

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF SEPT. 1, 2015**

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members David Madore and Jeanne E. Stewart present. Board member Tom Mielke absent.

9:30 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Madore read consent agenda item #1.

ACTION: Moved by Stewart to **APPROVE** minutes for July 22, 2015. Madore seconded the motion. Board members Madore and Stewart voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION

Dr. Alan Melnick, MD,MPH, CPH, Public Health Director, Health Officer provided some background.

SPECIAL EVENT FOOD SAFETY

Dalila Zelkanovic and Sara Schroeder, Environmental Health Specialists presented. Clark County Public Health staff described how common foodborne illness, such as Salmonella and Staph can be transmitted through food handling activities. They stated their food safety team works to reduce foodborne illnesses through routine health inspections. So far, they have inspected 245 temporary permits this year.

A video was presented: <https://youtu.be/2FYp1sj-f40>

Stewart inquired about food carts. Christine Webster responded. Madore inquired about the inspections. Public Health responded. Further discussion ensued.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VANCOUVER LAKE/SWIM BEACH PROGRAM

Sara Schroeder, Environmental Health Specialist presented. She stated the two major contaminants of concern at Vancouver Lake are E coli and cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae. They monitor water every two weeks for E coli, they pull water samples that are analyzed by a local lab. They visually monitor for cyanobacteria blooms. If a bloom is present, they pull samples and send them overnight for quick analysis. Alyssa Payne, Lead Swim Beach Intern presented on water sampling. The public can check local swim beach conditions on the Public Health website. They work with Clark County Parks to have signs posted around Vancouver Lake when there are potentially hazardous conditions and also distribute press releases and post on social media when they need to advise the public about unsafe conditions. Further discussion ensued.

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF SEPT. 1, 2015**

RECENT HEAT EVENT

Melnick presented. He spoke about important community partners including Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) which assists with arranging cooling centers. They issued a press release to the news media, which helped them disseminate health messages. He reported there were no heat-related deaths.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Melnick presented. As the new school year approaches, Public Health has been working with their immunization partners to help ensure children are up to date on their vaccines. Melnick spoke further about vaccinations. Washington law requires parents or guardians who request an exemption to immunization requirements for their child to get information about the benefits and risks of vaccination from a licensed health care provider. The provider must sign the Certificate of exemption that parents give to the school or child care. Children are in “conditional” status if they do not have one or more required vaccines on their first day of attendance or, in some cases, after they’ve begun school or child care. These children can attend school or child care for a limited time until they finish their paperwork. From the time they get notified that their child has conditional status, parents or guardians have 30 days to get the child vaccinated, show a record of past vaccination, or exempt their child for the missing vaccine. All vaccines required for school are free for those up to age 19. Families without a regular health care provider can receive free back-to-school vaccinations at the Free Clinic of SW Washington (360) 313-1390 and SeaMar (360) 852-9070. Most students in Washington have vaccinations needed to enter school. However, 5.2 percent of Washington’s K-12 students in the 2014-2015 school year were exempted for religious or personal reasons. Clark County’s K-12 vaccine exemption rate is even higher at 7 percent, and ranges from 0 to 43 percent in local schools.

The Department of Health website has a list of vaccination requirements in Washington State. www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/VaccineRequirements

PERTUSSIS UPDATE

Melnick presented. Clark County is currently experiencing an outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough). However, the number of cases currently reported each week has decreased from earlier this year. There have been a total of 302 cases (confirmed, probable, and suspect) reported in Clark County through August 27, 2015, compared to 29 cases during the same time last year. 84.5% of pertussis cases with symptom onsets in 2015 are less than 19 years of age. 3 cases have been hospitalized, of which 1 is an infant. There have been no deaths reported. 27% of cases report not being up-to-date on their whooping cough vaccines or don’t know if they are up-to-date. They are concerned that cases could start to rise again with schools starting which is why they continue to urge that parents get their children vaccinated.

Hearing adjourned

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF SEPT. 1, 2015

BOARD OF HEALTH



David Madore, Board Member



Jeanne E. Stewart, Board Member

Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

jc

Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. Digital recordings can be provided upon request. In addition, the Commissioners' hearings are broadcast live on CVTV, cable channels 21 and 23, and are also videotaped and repeated several times (www.cvtv.org)