



**Jefferson County Board of Health
Special Meeting Minutes: August 28, 2021 9:00am
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Karen Bailey-Chapman (Chair), Anh Nguyen (Vice-Chair), David Lutman, Elliot Simon

Board Members Absent: Ann Smith (Vice-Chair)

Also Present: Nathan Cochran (Assistant County Prosecuting Attorney), Steve Groh (Assistant County Attorney), Dr. Terrence Reidy (Health Officer), Gillian Beach (Acting Administrator)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Karen Bailey-Chapman. The agenda for today's meeting was presented and accepted.

Public Comment:

- Dr. Catherine Feaga- mother of two school aged children in JCS and family practice physician who spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Laura- mother of two high school students in JCS that spoke against requiring masks
- Mia Humphreys- parent of two children in JCS that spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Dr. Susan Womeldorf- spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Tracy Danzey- mother of JCS student who spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Dr. David Didden- past health officer for JCHD and Jefferson County resident who asked the BOH members not to undermine their health officer and encouraged them to read Chapter 16 to understand the breadth and responsibilities of the BOH
- Barbara Fuller- mother of a JCS student who spoke against requiring masks
- Monica Taylor- mother of two JCS students who spoke against requiring masks
- Karen Buck- Jefferson County resident who spoke against requiring masks
- Aaron Krouse- parent of JCS students who spoke against requiring masks
- Jennifer Krouse- parent of JCS students who spoke against requiring masks
- Nathaniel (Than) Hitt- JC resident who spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Chris Broderick- Biomedical Engineer who is a JC resident and spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Ryan Rudy- school bus driver who spoke against requiring masks
- R. David Morreale- school teacher and parent of JCS student who spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Scott Sudduth- parent of JCS student who spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Dr. Rosie Lorenzetti- family doctor in Jefferson County and past JCHD Health Officer who spoke in support of Dr. Reidy's recommendations that everyone wear masks
- Terry Cortwright- JC resident who spoke against requiring masks
- Chelsea Jardina- JCS parent who spoke against requiring masks
- Julie Smith- JC resident who spoke in favor of requiring masks

- Jay Mansfield-Stown- JC resident who spoke in favor of requiring masks
- Dr. Chris Spiess- physician and Jefferson County resident who spoke against requiring masks
- Nate Dublin- spoke against requiring masks in schools
- Jessica Burdick- JCS parent who spoke against all day mask wearing, but suggested “If you’re cruising, you’re masking” and not requiring students to wear their masks while seated in class

New Business:

Matters Related to Jefferson County Board of Education Mask mandate-

- Karen Bailey-Chapman said this meeting was called in order for community members to provide their input and to provide clarity in regards to the recommendations put forward by Dr. Reidy and the role of the Board of Health. She said the Board of Health does not have the authority to mandate masks.
- Mr. Lutman asked Dr. Reidy about the statement he made to the Board of Health. He said it is his understanding that Dr. Reidy recommended everyone wear masks, but did not recommend the JCBOE mandated masks for everyone. Dr. Reidy said he does recommend that all students, staffs, and visitors in JCS wear masks. Dr. Reidy said he did not recommend a mandate, but he recommends what the best health measure is and that is for everyone in the school system to wear masks. He said how the school system does that is up to them and he does not have the authority to enforce such a medical preventative measure in this situation.
- Mr. Simon asked Dr. Reidy if he was speaking on behalf the Board of Health or whether he was giving his personal opinion. Dr. Reidy said that as the health officer for JC hired by the BOH it is his responsibility to give advice in lots of situations. He said all advice he gives is in his position as the health officer for the JCHD.
- Mr. Simon said he has not seen a peer reviewed study that proves that masks can stop the spread of the pandemic. He said the Hippocratic oath says that first you shall do no harm and asked if Dr. Reidy had looked at the harm that masks can do to children. Dr. Reidy said the risks of masks are primarily that they are uncomfortable and inconvenient, but the actual danger from them is extraordinarily low. Dr. Reidy did say that on the other hand it is true that the risks of children or young adults dying from COVID is extraordinarily low. He said unfortunately they can catch it and can transmit it and the whole population, not just one age group, is who is important.
- Mr. Simon said he saw a study that says wearing masks can decrease oxygen levels in the blood and that it can drop the blood-oxygen level to 95%. Dr. Reidy said he has not seen any studies linking cloth masks to low oxygen levels and has never known anyone throughout his career as a physician that had low oxygen levels from wearing a mask. He also said that Medicare will not cover oxygen tanks for patients whose blood oxygen level is above 88%.
- Mr. Lutman asked if handwashing and sanitization is just as important as mask wearing if not more important. Dr. Reidy said he can not rank them by importance. Mr. Lutman asked if he made that recommendation to the schools as an alternative to wearing masks. Dr. Reidy said he did not make the recommendation as an alternative, but that he thinks the schools should provide hand sanitizer as part of their preventative measures. Mr. Lutman again asked if Dr. Reidy recommended to JCBOE that they mandate masks. Dr. Reidy said that he is not telling them what to do, but he recommends masks, he recommends hand sanitizer, he recommends good ventilation, he recommends outdoors when possible. He said that he does not have a transcript of the JCBOE meeting, but he doubts that he recommended a mask mandate.
- Mr. Simon said that he thinks there is an element of harm in children wearing masks all day.
- Ms. Nguyen said she attended the JCBOE meeting on August 20th and she would like to clarify that Dr. Reidy is the health officer for the JCHD, but is not the JCBOH.
- Mr. Simon proposed the following resolution:

“The Jefferson County Board of Health understands the following:

That on Friday, August 20, 2021, the Jefferson County Board of Education held a meeting. At that meeting the Jefferson County Board of Education instituted a mask mandate requiring all children attending a Jefferson County school to wear a mask at least until September 27, 2021 and that they based their decision on their perception that the Jefferson County Board of Health recommends a mask mandate. It is the further understanding of this board, the Jefferson County Board of Health, that its medical advisor, Dr. Terrence Reidy, was asked his opinion regarding a mask mandate and responded that he recommends mask use, but did not recommend a mask mandate. This resolution serves to clarify the position of the Jefferson County Board of Health with regard to this issue.

Whereas, in matters of health and medicine the Hippocratic Oath mandates to first do no harm;

Whereas, there are concerns as to whether or not masks can cause harm to children both physically and psychologically;

Whereas, the primary responsibility for a child’s health is the parent or legal guardian of that child;

Whereas, it is the parent’s responsibility to weigh the risks versus the benefits of mask use for their child and to take into account the personal health and needs of their child;

Whereas, Dr. Terrence Reidy is the medical advisor to the Jefferson County Board of Health, and is the Chief Medical Officer of the County of Jefferson, his recommendation regarding mask use represents his own opinion and not necessarily the opinion of the Jefferson County Board of Health, which opinion can only be expressed by actions of the Board as a whole;

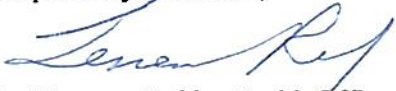
Be it resolved that that Jefferson County Board of Education acted unilaterally and completely on its own in its decision to implement a mask mandate in Jefferson County Schools and that the Jefferson County Board of Health does NOT recommend a mask mandate for children attending Jefferson County Schools. The Jefferson County Board of Health recommends that the decision as to whether or not a child is to wear a mask in school rests solely with the parent of said child.”

- Mr. Lutman made a motion to adopt the resolution. Ms. Nguyen seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously 4-0. There was no discussion.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Terrence Reidy, Health Officer

9/10/2021