheduling-Vaccinations>

iv. Transmission Trends

CTT Trends

- Increase number of breakthroughs in the past few weeks
- Epi linkage trends are hospitality and restaurant industries, household, large events such as concerts, bars and social gatherings.
- Case ages are largely in the 20's or 30's
- Increase in cases housing and other resource needs this month

Cases from 6.1.21-6.30.21 = 23 Confirmed

- 0-11: 1
- 12-19: 1
- 20's: 8
- 30's: 3
- 40's: 3

- 50's: 4
- 60's+: 3

Cases from 7.1.21-7.31.21 = 194 Confirmed (>8 times the case volume as June)

- 0-11: 18
- 12-19: 12
- 20's: 71 (35.1%)
- 30's: 41 (20.3%)
- 40's: 26
- 50's: 18
- 60's+: 16

< 18 made up 8% of cases in June and 13.4% in July

Cases from 8.1.21 -8.9.21=106 confirmed

- 0-11: 5
- 12-19: 12
- <18: 13 (12.3%)
- 20's: 38 (35.1%)
- 30's: 15 (14.1%)
- 40's: 14
- 50's: 6
- 60+: 16

38 (35.8%) breakthroughs reported in August

Commissioners discussed different options for the coming ski season and how the county can be a resource for organizations and businesses. Scott Vargo suggested working with the Chamber of Commerce and post information on what is available to businesses on one location, giving them the tools they need and letting them make a decision.

Ms. Wineland also mentioned that with the ski areas starting the hiring process, there will be a large group of new people moving into the county who might be unvaccinated. Therefore, Public Health is offering the vaccine to anyone that walks through the door.

Commissioner Blanchard expressed his concern that case numbers during this time last year were much lower, which was accomplished only with restricting capacity and mask wearing. This year, we have vaccines but the numbers are much higher. He understands the frustration of many who thought that after the vaccine they could get back to normal. Unfortunately, the fact that there would be a high number of unvaccinated visitors was not considered.

He also asked for clarification on the treatment for children who test positive. Ms. Wineland said that the available treatment for COVID has not been authorized for anyone under 12 years old.

Public Health Order Update

No changes to the current order.

Communications Update and Discussion

The Communications Department is increasing their efforts to keep the community informed on the increase in cases, as well as COVID testing. They recommended for anyone with even mild symptoms to get tested, as well as anyone who has been exposed (e.g. after attending a concert, or a baseball game) should also be tested 3-5 days after exposure.

There have been press releases regarding the air quality advisory due to the smoke. The Communications Department will send out an SC Alert with the information.

For anyone interested in a specific vaccine brand, they can check the website to find out which locations offer which brands. At this time the vaccines being offered are Pfizer and J&J.

The Vimax at home testing kits are on backorder due to high demand. Commissioner Pogue asked for Public Health to place a request.

Commissioners asked Ms. Wineland to find a way to support those businesses that decide to require masks within their premises.

Emergency Management Update

No updates.

II. Critical Topics Not Covered Above

No updates.

III. Open BOH/BOCC Discussion, As Needed

Scott Vargo and Commissioners discussed requiring masks within the public space at county buildings, which also includes staff. This will put the county in compliance with the CDC. This requirement will go into effect on Monday, August 16, 2021. Commissioner supported this requirement.

Commissioner Lawrence asked for BOCC Meetings to require that all attendees and participants attending in person, must be vaccinated. If they are not, they can attend via Zoom. Mr. Vargo said that Commissioners can set up their own rules for different situations/locations and county staff will determine how to implement them.

Summit County's Public Health Orders and latest information is available at www.summitcountyco.gov. Click on *Get COVID-19 Info and Updates*.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sara R. Lopez, Deputy Clerk



Approved by:



Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair