

Regular Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 11/24/20

Attendance:

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Brienne Satorius
JD Stewart

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. with a roll call vote. With four members answering the roll call, a quorum was established.

II. On a roll call vote the minutes circulated were approved.

III & IV. Successful press conference over the weekend with good news coverage locally. Billboards will be posted Monday – one by Athens and one by New Salem (Routes 29 and 97). These billboards will show the 3 Ws on these billboards; the 2 billboards were scheduled to be up the week before Thanksgiving. In the newspaper, starting next week there will be ads promoting the 3 Ws. This week is the last of the ad for recognition of the Sunny Acres employees.

18 positive residents and 5 positive staff at Sunny Acres. It has grown significantly since last week and not long ago there were few if any. There are 3 persons hospitalized from Menard County. The census of residents at Sunny Acres is about 90 with 105 employees. The Board asked that the Health Department send an update of the latest on Sunny Acres cases.

All the CARES Act funding made available to Menard County has been allocated.

Further community outreach was discussed, including to the business community. The message need to be re-worked from the communication discussed previously. A shorter letter with a better message will be more impactful. Persons may be shopping in other communities like Springfield because of the lack or absence of masking.

Discussion of the letter from Edie Sternberg, a previous was president of the BoH before Dave. The Board discussed enforcement issues and multiple challenges. There's a feeling that people are taking business elsewhere due to failure to adhere to the mitigation guidelines in the county. Perhaps a proclamation from the county board would be a new concept to pursue. JD and Dave may go to the next meeting to discuss this.

Recent case trends, the challenges with contact tracing and notification of quarantining were discussed. Social media posts following up on the press conference were briefly reviewed.

V. No new business.

VI. Next meeting date proposed for Monday, 12/7.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm with unanimous consent of the members.