

**Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health**  
Minutes of September 13, 2022, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on September 13, 2022, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, Ohio County Commission office, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Dr. Mathew Wood, Chad Thalman and Tom Tuttle. Staff present included Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and County Health Officer Dr. William S. Przybysz.

The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway.

Minutes of the July 27, 2022, Board of Health meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. A correction to the minutes was offered regarding IRS milage adjustments. Minutes were approved.

The Health Officer gave a short update on COVID activity. The Health Officer also discussed the opportunities for a future needle exchange and community needle collection boxes.

The administrator gave a report of department programs and services as well as a short update on COVID activities in Ohio County. From September 21 to the 22 Oglebay Resort will host the annual West Virginia Public Health Association conference. The conference will start at 12:30 on the 21<sup>st</sup> with opening remarks from the state health officer as well as two other speakers. The majority of the training will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> including a tent set up and display.

Starting September 12, 2022, the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department will offer the Omicron COVID-19 Booster vaccination (Pfizer only). Effective September 13th the Moderna Omicron Booster will be available.

The PFIZER-BioNTech COVID-19 Omicron (Bivalent) Booster. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Omicron (Bivalent) Booster is authorized for use in individuals 12 years of age and older as a single booster dose administered at least 2 months after either:

- Completion of primary vaccination with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine, or
- Receipt of the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

The MODERNA COVID-19 Omicron (Bivalent) Booster. The Moderna COVID-19 Omicron (Bivalent) booster is authorized for use in individuals 18 years of age and older as a single booster dose administered at least 2 months after either:

- Completion of primary vaccination with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine, or
- Receipt of the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

As a reminder the original (monovalent) COVID-19 boosters for ages 12 years and older are no longer available. However, those original mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna, monovalent) remain authorized and recommended for use as the primary series.

The Administrator gave a short update on local and statewide Monkeypox cases. In WV there are 10 reported cases, OH-226; PA-649 (Allegheny County 65 with cases slowing down since late August) and National-21,985 cases have been reported. The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department has announced limited access to the monkeypox vaccine, JYNNEOS, through the department's Immunization Program. This announcement is in conjunction with the health departments in Hancock, Brooke, Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler counties in West Virginia. The health department is currently offering the monkeypox vaccine to those who have been identified as being high-risk for the monkeypox virus. Vaccine eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis. All vaccinations will be by appointment, no walk-in vaccinations will be done at this time. Vaccinations are limited to West Virginia residents until vaccine supplies are increased nationally. Individuals with certain risk factors may be considered for expanded post-exposure prophylaxis. The goal is to reach the population at highest risk, even if they have not had documented exposure to someone with confirmed monkeypox. Eligibility for monkeypox vaccination may change as the outbreak evolves or based on vaccine supply. Individuals who have a condition that may increase their risk for severe disease if infected with monkeypox, such as HIV or another condition that weakens their immune system, or atopic dermatitis or eczema, should especially consider getting vaccinated.

**Current eligibility for this limited vaccination effort include:**

- Gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, and/or transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender nonbinary, AND
- Have had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the last 14 days

In Unfinished Business the administrator gave a short presentation of the departments DRAFT needle exchange application to the West Virginia Office of Health Facility and Licensure. The application still needs some minor adjustments, but the overall goal is to have a 1 for 1 exchange. Once the program is approved the department will send out support letters to the City and County governing bodies as well as support letters from support agencies. The goal is to have the program start as soon as it receives approval from the State Health Department. The Board approved the program.

In New Business, the Board was presented with a financial report. Financials were provided to Board members before the meeting. The financial review included a year-to-date General Ledger Trial Balance and account payables and payroll reports from July and August of 2022.

The Board was updated on the start of the annual audit. A copy of the annual audit report was presented to the Board of Health. The audit did have one finding which was corrected for this coming FY. The Audit was approved by the Board.

The health department plans to purchase a total of three smaller SUV staff vehicles. The grant to purchase these vehicles states that they must be leased. The department is working with Bob Robinson on the lease as well as Country Roads Leasing. The Board approved the lease/purchase of the three vehicles.

With grant funds from a State COVID grant the health department is looking to purchase a 2022 7/12 tandem axle enclosed trailer. Mountaineer Trailer Sales from Vienna, WV had the best price and available stock. The Board approved the purchase of this trailer.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2022.

**SUBMITTED BY**

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer  
November 15, 2022

**APPROVED BY**

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman  
November 15, 2022