

Wednesday, February 3, 2020

Douglas County Board appoints Chana Ray to EMA Director position

By Kendra Hennis

The monthly meeting of the Douglas County Board was called to order at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20 with all members present.

During the consent agenda, the board approved the official appointment of Chana Ray to Douglas County EMA Director for a period until December 21, 2024. Douglas County Board Chairman Don Munson said that following their search they determined Ray was the best to serve the position. Following, in committee reports, the board introduced the new Douglas County Case Manager, Josh Stahler. Stahler said that he is now the primary contact for Douglas County and that he was excited for the challenge and looked forward to building the community. He reported that he is currently working with school superintendents for programs in the schools and will soon have a schedule in place for people in the community to come into the office for resources.

Douglas County Health Department Administrator Amanda Minor then gave her report to the board. She said that currently 350 COVID-19 vaccines have been admin-



istered in Douglas County, with Phase 1A of vaccination having gone well. She said that they were now moving to Phase 1B of administration and asked for the public's patience as the health department and Douglas County are currently only receiving a limited supply. She noted that Phase 1B was a very large group and that they currently had 450 vaccines and were set to receive 300 more. Minor also noted that there were vaccine clinics being planned for residents 65+.

Minor said that the health department was currently using an online registration for the vaccine clinic that is available on the health department's website and Facebook page. She reported that people had to be registered online and receive an appointment so the site was not overwhelmed. Minor again asked for patience saying that everyone who wants will eventually be able to receive the vaccine. She said that the State of Illinois is also currently working with pharmacies and private practices to hopefully assist with distribution. Minor then said that the health department has received calls from people

who received bills from their insurance for their vaccine. She said they are working to fix the issue and to call the health department if you need assistance. Minor noted that the health department is still completing testing at the site in the Outlets of Tuscola from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursdays and 8:30 to 12 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The board also:

- * Approved the December 1 special board meeting and December 16 regular board meeting minutes.
- * Approved the payments of the county's financial obligations.
- * Approved the reports of fees of county offices.
- * Approved the re-appointment of Judi Pollock to be the Douglas County Insurance Administrative Liaison until January 2022.
- * Approved a recommendation from the personnel, legal, and management subcommittee for a \$2,000 stipend for the Douglas County Treasurer's Office for payment and reconciliation to be divided at the treasurer's discretion for payroll and deducted benefits.
- * Approved Resolution

21-R-1 setting the per diem rate rate of \$.56 cents for Douglas County Employee Mileage Reimbursement for year 2021.

- * Approved Resolution 21-R-2, an extension of a declaration of emergency due to COVID-19 in Douglas County.
- * Approved Resolution 21-R-3 adopting an emergency operations plan for fiscal year 2021 for Douglas County. Douglas County EMA Director Chana Ray explained that this is a plan for all the offices in the county in case there is a disaster or emergency.
- * Approved Resolution 21-R-4 approving improvement under the Illinois Highway Code Section 13-00104-00-BR using \$282,000 from Motor Fuel Tax funds.
- * Approved Resolution 21-R-5 appropriating \$349,000 in Motor Fuel Tax funds Section 21-00000-00-GM.
- * Approved the appointment of Kevin D. Nolan to public defender.
- * Adjourned until the February 19, 2021 board meeting at 9 a.m.

IDPH announced region 6 moves to Phase 4 resurgence mitigations

IDPH urges people to continue wearing masks, avoiding large gatherings, get vaccinated when eligible

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced Region 6 (Champaign, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, De Witt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Lawrence, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Richland, Shelby, Vermillion) is returning to Phase 4 of the Restore Plan and Region 7 (Kankakee and Will) is advancing to Tier 1. Information about which tier and phase regions are in can be found at the top of the IDPH website homepage.

"I am excited that 10 out of our 11 regions have moved out of Tier 3 mitigations," said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "However, this does not mean we can let our guard down. We must continue to practice actions to protect ourselves from the virus - wear our masks, avoid large gatherings, and get the vaccine when it is our turn. This is particularly critical as new variants circulate, which early studies show spread much more rapidly. We are headed in the right direction once again, so let's stay the course."

IDPH will continue to closely monitor test positivity, ICU bed availability, and

the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19. Should data show regions trending in the wrong direction, based on the established mitigation metrics, regions could once again find themselves in a higher tier with increased measures.

Metrics for moving from a higher to lower tier are as follows:

Moving from Tier 3 to Tier 2

- * Test positivity rate below or equal to 8 percent and below 12 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average) AND
- * Staffed ICU bed availability less than or equal to 20 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average) AND
- * Sustained decline in COVID patients in hospital (7-day average for 7 of 10 days) - more -

Moving from Tier 2 to Tier 1

- * Test positivity rate between 6.5 and 8 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average) AND
- * Staffed ICU bed availability less than or equal to 20 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average) AND
- * No sustained increase in COVID patients in hospital (7-day average for 7 of 10

days)

Moving from Tier 1 to Phase 4

- * Test positivity rate less than or equal to 6.5 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average) AND
- * Staffed ICU bed availability less than or equal to 20 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average) AND
- * No sustained increase in COVID patients in hospital (7-day average for 7 of 10 days)

Information about mitigation and resurgence metrics can be found on the IDPH website at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics>.

Guidelines for each industry as part of Phase IV of the Restore Illinois Plan are as follows:

All Industries

- * All employees who can work from home should continue to do so.
- * Continue to wear face covering that covers nose and mouth, maintain social distance of 6 ft., and frequently wash hands.
- * Continue employee health screenings upon entry into the workplace and mid-shift screenings for employees with shifts greater than five hours (virtual screening

permitted).

- * Follow guidelines on capacity limits and group sizes (to be continually reassessed through Phase 4).

Restaurants and Bars

- * Indoor dining and drinking now permitted for parties up to ten people.
- * Seated areas should be arranged so that tables allow for 6 ft between parties; impermeable barriers may be installed between booths which are less than 6 ft apart.
- * Standing areas (in restaurants or bars) should be limited to no more than 25 percent of standing area capacity.
- * Buffets and self-service food stations (e.g. hot and cold bars, bulk items, baked goods) should adhere to additional minimum guidelines.)
- * Self-service beverage fountains are permissible with the additional precautions.

Youth and Recreational Sports

- * Competitive gameplay and tournaments permitted for moderate and lower risk sports, intra-team scrimmages for higher risk sports.
- * Limit of 50 spectators for events.
- * Sporting venues may host multiple groups of par-

ticipants engaged in active exercise or gameplay provided the venue has space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between groups.

- * Concessions permitted with restrictions.

Meetings and Social Events

- * Limit to lesser than 50 people or 50 percent of room capacity.
- * Multiple groups may meet in the same facility if they are socially distanced and in separate rooms.
- * Groups should be static for duration of meeting sessions, participants should remain in one room, and speakers/presenters should rotate between rooms or be digitally displayed (e.g. projected, live streamed) in multiple rooms.
- * Dance floors should remain closed.
- * Food service should follow Restaurant and Bar guidelines.

Manufacturing

- * Employees must receive COVID training before returning to work.
- * All employees should have a wellness screening program. Employers should conduct in-person COVID-19 screening of employees upon entry and a mid-shift screening if employee shift is

greater than five hours.

- * Stagger and space shifts, and designate shift entrances and exits (when possible) to minimize interactions of employees across unique shift groupings.
- * Workstations should be disinfected between every shift and in between employee handoffs.
- * In-person meetings of up to 50 people with social distancing permitted.

Indoor/Outdoor Recreation

- * Reopening select indoor recreation facilities (e.g. bowling alleys, skating rinks); indoor playgrounds and trampoline parks should remain closed.
- * Indoor recreation to operate at lesser of 50 customers or 50 percent of facility capacity.
- * Outdoor recreation allowing group sizes of up to 50, and permitting multiple groups given facilities have space appropriately social distance can limit interaction between groups.
- * Activity stations should be spaced at least 6 ft apart or limited in number to ensure social distancing.
- * Shared equipment

See IDPH page 5

Moultrie County begins scheduling Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccinations

The Moultrie County Health Department (MCHD) is pleased to announce confirmation of additional COVID-19 vaccines. The health department will begin scheduling phase 1B vaccine appointments for Moultrie County residents aged 65 years and older, as well as Moultrie County critical infrastructure personnel on Monday, January 25, 2021.

"We greatly appreciate the patience of our residents as we work to remain compliant with the IDPH guidance and make this vaccine available for those who qual-

ify in our county," Moultrie County Health Department Administrator Angela Hogan, RN, MSPH stated, "We are hopeful that our COVID-19 vaccines remain in steady supply. The MCHD will continue to open and schedule clinics as long as vaccines are available."

All vaccines will be provided by appointment. Individuals aged 65 and older and others identified in the Phase 1B category may schedule an appointment by calling the MCHD at (217) 728-4114.

Proof of residency and

age (driver's license) or Phase 1B employment status in Moultrie County will be required at the time of vaccination. Individuals will be required to wear a mask and comply with social distancing while attending vaccine clinics.

The current State of Illinois Mass Vaccination Plan, <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>, provides guidance for each phase of the vaccination process, and identifies the categories of workers and residents to be vaccinated by local health departments. Ul-

timately, the ability of each county to move through the vaccine phases is dependent on local resources and vaccine supplies.

Moultrie County COVID-19 vaccine clinic updates will be provided in local newspapers, on the MCHD website at www.moultriehealth.org and Facebook page.

Hogan continues, "On behalf of the MCHD staff, I want our residents to know that we feel your frustration. It has been hard to wait for these vaccines when larger, neighboring counties are al-

ready initiating clinics. Our health department is doing our best to get this vaccine into our county for our residents. The Illinois Department of Public Health has advised that phase 1B may last for months. We ask that you continue to be patient, protect yourself and your loved ones by following the recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19."

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, everyone should:

- * Wear a mask,
- * Respect physical distancing,

- * Wash hands frequently,
- * Avoid large crowds,
- * Stay home if ill,
- * Get tested if experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms,
- * Get a flu vaccine to reduce risk of influenza.

For more information on the Moultrie County Health Department's news, events and services, please visit www.moultriehealth.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/moultriecountyhealth.

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