Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 18, 2022

Present: George Fickenworth, Pat Stucke, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Barb Lewis, Danielle Brooks, Mary Viglione, Jennie Hagerty, Jenn Woodard, Sherrai Holland, Rita Scrimenti, Laura Luther, and Dave Deter

Not Present: Betsy Wiest, Pat Stucke, Lisa Karle, Mary Louise Imbrugio, Colleen Hammon, Niken Carpenter, Steve Walters, Cris Taylor, Gary Horton, Liz McCormick, Lisa Boyd, Missy Niedzielski, Pat Tracy, Darrell Smith, Niken Carpenter, Dave Deter

The meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

George Fickenworth: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

**Health Provider Updates:**

**Laura Luther - Health Department:**

* Vaccine Rates for Erie County (total population): 9.1% One Dose

 57.6% Fully Vaccinated (Two Dose)

 33.3% Unvaccinated

 28.4% Have Received Booster

* Unvaccinated individuals have a 4.5X higher risk of getting infected with COVID
* They are currently recommending Immunocompromised Individuals to receive a **4th Dose** to be considered Boostered (as they would require three doses to be considered fully vaccinated).
* J&J vaccine is being phased out due to lower efficacy. Need to follow up with MRNA vaccine.
* Keep wearing your masks and practicing mitigation efforts.
* Rapid tests are available through the DOH for vulnerable populations. Click this link to submit a request for rapid tests through PA Dept. of Health

<https://form.jotform.com/220526262894156>

* Pat Stucke asked about the new Covid variant, BA2, which seems to be a different type of variant than the BA1 that was circulating heavily around Christmas. Dr. Nadworny, Infectious Disease Consultant for the DOH, indicates that reach is showing that if you were infected with BA1, that it is highly unlikely that you will be infected with BA2.
* Jenn Woodard asked if there was any change to the guidance in masking in congregant settings. No change in guidance. Due to the prevalence of home rapid tests, they have changed how they calculate community transmission rates. Not only are they looking at case counts, they are also looking at hospitalization rates due to covid (number of admits and number of beds used due to Covid. At this point, we are looking to prevent severe illness and death due to Covid.
* Transmission rates in the county are lower and the hospitalization rates are significantly lower. George reported that Saint Vincent’s had several days where they have not had anyone on a ventilator.

**Sherrai Holland, Community Health Ne**t:

* Vaccines and testing has slowed down significantly.
* Still operating as usual – vaccine clinic running on Friday mornings. Appointments can be made on the CHN website to schedule an appointment. Only offering Moderna Vaccine (1st, 2nd or Booster). No longer offering J&J.
* Testing is available Mon-Friday. Call CHN for more details.
* Still have the rapid tests if needed. Contact Sherrai if you need the test kits.

**Homeless Provider Updates:**

**Dave Deter (City of Erie):** No new updates

**Rita Scrimenti (Emmaus):** Emmaus opened their dining room to half seating. They are still offering meals to go. They are still requiring masking in the facility.

**Barb Lewis:** No new updates

**Jennie Hagerty (MCW):** No new updates

**Danielle Brooks (CCBH):** No new updates

**Pat Stucke (MHA):** They continue to mask in the facility. ONP is currently at MHA for the remainder of the season. So far, there have been no positive cases.

**Jenn Woodard (COC):** No new updates

**Mary Viglione (CCBH)**: No new updates

**Leatrice Schoolcraft (Erie County):** No new updates

**Additional Conversation Notes:**

Jennie Haggerty stated that there are still about 80 Country Fair gift cards available for vaccine incentives. Please contact her if you have any need for gift cards.

**Joke for the day:**

George: What kind of spells do leprechauns use? Lucky Charms.

Date for the next meeting: Friday, April 1, 2022