

Manchester Board of Health

Vaccine Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present for this meeting were the following:

Dr. Martin Hahn, B.O.H.

Ms. Joan Cottler, B.O.H.

Public Health Nurse Mary Higgins

Retired Public Health Nurse Pam Ciccone

Manchester resident Mary Cody Kenney

Town Administrator Greg Federspiel

The group reviewed the State vaccination priority list in order by phase, noting that following first shots there would have to be a plan for second shots, within a three to four week window.

Ms. Cottler stated that it was overwhelming to do all of the clinic planning ourselves.

Nurse Higgins said that the vaccine ordering was tricky and that State PrepMod training was also necessary.

Dr. Hahn spoke of the difficulty of delivery, suggesting that consideration be given to possibly cooperating with another town.

He mentioned the need for an ambulance crew to be standing by, including two overtime firefighters and the ambulance itself. He also noted that clinic staff would need to be recruited and trained. He suggested that the Town try providing transportation to an established site.

Ms. Cody-Kenney and Nurse Ciccone said that the training required is simple and available online.

Nurse Ciccone said that she had completed that training herself, in order to provide assistance to the regional vaccination clinic that Manchester first responders attended in Gloucester. She added that the Gloucester clinic was overstaffed, that Manchester has six to eight volunteer nurses already at no cost and that supplies are available thru the local health coalition. As regards the PrepMod vaccine registration system, she said she used it at the Gloucester clinic and thought it was fantastic, easy to use, not labor intensive and provided direct filing with both MIIS and insurance reimbursements. She said that the regional clinics do not care about the out of area residents. Further, Nurse Ciccone said that she hoped the focus would be on providing vaccination to those over 75 years of age.

The group discussed possible locations for a covid clinic, including the American Legion which is used for the yearly flu clinics. The regional school was discounted as school is in session. There was question if elders could be vaccinated thru Allen's Pharmacy in order to expedite the process. Ms. Lufkin asked that the group consider the history of the Board of Health service to providing vaccinations to the Town elderly. Nurse Higgins asked if that included all elderly, those present agree to focus on the first eligible group. Nurse Higgins listed the following as reasons to not hold B.O.H. vaccination clinics for those over 75: requires full team effort, difficult planning and site logistics, supervision, and that she is working with the schools and working on contact tracing and cannot do more work. Nurse Ciccone offered to do the vaccinating if the B.O.H. would agree to order the vaccine.

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Board of Health on March 22, 2021

