

**Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health**  
Minutes of November 11, 2020 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on November 11, 2020 at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, City Council Chambers, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Laura Chapman, Tom Tuttle, Dr. Mathew Wood, and Chad Thalman. Staff present included Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and Interim County Health Officer Dr. Thomas Wack. Others present included Lou Vargo, WOCEMA.

The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway. Minutes of the September 8, 2020 Board of Health meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved.

Interim County Health Officer Dr. Thomas Wack gave a brief Health Officers report including an update on Project HOPE. This included a Board discussion on the homeless camps and recent City of Wheeling clean ups. Dr. Wack gave an update on COVID-19 including conference calls with Wheeling Hospital and the WVBPH.

The administrator gave a short report on the department's COVID-19 response in Ohio County. Currently, the health department reports a total of 854 cases, including ten (10) deaths. Case surveillance, contact tracing, and monitoring continues for many of the reported cases. During the community mass testing today (11/9/2020), the health department performed 148 COVID-19 tests on Ohio Valley residents. Starting Monday, November 9th and running until Saturday, November 14th, the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department will hold free COVID-19 testing clinics at three locations in Ohio County.

- Ohio County COVID Testing: November 9 – 14, 2020, 11am-4pm
  - Valley Grove Volunteer Fire Department 355 Fire House Lane, Valley Grove
  - Warwood Fire Station, Station 9, 1301 Richland Avenue
  - Wheeling Island Fire Department, Station 5, 11 North Wabash Street

The free clinics are for those with or without symptoms and no insurance is needed. Participants need to bring a driver's license, photo ID or other proof of address. No residency restrictions. Patients under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This is a drive-up testing clinic and participants will be tested either in their personal vehicles or at a walk-up location near the testing sites. This special clinic is being hosted by the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and the Wheeling-Ohio County Emergency Management Agency. For more information call the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department at (304) 234-3682.

In New Business a financial packet was not distributed to members prior to the meeting due to staffing shortages and the department's COVID-19 testing and case management response.

The Board voted to adjourned into Executive Session to hold a discussion on the Health Officer position. The Board moved back into the regular meeting and held an open discussion on the re-appointment of Dr. William C. Mercer as Health Officer of Ohio County. The Board approved the appointment effective December 1, 2020.

The Board approved the 2021Board of Health meeting schedule. The schedule will be January 12, 2021; March 9, 2021; May 11, 2021; July 13, 2021; September 14, 2021; and November 9, 2021.

The no other business was before the Board and they moved for adjournment.

**SUBMITTED BY**

Thomas Wack, MD, Interim-Health Officer  
January 12, 2021

**APPROVED BY**

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman  
January 12, 2021