

LARIMER COUNTY | HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524, 970.498.6700, Larimer.org/health

Director Tom Gonzales, MPH, REHS
BOARD OF HEALTH

Bernard Birnbaum, MD, President
Brian DelGrosso, Vice President
Jennifer Lee, MS
Janna West Kowalski, MS
Tony J. Van Goor, MD

Mission:

Provide everyone in Larimer County the opportunity for a healthy life.

Vision:

is a thriving, health-aware community where everyone has access to healthy choices and a healthy environment.

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH – October 21, 2021

The Larimer County Board of Health (BoH) convened their regular meeting at 6:02pm through the Zoom virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members Present: Dr. Bernard Birnbaum
Jennifer Lee
Dr. Tony J. Van Goor
Janna West-Kowalski
Brian DelGrosso

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

County Staff: Andrea Clement-Johnson, John Voss, Dr. Jared Olson, Phillip Daniel, Kelsey Lyon, Chris Manley, Kelli Curl, Kori Wilford, Laura Walker, Commissioner John Kefalas, Dr. Paul Mayer, Erika Cathey, Frank Haug

Call to Order - Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, Board President, called the regular Board of Health meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment - Nicky Galbraith, Fort Collins; Jeff Aufderheide, Wellington; Tasha Carr, Livermore; Griffin Cole, Fort Collins; Nancy Eason, Fort Collins; Margo Karsten, Windsor; Brain Baldwin, Fort Collins; Erin Ramler, Wellington; Gina Forcatto, Fort Collins; Angela Davis, Loveland; Brittney Friar, Berthoud; Rebekah Burley, Wellington; Heather Lang, Fort Collins; John Woram, Fort Collins; Casey Lindsey, Wellington; Suzanne Rains, Fort Collins; Jed Link, Fort Collins; Zach Thode, Livermore; Lisa Maclean, Fort Collins; Murray McMurry, Livermore; Elizabeth Timpe, Windsor; Diane Proffitt, Fort Collins; Tina Suriano, Loveland; Nicole Scott, Fort Collins; Colin Malone, Fort Collins; Deirdre Sullivan, Fort Collins; Jacqueline Nikolai, Fort Collins, all made public comment.

Approval of September 16th, 2021 Minutes

Action - Brian DelGrosso motioned to approve. Dr. Tony J. Van Goor seconded the motion.
Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 Status Update - Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, presented on the three desired community outcomes.



Kevin Unger, President and Chief Executive Officer of UCHHealth Northern Colorado, and Margo Karsten, Banner Health Western Region President, presented an update on the local hospital system's overall health and ICU utilization status.

Mr. Gonzales spoke about his visits to local hospitals, our current COVID-19 conditions, and the COVID-19 Delta variant infectivity and surge. Mr. Gonzales also spoke about the reasons for the mask order, which includes the COVID-19 dashboard metrics (7-day case rate, 7-day test positivity percentage, COVID-19 patients currently hospitalized, and the percent of ICU utilization), and the infectiousness of the Delta variant. Mr. Gonzales spoke about the messaging regarding the Delta variant that has taken place since June 14 and stressed the importance of vaccinations in our community to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Mr. Gonzales reviewed the ninth public health order. This order includes a provision that all individuals over the age of three wear a mask in any public indoor space. The order will remain in place until Larimer County has met four metrics (<65 COVID-19 patients in Larimer County hospitals, ICU utilization <90%, 7-day case rate per 100k of <300, and a 7-day test positivity rate of <10%) for twenty one consecutive days.

Dr. Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist, presented an update on current and historic hospital admissions data, case rates from May 2020 to present, case and vaccination rates from our top seven zip codes, and a comparison of hospitalization rates versus vaccination rates in several front range counties.

Dr. Olson also presented on universal masking efficacy and the ability of masks to reduce airborne transmission.

Dr. Paul Mayer, Medical Officer, presented on vaccination efficacy in group settings, vaccination opportunities and the need for people to obtain COVID-19 boosters.

Resolution Supporting the October 15, 2021 Public Health Order 10212021A -

The Board discussed the data from the COVID-19 status update and enforcement of the order. Tom Gonzales spoke about the optional voluntary vaccine verification program and the indefinite pause on this program referenced in the public health order. Dr. Birnbaum read Resolution 10212021A. Brian DelGrosso stated that he would not be supporting this resolution. Dr. Birnbaum asked for a motion on Resolution 10212021A.

Action - Janna West-Kowalski motioned to approve. Jennifer Lee seconded the motion.
Motion was passed 4-1

Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(b), conferences with an attorney for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions -

Action - Brian Delgrosso made a motion to enter into an executive session. Dr. Bernard Birnbaum seconded the motion.
Motion was unanimously approved

The Board ended the executive session and asked Frank Haug, Assistant County Attorney, to summarize the session. Resurrection Christian School (RCS) filed an appeal to the order issued to them. The Board's by-laws do not specify a timeline for the hearing regarding the appeal, so the legal team has been in contact with RCS attorneys to schedule a hearing date and time in which the department will need to respond to the appeal. A short hearing will be scheduled at which time the Board will be able to deliberate and request any additional information. The Board will receive a packet to review that will contain all the various documents that have been submitted to each party. Frank also spoke about the Board's by-laws and the need to revise the Board's scope of review for an appeal. Frank suggested that the Board review whether they believe that the decision of the Public Health Director was arbitrary or if they believe that the decision was out of line with the policies and directives of the Board. Frank suggested that the by-laws be modified to reflect those suggested changes to the scope of review.

Director's Update - Tom Gonzales referred the Board to their packet which includes the Director's Update and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Board Member Updates - There were no Board member updates.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.