



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270  
May 17, 2021

Board Members Present

Shane Gorder – Commissioner  
Duane Mitchell – Commissioner  
Melissa Boyer  
Kari Johnson  
Ray Trumpower

Advisory Members Present

Jacquelyn Free, FNP  
Brittney Petersen  
Julie Brodhead  
John Dynneson  
Heidi Moran –Recording  
Secretary  
Brandon Roth  
Stephanie Ler-Sanitarian

Board Members Absent

Loren Young- Commissioner  
Terry Meldahl

Advisory Member Absent

Janet Christoffersen  
Jeff Hintz

Guests:

Jessica Gilbert, RCHD

2:35 PM Duane Mitchell called the meeting to order.

*Reviewed Agenda:* The agenda was approved. Kari Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda and Melissa Boyer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

*Minutes:* The April 19, 2021 minutes were approved. Shane Gorder made a motion to approve April minutes, Kari Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Health Department Administration Report: Brittney Reported  
General Health Department Updates –

- RCHD has shifted from mass COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics to Walk-In Clinics every Tuesday from 12:30 – 3:00pm. The one-dose (Janssen) Johnson and Johnson vaccine is offered the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday and the two-dose Moderna vaccine is offered the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.
- Outreach to businesses – Immunization staff have been reaching out to the larger businesses in Richland County to let them know about our Tuesday walk-in

clinics and inquire if they would be interested in RCHD going on site to vaccinate interested employees.

- Last week, the Pfizer vaccine was approved for use in individuals 12 and up. Because of the population of our area and the minimum dose shipment of 1170, and current storage requirements, RCHD will continue to only offer the Moderna and Janssen vaccines at this time.
- Tomorrow and Wednesday of this week (May 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>), Pharm 406 Clinic, a mobile vaccine clinic, will be at Reynolds, offering both the Moderna vaccine to those 18 and older and the Pfizer vaccine to those 12 and older.

#### *Performance Management –*

Last month Brittney mentioned that the Department turned in Section I of our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Report, which was also sent out to members with the meeting reminder. The Department turned in Section II of the report on May 6 and it has been approved with comments and suggestions to consider as we prepare for reaccreditation in 2023.

Program Report: Jessica Gilbert reported on Volunteers in Action MT. She informed the Board about the name change because the community wanted a volunteer program that is more inclusive of all ages rather than a program that is only for those 55 + and to align with Communities in Action. She gave data on how volunteers help the community. With 308 volunteers the total hours served was 26,467.38 and these volunteers saved communities in northeast Montana region over \$719,912.73. The program continues to work with area groups to bring new services to the area or enhance existing services. Since the pandemic started over a year ago the volunteers have stepped up to ensure essential services continued. The volunteers delivered meals and groceries, contact traced and daily check-in calls for COVID activities, helped with drive through flu clinics, helped with vision and hearing screens in Richland County schools, and community recovery through vaccination clinics. The program has a website to connect volunteers and organizations.

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn Free reminded everyone that it is tick and poison ivy season.

#### Communicable Disease -Julie Brodhead

##### **New reporting year (2021 Jan 3- Dec 31, 2020)**

Report given on May 17, 2021

12 chlamydia

3 gonorrhea

5 Hep C (3 confirmed, 1 suspect, 1 may be old case and not be counted)

6 suspect LTBI LTB: 1 needs test repeated, (1) taking meds,

5 Animal bites to humans (1 did start vaccine series but quit after 2<sup>nd</sup>)

1 high level of lead in an infant

1 norovirus case (8 others ill at the daycare lasted ~5 days)

1 Hantavirus confirmed case

0 Influenza for 2020-2021 flu season (October 2020- April 2021)

STATE OF MT -0 influenza since October 2020 for the 2020-21 flu season so far

202 COVID -19 Cases for 2021 (at # 1239 for total count for pandemic) (3 COVID deaths for 2021 17 totals so far) up *18 from last meeting*

We have been monitoring up to 12 contacts since the last meeting. (This means doing daily phone calls or texting to check for symptoms and follow up on testing needs). Richland County had 1 hospitalized person since last meeting. The automated texting system "SARA Alert" for doing symptom checks by testing is working well.

**5/17/2021 CURRENTLY RCHD: 3 active cases and 7 close contacts,**

Exposures from travel to funeral or others traveling in; or they were ill 1-3 months ago and did not test until they now need a medical procedure; or they have no idea how they got it and most persons only name members of household as being exposed if they are ill. (attended a gun show, went to billings for appointments & shopping, travel to Hawaii, or within MT and ND)

COVID-19 case numbers on the state map are behind as RCHD works to enter the data into the state system for it to show up on the count. RCHD is working hard at catching up in this reporting data area. Fluctuations noticed statewide on the map due to counties getting data entered - not new cases.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worldwide: Johns Hopkins Map:**

**World-Wide:**

3/22/2021:123,321,541 case 2,716,990 deaths, 192 countries, Rec 69,902,003

4/19/2021: 141,662,932 cases 3,024,099 deaths, 192 countries, 81,006,833 Rec

**5/17/2021: 163,181,275 cases 3,381,740 deaths**

**COVID-19 U.S.:**

3/22/2021: 29,821,403 cases, 542,382 deaths,

4/19/2021: 31,700,126 cases, 567,422 deaths

**5/17/2021: 32,950,200 cases, 586,077 deaths**

**COVID-19 MT:**

3/22/2021: 103,060 cases (1,003 active) 1414 deaths; (tot hosp 4,716) cur 49, rec 100,643

4/19/2021: 107,202 cases, (1008 active) 1,546 Deaths, (tot hosp 4,914) 55 c hosp, rec 104,648

**5/17/2021: 110,723 cases 1,055 active, 1598 deaths, s hosp 5,157, c hosp 63, rec 108,070**

**COVID-19 ND-**

3/22/2021: 95,764 cases, (702 active) 1461 deaths, (tot hosp 3,910) cur 19, rec 99,538

4/19/2021: 98,320 cases, (1004 active) 1479 deaths, (tot hosp 4047) cur 35, rec 103, 322

**5/17/2021: 109,135 cases (707 active) 1504 deaths, (tot hosp 4,211) cur 28; Rec 106,924**

**Vaccinations for State of MT as 4/19/2021**

3/22/2021 404,866 total shots given; 157,308 persons that have rec 2 doses so fully immunized.

4/19/2021: 643,283 total doses given, 278,888 persons that are fully immunized.

**5/17/2021: 771,705 total doses given, 369,505 persons that are fully immunized.**

There is a 28 day wait between first and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose for Moderna, 21 days for Pfizer, one shot for the Johnson& Johnson (Janssen)

Richland County has given 2882 total and 1,122 persons are fully vaccinated in the last 13 weeks as of 3/22/2021

4/19/2021: 4,188 total doses given, 2,025 fully immunized, 1<sup>st</sup> dose administered to 2,345

**5/17/2021: 4,782 total doses given, 2,338 fully vacc, 1<sup>st</sup> doses admin 2,667, we are at 26%**

(Map updates once a week for county totals)

### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness:**

We are working on our COVID AAR (after action report) to identify improvements and strengths in the process of both disease case investigation and response with vaccination efforts.

NEW 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Requirements: End of year report on preparedness efforts, Review and update the pandemic flu plan and the emergency medical countermeasures plan and share with partners and get signatures. Julie explained EMC.

Finalize RCHD AAR/IP procedure/plan. Start promoting volunteer registry and update volunteer activation plan. Work with DES on doing assessments for emergency assistance facilities in the county. We are to develop a Public Health Recovery Plan – at least a framework start. Julie has not looked into having the Business Continuity Planning Class (MGR-381) yet.

Public Health Summer Institute is free online or in person at Missoula on July 19-23. Several courses are offered. One that would benefit everyone is the Public Information Officer Awareness Course on July 19<sup>th</sup> 1-5 pm.

Sanitarian Report: Stephanie went over the Richland County COVID – 19 Vaccine Saturation data with the board. Using this data, RCHD will be reaching out to age groups that have lower vaccination rates.

Stephanie reported that she has been helping with COVID clinics though no longer schedules clients for the clinics. She will be doing marketing for COVID clinics to try to get more people in. Duane asked if RCHD still licenses septic installers. Stephanie said yes, they do, and they have several main installers that most people use. She said the license can be achieved within a day, and it hasn't been a barrier to installations. A homeowner can install their own system as well. She mentioned that she will report on the legislative update next month on the happenings with Public Health.

County Attorney Report: Janet Christoffersen absent

Old Business: None

New Business: Ray made the Board aware of targeted marketing to youth for artificial marijuana. He asked for ideas to increase community awareness.

Public Comment: None

Ray motioned to adjourn at 3:25 pm.

Next meeting: June 21, 2021 from 2:30 pm to 4 pm

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Duane Mitchell, Commissioner

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Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary