



# Public Health Delta & Menominee Counties



## Board of Health Meeting

Delta County Service Center  
Escanaba, MI

**Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, March 19, 2020

### Board Members Present

Amanda Hess, via phone  
Larry Schei, via phone

Larry Johnson  
Gerard Tatrow

Patrick Johnson  
Tom Trudgeon

### Board Members Absent

### Public Health Staff

Mike Snyder, Health Officer/ Administrator  
Dr. Robert Van Howe, Interim Medical Director  
Lynn Woelffer, Director of Finance  
Ian Nelson, Director of Environmental Health  
Nancy Wahl, Clerical Supervisor

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta-Menominee District Board of Health (BOH) was held on March 19, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. EDT by Chairman Trudgeon. Roll call was taken by the Clerical Supervisor, and is recorded above.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Mr. Patrick Johnson moved the March 19, 2020 agenda be approved.  
Motion was supported by Mr. Tatrow and carried unanimously.**

**3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment on the March 19, 2020 agenda.

**4. Approval of February 20, 2020 Minutes**

**Mr. Tatrow moved the minutes from February 20, 2020, be approved and placed on file. Motion was supported by Mr. Larry Johnson and carried unanimously.**

**5. COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Snyder presented an update on COVID-19. Questions were answered by Mr. Snyder and Dr. Van Howe.

**6. MERS Quarterly and Annual Statements**

Mr. Snyder gave a brief overview of the MERS 2019 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr and 2019 Annual Statements. Questions were answered by Mr. Snyder.

**Mr. Patrick Johnson moved the MERS Quarterly and Annual Statements be acknowledged and placed on file. Motion was supported by Mr. Tatrow and carried unanimously.**

**7. Future Meeting Locations**

Chairman Trudgeon requested Agenda Item #7 be moved to the April 16, 2020 agenda. Chairman Trudgeon will compose a letter of protest voicing the Board's concerns and send it to Ms. Tina Koski, Administrator of Pinecrest Medical Care Facility (PMCF); PMCF's Director and Board; and the Chairs of both Delta and Menominee County Boards.

**Mr. Patrick Johnson moved Agenda Item #7 be added to the April 16<sup>th</sup> agenda and a letter of protest, from Chairman Trudgeon, be sent to Ms. Koski; Pinecrest Administrator, the Pinecrest Board, and the Chairs of both Delta and Menominee County Boards. Motion was supported by Mr. Tatrow and carried unanimously.**

**8. Upper Peninsula Environmental Health Code**

Mr. Snyder presented a draft of the updated "Upper Peninsula Environmental Health Code" and a history of its development. BOH questions were answered by Mr. Snyder.

**Mr. Tartow moved the Board not move forward with the Upper Peninsula Environmental Health Code. Motion was supported by Mr. Patrick Johnson and carried unanimously.**

**9. Review and Approval of February Check Register**

The Board of Health reviewed the February check register. Questions were answered by Mr. Snyder and Ms. Woelffer.

**Mr. Tatrow moved the February check register be approved and placed on file. Motion was supported by Mr. Patrick Johnson and carried unanimously.**

## 10. Medical Director's Report

Dr. Van Howe reported:

### **COVID-19/Influenza Update:**

Two Michigan patients have tested positive for COVID-19. In response, a number of universities have sent their students home and instituted distance learning. Testing has been expanded. We have a number of patients who are being tested in our health district. As of this writing, all the tests have been negative. By the time of the Board meeting all this could change.

We are also having a higher incidence of influenza this year than in most influenza seasons. In the Upper Peninsula we are seeing primarily influenza A H1N1, while below the bridge they are seeing primarily influenza B. This year's outbreak has shown a bimodal peak, and it appears we have passed the second peak. Our infection rate in Michigan is below the national average. This year's influenza vaccination aimed at four strains of influenza, which are, fortunately, the strains that are responsible for this year's outbreak. The vaccine this year is between 45% and 50% effective in preventing infection. Infections following vaccination are typically less severe.

Both COVID-19 and influenza present with fever and cough. The differences are that influenza comes on more suddenly and the illness does not last as long as the COVID-19. COVID-19 is typically worse in the second week of the illness. While COVID-19 patients can present with muscle aches, this symptom is much more prevalent with influenza. The mortality rate of influenza is 0.1%, while COVID-19 mortality has been estimated at 3%. If a patient tests positive for influenza or another virus, it is unlikely that COVID-19 is responsible.

Recommendations for COVID-19 testing have been expanded to patients with fever and cough for whom no other explanation is available. I have been recommending that the state laboratory perform a respiratory panel (looking for other viruses) on samples submitted for COVID-19 testing.

Our goal, working with our local, state, and federal partners, is to minimize introductions of this virus, detect new cases quickly, and reduce community spread of this new coronavirus in the US.

The LHD and community partners have been preparing for an event like COVID-19 and have plans in place based on previous experience preparing for other potential

pandemics such as influenza and the Ebola virus. We have asked businesses, community and faith-based organizations, schools, and health-care systems to reexamine their preparedness plans to make sure they are ready.

To accomplish our goal, we are monitoring Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) identified through screening when entering the United States at airports and other points of entry during their 14-day quarantine. We are identifying, reporting, and monitoring PUIs that present to their healthcare professionals. We are working closely with emergency

medical services and healthcare facilities to assure that PUIs and others at risk for infection are properly isolated and medical personnel are properly protected from infection. We are closely monitoring the progress of this potential epidemic and constantly receiving updates from the CDC and MDHHS. While it is unclear how this situation will evolve in the United States or in our area, we are preparing as if it were the next pandemic, while hoping it is not.

## 11. Health Officer's Report

Mr. Snyder reported:

- **Bay Grant** – PHDM is working on a grant application with Bay College for a Child and Adolescent Health Center. The State has extended the deadline an additional week. PHDM plans to submit an application and would like to include a letter of support from the Board.

**Mr. Patrick Johnson moved a letter of support for the Child and Adolescent Health Center be written and included with the grant application. Motion was supported by Mr. Tatrow and carried unanimously.**

- **WIC Dollars** – In fiscal year 2019, WIC dollars spent in our local grocery stores were:
  - **Delta** -- \$551,866.93
  - **Menominee** – \$166,376.09A total \$718,248.02 for 1,157 WIC participants
- **SSP (Syringe Service Program)** – The program was scheduled to begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. It has been delayed due to COVID-19.

## 12. Public Comment (Three Minutes Maximum)

No public comments

## 13. Board Member Comments

Chairman Trudgeon thanked Mr. Nelson for accepting the Environmental Health Director position.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Larry Johnson made a motion the meeting be adjourned at 3:10 p.m. EDT. Motion was supported by Mr. Tatrow and carried unanimously.



Chairperson

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