

City Health Board Meeting Discussion Record
March 29, 2021

Voting members in attendance: Dr. Mary Milroy, Mayor Nathan Johnson and City Manager Amy Leon.

Ex Officio members in attendance: City Attorney Ross Den Herder, Police Commander Jason Foote, and Community Development Manager Brad Bies.

City Manager Leon called the meeting to order and introduced the board members for the benefit of the viewing public. She then discussed the current metrics. There are currently no COVID-19 related hospitalizations at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital. Active cases have been increasing over the past three weeks with a smaller increase from last week to the current week. Vaccinations rates continue to rise with additional Group 1E members accessing vaccines both from Avera and local pharmacies. As previously noted, the total number of vaccinated individuals is likely actually higher than what the state's website is listing because those pharmacy shots are not included. Ex-officio board member Brad Bies is discussing with Avera Sacred Heart Hospital staff to determine if we can access those county-level totals including private pharmacy vaccinations.

The Committee discussed any new recommendations they may have for the City Commission to consider. There were no new recommendations at this time. Board comments included:

Dr. Mary Milroy is encouraged by the pace of the immunizations and urged everyone to get a vaccine as soon as they are eligible.

Mayor Johnson noted that variants are present in the community, especially the UK variant. The age of those testing positive for COVID-19 is beginning to trend younger, possibly because a large percentage of the older population is already vaccinated. While large statewide gatherings might be contributing to the increases there has fortunately not been an increase in hospitalizations.

City Attorney and ex-officio board member Ross Den Herder referenced a CDC study released today that indicated that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines provide up to 80% effectiveness two weeks after the first dose. While it's very good news that a single dose is providing some protection, getting the second booster is still important because that increases effectiveness to over 90% according to the study.

Ex-officio board members Bies and Foote had no additional comments.

There will be no Health Board Meeting on April 5th, the next regular meeting will be April 12th at 2:00 p.m.

Motion by Milroy and seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Voting aye - Johnson, Milroy and Leon. Motion passes.