



RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
1201 West Holly, Room 202, SIDNEY, MONTANA 59270  
June 21, 2021

Board Members Present

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

Advisory Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Terry Meldahl

Advisory Member Absent

Jeff Hintz

Guests:

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

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

*Minutes:* The May 17, 2021 minutes were approved with the change to delete a 7 on the deaths for the World -Wide Coronavirus for 05-17-2021. Kari Johnson made a motion to approve the May minutes with the change, Loren Young 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Health Department Administration Report: Brittney Reported

General Health Department Updates –

RCHD is continuing our COVID Walk-In Clinics every Tuesday through the end of July from 12:30 – 3:00pm. The one-dose (Jannsen) 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. Our turnout has averaged around 30 each week until the last week when we only had 18 walk-ins.

Stephanie Ler reported that she has been reaching out to various events through the community to get our message out for the COVID clinics with putting a card with information

attached to water bottles. Some of the events are: Sunrise Festival, Wrestling Tournament, Sidney Young Professionals, and will be doing the JC Derby in August. Blue Rock gave a discount for the water bottles. Stephanie also mentioned that we are planning to send a mailer with COVID testing and vaccination information to all of Richland County.

RCHD will continue to only offer the Moderna and Janssen vaccines at this time.

In the last month, Pharm406 and Best Practice Medicine has come to Sidney both offering the opportunity to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Each offered their own incentives. We continue to work closely to make sure to connect the individuals that receive Pfizer to a clinic location to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose within the specified time frames.

Moderna asked the Food and Drug Administration to expand the emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents ages 12-17 on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The state health department has shared that it expects the FDA to make a decision by the end of June or beginning of July.

Richland, Daniels, and Sheridan County applied for a Crisis Diversion Grant through the state in April. We were awarded a much smaller amount than was requested and are working together to decide which activities would result in the biggest return for a small investment.

With the encouragement of our grant manager, RCHD applied for an increased grant amount to expand our AmeriCorp program in the coming year. We are working with the Montana Public Health Institute and the Montana Department of Health and Human Services to reach out to other small, rural health departments to offer them an AmeriCorp member or two for a term of service. Our small expansion to Dawson, Roosevelt and Valley this current year has been very successful.

We hired Jaylea Siroky as our new Drug Free Communities Coordinator at the end of last month. She has hit the ground running and is going to be a great addition to our team.

Performance Management – The AmeriCorps had their close of service ceremony and trainings last Thursday and Friday. Staff were invited to come and listen to them speak about their accomplishments during their service year.

#### Communicable Disease -Julie Brodhead

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

Report given on June 21, 2021

13 chlamydia

3 gonorrhea

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

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

15 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 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

COVID -19 Cases for 2020-2021:

#1246 for total count for pandemic (4 COVID deaths for 2021 total 18 deaths)

Working on finalizing numbers for 2020 Count – moving cases to correct year based on symptom onset date. We have been monitoring up to 6 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.

**6/21/2021 CURRENTLY RCHD:** 1 new today active case and 2 close contacts,  
Exposures from travel to funeral or others traveling to SD, WA, travel to Hawaii,  
COVID-19 case numbers on the state map are correct with RCHD.

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

World-Wide:

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 \*

**6/21/2021 178,597,032 cases 3,868,164 deaths Vaccines 2,635,674,733**

COVID-19 U.S.:

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

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

**6/21/2021 33,543,765 cases 601,854 deaths**

COVID-19 MT:

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, hosp 5,157, c hosp 63, rec 108,070

**6/21/2021: 113,225 cases, 454 active, 1652 deaths, hosp 5,446, c hosp 44, rec 111,119**

COVID-19 ND:

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

**6/21/2021: 110,571 cases 206 active, 1523 deaths, (tot hosp 4344, cur hosp 19), Rec – 108,842**

**Vaccinations 6/21/2021 = 615,971 doses given for 47.5 % of population**

Vaccinations for State of MT as 4/19/2021

3/22/2021: 404,866 total shots given; 57,308 persons that have rec 2 doses -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.

**6/21/2021: 852,515 total doses given; 420,329 persons fully immunized for 46%**

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 VACCINE Administered (Eligible population 8,978)

3/22/2021: 2,882 total and 1,122 persons are fully vaccinated in the 13 weeks  
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%  
**6/21/2021: 5576 total doses given, 2,885 fully vac, 1<sup>st</sup> dose admin 3031, at 32%**  
(Map updates once a week for county totals)

Richland County has had one Variant in 2021 -- B.1.429 California Variant  
Disease staff will be pulling data for local numbers and reports.

Raw data on COVID Cases in county school: # of Staff = 52, # of Students =120 for a total of  
172 cases in the County during 2020-21 school yr.

Noted state-wide 4 animals tested positive for rabies; closest was in Dawson which was a bat.  
State-wide 39 persons have had post exposure prophylaxis recommended after having an  
animal bite exposure. RCHD will try to do some education on animal bites and the response to  
them to prevent unnecessary vaccinations given to those who get bit, there is a10 day window  
to watch the domestic animal for rabies symptoms. RCHD wants to prevent needless destroying  
of animals and expensive treatment to humans.

#### **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.

Finishing up on the 4<sup>th</sup> qtr deliverables and will submit them in July. These include End of year  
report on preparedness efforts, pandemic flu plan review, and the updated emergency medical  
countermeasures plan. Updating MOU's for that plan. We are to develop a Public Health  
Recovery Plan – at least a framework.

Working with DES on getting local facilities surveys done in the County on various buildings to  
establish an idea of what type of potential “emergency use” that the building can be in the  
event of an emergency. Julie will look into having the Business Continuity Planning Class  
(MGR-381).

**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. Julie will be taking courses most of that week on-line  
and will be part of a COVID panel later in the week.

Health Officer Report: Jacquelyn Free had nothing to report.

#### **Sanitarian Report:**

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.

County Attorney Report: Janet Christoffersen had nothing to report.

Old Business: Loren asked if all the old resolutions expired and Brittney said yes.

New Business: Brittney reminded everyone that Board of Health will be going back to its regular schedule. It will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 2pm to 3:30 pm.

Public Comment: None

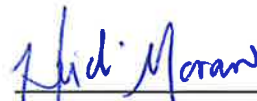
Ray motioned to adjourn at 3:15 pm.

Next meeting: July 13, 2021 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm



---

Duane Mitchell, Commissioner



---

Heidi Moran, Recording Secretary

