

## **FOREST COUNTY MEETING NOTICE**

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COMMITTEE: HEALTH  
DATE: September 1, 2021  
TIME: 4:30PM  
PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM

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### **MINUTES**

1. Call to Order: Black called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM
2. Roll Call: Larry Berg, Tina Anderson, Candy Daily, Rebecca Perry, Lynne Black  
Others present: Stephanie Statezny, Holli Denton  
Community member: Barbara Voight
3. Approve meeting agenda Berg made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Anderson.
4. Approve minutes of previous meeting Anderson made a motion to approve previous meeting minutes, second by Berg.
5. Public Comment: none
6. Discussion and Possible Action: Covid Updates:

Denton gave an update on current cases in Forest County. Currently there are 39 active cases in Forest County, (1,072) since Covid began, 3 hospitalizations and there have been 24 confirmed and 4 probable deaths. Vaccination rates are very slowly increasing with 44.8% of residents having at least one dose, 42.5% of residents have completed the series, 54% of adults 18 and over have had at least one dose, and 51.4% have completed the series. In Wisconsin as a whole 51.4% of eligible residents have completed the series, and 62.0 % of those age 18 and over have completed the series. On the State Data Dashboard we are listed as VERY HIGH for case burden 457.4, our Activity level is VERY HIGH. Denton explained the handout she provided describing the case counts and activity level, this is posted on social media weekly to keep the public informed of the situation in Forest County.

Our rates are going up every day. We are seeing reinfections, and we are seeing breakthrough infections-meaning-people that are fully vaccinated are catching

COVID-they are not usually as sick as people who are not vaccinated but they can still transmit it to someone and make them sick. The majority of new infections are in non-vaccinated people. The Health Department is recommending people wear masks in Forest County when they are around people from outside of their households, and especially when meeting in groups where social distancing is not possible.

We are very concerned with people not following isolation and quarantine recommendations, and not answering the phones when we try to call them. For this reason we are recommending masks be worn in public places. We cannot mandate it, but for people to be safe, we are definitely recommending it. We have relayed this recommendation to the schools, they are having masks optional, but they did strongly recommend wearing of masks by students and staff regardless of vaccination status.

Currently CDC and DHS has recommended additional doses for immunocompromised individuals. That is people who are in treatment for cancer, those who have had organ transplants, or are on immunosuppressing medications. Boosters have been talked about but are not approved for healthy people yet. We are not sure if we will be giving boosters as there is a lot of vaccine available in Forest County, and people can find vaccines easily once they are approved. We will be evaluating this once the booster is approved by ACIP and DHS.

Rebecca Perry expressed concern and frustration over the schools not requiring masks to protect the students and teachers. She is worried we will have a very bad outcome. Denton explained that she strongly recommended to the schools that staff and students wear masks and be vaccinated if they have not done so yet, schools have taken this advice and are strongly encouraging students and staff to wear masks. The Health Department is meeting with the schools every other week.

The Health Department is preparing for flu season, after we receive our flu vaccine for the community members we will be planning flu shot clinics at the meal sites for the community in October, and if boosters are approved, we will discuss the option of providing boosters at the flu clinics but this is not for sure yet. We will do mass clinics at the schools after the community members are done.

#### 7. Discussion and Possible Action: Update on current Human Health Hazards-

Currently working with owner of a home that had manufacture of meth charges in 2019. She had tried to list the home for sale and people called the Health Department, We sent her a certified letter, and she called us and told me that she has gotten an estimate to clean up the property and it is very expensive. 15,000.00. We also went over the other requirements that being having the HVAC

inspected, and the plumbing and septic, and the soil in the burn pit in the back yard.

Denton explained that the property owner cannot just sell the property as is without disclosing to people that it had this occur on the property, and that new owner would have to agree to clean it before they could inhabit the home.

Property owner said she is working on saving the money so she can get it cleaned up before she tries to sell it, and will provide the health department with proof so that the placard can be removed.

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Wic Project /merger? Denton updated the Board of Health that GLITC has sent an MOU draft to the State of Wisconsin and is waiting for them to look it over and send it back with recommendations.

9. Discussion and Possible Action: Nurses getting trained to teach BLS classes- how much to charge for classes. This will have to be discussed when nurses are not tied up with disease investigation related to the COVID response, and see if it is feasible.

10. Other issues: None

11. Next meeting date: October 6, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment: Anderson made a motion to adjourn Berg seconded it at 5:20 PM.