

**KNOX COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 28, 2021 5:30 PM**  
**Knox County Health Department**

**Present:**

Martha Buchanan, MD, Secretary  
Mayor Glenn Jacobs  
Jack E. Gotcher, Jr., DDS, Chair  
Ms. Ani Roma, Citizen Representative  
James Shamiyeh, MD, UTMCK  
Marcy Souza, DVM  
Lisa Wagoner, RN, representing Superintendent Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools

**Absent:**

Dianna Drake, PharmD  
Maria Hurt, DNP

**Others Attending:**

Mr. David Sanders, Knox County Law Office Director  
**KCHD:** Chrissy Gilmore, Executive Assistant; Melinda Goodman, Executive Assistant (recorder)

**I. CALL TO ORDER – ADD ON SESSION**

Dr. Jack Gotcher called the special add-on meeting to order at 5:30 PM

**II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Dr. Jack Gotcher requested Ms. Goodman take roll call to confirm establishment of the quorum. All but four Board members were in attendance. Quorum was met.

**III. SET THE AGENDA**

Motion made by Dr. James Shamiyeh and seconded by Dr. Marcy Souza to set the agenda.

**IV. KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION BY DR. BUCHANAN**

Dr. Buchanan shared the updated CDC guidance as of July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regarding masking. CDC recommends that all people regardless of vaccine status wear masks indoors. KCHD is observing this guideline. We recommend that local businesses review the latest guidelines to inform their decision processes.

**Vaccine Update:**

We currently have 217,737 fully vaccinated residents at 45.78%. Although this is higher than some other surrounding areas, we are seeing a plateau.

- 65+ years old at 78.98% fully vaccinated
- 12+ years old at 53.36% fully vaccinated

We really want to encourage everyone who is able to receive vaccine, who may have questions or concerns, to talk with their physician. We continue to urge vaccination to those eligible to receive it as a protective measure against the circulating variants.

**Current COVID-19 Data:**

**Cases**

- Both 7- and 14-day trend lines were down in June and have moved up in July.

**Trends**

- 23 to 64 year old range: Seeing the largest increase in new cases, with the biggest spike showing two weeks after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. They have since come back down, however, remain higher than June's numbers.

- 65+ range: Case counts have remained relatively low thanks to vaccination.

Death Data (June 1, 2021-July 28, 2021)

- Based on date of death, thankfully there are not many in this timeframe.
- We know that death data is a lagging indicator though and as hospitalizations increase, so can the number of deaths

**V. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MEDICAL CENTER AT KNOXVILLE DATA UPDATE BY DR. SHAMIYEH**

Dr. Shamiyeh presented data from the University of Tennessee Medical Center, regional data on COVID vaccinations and hospitalizations and many frequently asked questions regarding vaccination, (see attached PowerPoint).

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Function of Advisory Board of Health
  - This board serves in an advisory capacity only. It does not have the authority to issue mandates or regulations.
- KCHD Community Outreach Team
  - KCHD has fully convened their Community Outreach Team to work with community groups and provide access to vaccine. We are happy to partner with employers, constituents or congregations to host vaccination events as a convenience to their patrons. Vaccination is our primary focus.
- Confirmation of No New Regulations
  - Dr. Buchanan was asked for clarity to verify that she does not plan to reinstate any previous or new regulations. Dr. Buchanan indicated there were no plans for those actions at this time.
- Communication between KCHD and KCS
  - Question regarding communication between both entities with the new school year approaching.
  - KCHD and KCS communicate often on a variety of things. Similar to the Board of Health, Dr. Buchanan's role with the schools is simply advisory. The Board of Education sets their own policy for schools.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM. The next ABOH meeting will be on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Main Assembly Room at the City County Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha Buchanan, MD, Senior Director and Public Health Officer  
Knox County Health Department  
Secretary, Knox County Advisory Board of Health

**List of Presentations:**

- Knox County Health Department Presentation by Dr. Martha Buchanan
- University of Tennessee Medical Center Knoxville - Data Update Presentation by Dr. James Shamiyeh