

SHAC- COVID Lamar County Zoom Meeting

School Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The purpose of the SHAC is to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction.

DATE: July 29, 2021

TIME: 9:00 AM

Nature of Business: Zoom Meeting between Lamar Co ISD's & LCHD

Present: Gina Prestridge, Amanda Green, Bert Strom, Paul Jones, Gary Preston, Althea Dixon, Clint Miller, Russell Thrasher, Nicole Watson, Kelli Stewart, Jason Hostetler, Chandra Watson, Justine Wideman, Leslie Watson, Mindy Maxwell, REMAINDER OF ATTENDEES AVAILABLE VIA LCHD

The meeting was called to order; no minutes were reviewed.

Administrative Update & Old Business:

- N/A

New Business:

- Gina Partridge and Amanda Green discussed the current COVID-19 transmission numbers and hospitalizations in Lamar County. They reported the state of Texas has identified Lamar County as a hotspot for COVID-19 infections. They acknowledged that although masks can not be mandated per current governor's order, that masks should be highly encouraged.
- They stated that the hospital has a decreased ability to handle COVID cases because the state has withdrawn staffing support. Last year, supplemental staff nurses had been provided by the state and that increased the number of beds the hospital could staff.
- They shared that contract tracing will be moved back to the local level and will be the responsibility of the LCHD. Additional staff will be hired but are not in place at this time. Districts will be asked to assist by identifying and quarantining staff and students identified as close contacts. They also asked that district's inform them of positive cases and they will be informing district's of positive cases also.
- They shared that they are seeing people infected with the DELTA variant presenting with symptoms earlier in their infection period. And specifically they said that individuals that have symptoms that are from COVID are testing positive when symptomatic. Therefore, they stated that they recommend districts may require symptomatic students to be tested- and if negative for COVID - may return to school the next day.
- Dr. Strom and Dr. Green added that students with "allergy symptoms" can not be assumed to have allergies even with a history of allergies and should be sent home and required to have a negative COVID test to return.
- It was stressed by Gina Partridge that individuals can NOT test out of quarantine and if they had been identified as a close contact, must remain in quarantine for 10 days.
- Dr. Green and Gina clarified at this time, asymptomatic vaccinated or masked individuals will not be required to quarantine following a high-risk exposure.
- Dr. Green and Gina Prestridge stated that they would write up the current health department guidelines and distribute them to the school districts ASAP.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded on 8.3.2021 by Mindy Maxwell