
-----Original Message-----

From: Lorraine Meyer <ronlor.meyer@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 12:19 PM

To: Brown, Devyn <DBrown@publichealthmdc.com>

Subject: Question regarding plans for mass Covid vaccine clinics for eligible Dane County residents

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Dear Devyn,

I am a retired Madison and Dane County Public Health Nurse. I retired in 2017. I am writing to you today as you are listed as a contact for the Board of Health. While working at the Public Health Department, I took part in large scale public health emergency responses to the tornadoes in Stoughton and the mass immunization clinics for H1N1 flu. There were policies, protocols, incident command systems that were highly developed and all staff were required to train and participate in emergency responses. There was a full time position for an emergency preparedness coordinator. I am wondering why we have not heard anything about planning mass clinics to assist and work together with private providers to get vaccines in arms of people who are eligible to receive the vaccine. Our health care systems are already overwhelmed and do not have the space, staffing and schedule capabilities to do mass immunizations for their eligible patients. Other public health departments in Wisconsin and other states are organizing and carrying out mass clinics. It is imperative for residents of Dane County to be able to receive vaccinations and our public health department should be responding as this is a public health emergency. The variants of the virus are making it even easier to transmit and with the loosening of preventive measures, getting vaccines into peoples arms should be the number one priority for public health departments.

I have followed every preventive measure that has been recommended by our public health department. Our county residents have for the most part exercised vigilance and cooperated with mask wearing, social distancing, limited contacts with people. We deserve timely access to vaccines as groups become eligible. It is not realistic to expect the private sector to provide vaccines for the large number of residents in Dane county in a timely manner. The health systems have been overwhelmed for months on end and have not even been able to keep up with routine and urgent medical care with the increased demands of caring for patients with Covid. Public Health needs to play a bigger role in vaccinating the population in Dane County. If there are plans in the works, please get this information out to the public.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I hope that this email can be shared with Board of Health Members. If there are other ways for citizens to contact Board of Health members , please advise.

Lorraine Meyer, RN BSN
1906 Sheridan Drive
Madison WI 53704
608 242-0151

From: [Mike Ferree](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: C19 Reevaluation
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 3:15:36 PM

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Please accept this as comment on the current Dane County C19 health order and any decisions to be made moving forward, especially related to youth sports in the county.

It is long beyond time to re-evaluate the current and ongoing C19 response orders in this county. I make no judgement or comment here as to prior orders, their effectiveness, necessity, or otherwise but we now are in a place where I believe as a citizen and taxpayer of this county we are DIRE need of re-evaluation in how things are progressing. I make no ascertains to fully understand the science or the weight of the decisions that are made regarding this subject in any area other than what I personally witness, experience, and wholeheartedly believe in my core. The current order is too strict, especially as it relates to gatherings, education, and (most specifically) after-school and sporting events in this county- youth, adolescent, and interscholastic, and has gone FAR beyond what I (and many others) believe is warranted by common sense and yes: scientific evidence. As a parent and coach I feel it is absolutely necessary and immensely beneficial for all to have outside, extracurricular activities for our children's health; both physically and mentally. It is also imperative to proper social growth, interaction, and plain old FUN... things that have been severely lacking in these last many months.

Where much of the disconnection from reason and difficulty for me to understand lies is in why Dane County youth (as well as other groups) are banned from activities within county lines while youth from other counties (some VERY close geographically, who often are interacting with OUR youth on a regular basis) are and have been participating in those same "banned" activities for months now...safely. There have been no significant spikes in these areas from these activities nor has there been any significant pressure from their parents, coaches, or health officials to stop them. In many cases, Dane county parents have been transporting our same "protected" Dane county kids to events outside the county to practice and compete, obviously defeating much of the intent and purpose of the present order. It is these PARENTS, who may I respectfully remind you; who are in charge of that decision for their children and their own safety, not you - the county health board, other governmental officials, or anyone else. The order defies them this right. How dare you pretend to have that power? I hope the weight of your position has lead you to instill these orders out of a sense of protection and care to this point, and I thank you for that, but it is now time to relax them to avoid any further collateral/unintended harm that they may have or will continue to cause. I ask these things with the understanding that there remains a need to keep safeguards in place while these activities begin and normalize again, but begin again they should... please.

Michael Ferree
Waunakee, WI.

From: [Regnier, Joe \(Nokia - US\)](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Dane County Health Order
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 7:59:28 AM
Importance: High

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you to adjust the Dane County health order to allow kids to play sports in Dane County. The current order is the laughingstock of the entire state. I have a son at Edgewood High School and another at Waunakee High School. At Edgewood, we have been driving 50 minutes (one way) to exit Dane County to attend basketball practice. Do you really think it is safer to have parents drive their kids almost 2 hours every evening instead of practicing at their school like all schools outside of Dane County? It has been shown that teams can have safe practices during the Covid pandemic and hold safe sporting events. Having a restrictive order in Dane County and nothing 30 minutes away (outside the county) does not make it safer – only unfair to those who are unfortunate enough to live in this county. Please change the order so kids can play high school sports without having to travel outside the county to practice and play. This would be safer for the kids anyway. If you have questions, please call me at 210-452-4221.

Thank you,

Joe

Joe Regnier

Senior Account Manager

Nokia

210-452-4221

Email: joe.regnier@nokia.com

From: pen001@tds.net
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Comments from the parent of a High School senior
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 5:54:39 AM

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Dear Board of Health -

As you prepare for tonight's meeting my expectation is that you have all the COVID-related information available to you to guide your decision-making. I personally do not have all that information available to me so I'm dependant on what I get through the media, talking with family and friends, and most importantly monitoring my kids. I'm sure many of you have kids or grandkids and you have witnessed this as well but I wanted to share my observations.

I have seen the personality of my 18-year-old son changed for the worse through this pandemic. Pre pandemic he was a charismatic, engaging leader with his peers. He had his energy and passion from his interactions with his peers. My son (Caden) has been a leader on the varsity football and basketball teams in Waunakee for the last two years. Unfortunately, there has been a significant change in his personality over the past 10 months. Schooling changed to entirely online which drove to barely getting out of bed on a daily basis, withdrawn interactions with us as his parents and just an overall lack of energy. The weight room at school was closed and we started to see physical changes in his body and his eating habits. We were losing our son right before our eyes.

For us in Waunakee, the decision was made to allow sports to start back up in early Jan. Immediately we noticed a change in demeanor, energy, and interest in everything. We then saw another boost in personality at the end of Jan when Waunakee kids were allowed to return to in-person learning. We must continue our efforts to return to some sense of normal for our children. We have learned so much since the start of this pandemic and it has been proven that it can be done reasonably and safely. I'm hopeful the results of your meeting tonight continues to move us forward in returning back to normal.

Thank you for your time and your tireless efforts through these unprecedented times!

Paul Nelson

From: [Tom Carroll](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Concerned Parent
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 5:51:53 PM
Importance: High

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Health,

I am writing to you today as a concerned parent. My son is a Junior at Waunakee High School. He has been severely depressed since fall football was cancelled and school has ONLY been virtual. WHS is now at 2 days of hybrid instruction and 2 days of virtual learning. He has some excitement with the fact they will play football in spring, even though it will be a shortened season with NO playoffs. I feel really sorry for the seniors who want to play football in college. College Recruiters want game film to evaluate these kids. If you cancel the spring season, that could crush some kids dreams of playing college football.

ALL High Schools not in Dane County are in school full time and had football seasons with playoffs. My son was stripped of that chance. If you gather data on all the High Schools that have gone back full time and the sports teams that played full seasons, you will see that the percentage of students contracting Covid-19 is at a small percentage. Kimberly High School in Kimberly WI has an enrolment of around 1,600 students. During their football season this past fall, ONLY 1 student contracted the Covid-19 virus. Please consider the kids when determining if the spring season will move forward. I am an owner of a company that employs 46 people. 2020 has been a rough year, but we survived. We have implemented processes and protocols to protect my employees from Covid-19. We have done a great job and I am happy to say ONLY 2 of our employees contracted the virus and it was over a weekend, so none of our other employees were exposed.

The wrestling teams have been allowed to practice and compete in matches. How can football NOT be in the same category.

Before your ruling, please consider the damage this decision can have on our kids psyche if you choose not to move forward with a spring football season.

Thanks for your time reading my email!

Thanks,

Tom Carroll

Concerned Parent

Tom Carroll

President

Pro Metal Works

Work # 608-846-5771 X 231

Fax # 608-846-5776

Cell # 608-279-3377

tjc@pmwinc.biz

From: [Tim Taylor](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 10:19:42 PM

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If we want to get through this pandemic why has basketball and wrestling played?Extreme contact sports! Certain kids are not in school in Dane county and now we think football is ok.?Not really NFL and college couldn't control.Medium sports outside should be able to play but more importantly kids should be in desks in schools.THANK YOU

Sent from my iPad

MDCMH BOH Members,

I am writing to you today regarding your next meeting where COVID guidelines will be discussed as a Dane Co resident and a mother of 2 children in area an high school. I am also a frontline worker, being an RN, paramedic and police officer and understand more than most the effects of both COVID itself, having transported COVID patients, and the effects of COVID prevention strategies and their side effects such as increased depression, drug/alcohol abuse and stresses of social isolation. I implore you to please think about the stringent restrictions Dane Co has kept in place and the side effects they are having on our children, not being able to attend regular classes, play regular sports or engage in regular social activities. I understand how grave COVID can be and the wide spread effects it can have on multiple body systems, including long term effects however data also shows, overwhelmingly, that children are not in a high risk category.

While schools have finally opened for in-class instruction, the tight restrictions that Dane County continues to enforce makes it very difficult for sporting and social events to take place. Our schools are sending our children out of the county, to Sauk and Columbia and Jefferson counties just to be able to still participate in sporting events. Participation in high school sports and other activities is more than just the game or the sport itself. Life lessons like discipline, hard-work, ethics, teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship and the important of overall physical activity are all essential components that student athletes learn. Since students are still participating in these events out-of-county and all over the State and doing so in relative safety, I cannot understand how Dane County continues to maintain strict lock downs for medium and high risk sports. Masks can still be worn and maintaining distance from other players can still take place when on the sidelines, or in practice and workout sessions. Contact with vulnerable people in the lives of students who participate can be controlled and risk mitigated. Life does not come without risks. My children bike to school. They wear helmets, but I know they can still be in a serious crash. The sports they play place them at risk for injury, yet I weigh the risk vs reward of such activities. We cannot let "the cure be worse than the disease". Our children need to get back to some semblance of normal activity level as many others throughout the State already are. Please consider rule creation that would allow medium and high risk sports to once again be played in Dane Co for your next Health Order.

Respectfully submitted
Carrie Cotter

From: [McCurdy, Caden](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Spring Football
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 7:02:28 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, my name is Caden McCurdy and I am a football player at Waunakee High School. Having this spring season is very important to me and all of my teammates because it is very beneficial to our mental health. I have known a few friends who have struggled very badly with mental health because of everything covid has taken away from us. Through lifting our program has shown that we have been able to bring lots of kids into the weight room and never have covid spread in there. Our program has shown that we are able to have kids in a safe environment where covid hasn't spread instead of out and about getting covid from other people. Having a season would be able to keep us safer and give kids a sport that they love and miss which will benefit our mental health greatly. I know there is discussion about having practice outside of Dane County but I feel as though that bring more concern than having practice at our school. Traveling would only add more risk with car pools or busing because even if we practice somewhere else it would be all the same people involved that would be if we practice in Waunakee. We wouldn't be risking more exposure by staying in Waunakee to practice, it would be safe because kids would show up right before and go straight home after and be able to keep up with school work better. We have also all seen other schools and even our own basketball team compete. It is draining us mentally and hurting a lot of us seeing other school have a football season when they live 20 minutes away from us. We feel like it is unfair that those kids can have a season when their school and personal life is not much different than ours. Football would greatly benefit many kids mental health and keeping our practices in Waunakee would be safe and keep kids in a covid controlled environment.

Thank you for the consideration,
Caden McCurdy

From: [Nichole Carroll](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment for Feb. 3, 2021 meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 10:54:23 AM

Dear MDCPH Executive Committee and Board of Health Members,

My name is Nichole Carroll and I work in the Counseling Office of Waunakee Community High School (WCHS.) My son is a junior at WCHS and I have a daughter that is a junior at Butler University in her first year of Pharmacy school. As a WCHS employee in the Counseling Office and parent of student athletes, I have seen first-hand the results that the pandemic and the restrictions imposed by MDCPH on the schools in Dane County has had on the academics, athletics, mental and physical health of our students.

By nature, I am a rule follower and I expect my children to be as well. We practice safe social distancing, wear masks, etc. My husband has asthma and a family friend passed away due to Covid-19. We are careful and try to follow the rules to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy.

I have had the privilege of helping our district implement a hybrid academic model that began on Jan. 26, 2021; the first public high school in Dane County to do so. Our students were CRAVING to get back into our school building and have been doing an amazing job so far with adhering to all the safety protocols. Even though it is not ideal with only 3.5 hours of instruction four days a week (two days in person, two days virtual,) and students still being taught via a computer screen while in the classroom, they STILL want to be there! There is so much to be said for being in a different environment than your bedroom, basement, or home office all day, every day, with nobody else at home with you, except maybe a dog as a companion. This gets to you after a while...it has been almost of year of this for my son and the students of Dane County.

Add the academic piece to the elimination of almost all student activities and sports in Dane County, this is a DIRE situation our youth and families are in. Dane County students see students in other counties across the state and other states going to school full-time, having full, or at least partial, sports seasons. IT IS TOUGH to swallow and even more difficult to understand for our students. Everyone, including students, want to have some sense of control over their own lives. MDCPH has taken that away from these kids. I could go on and on about the effects that the loss of instruction over this time has done to our students, but I believe you all already know this...or at least I would hope you do. It is devastating, but at least we are starting to make progress by getting into the hybrid model and beginning to get our students back in school buildings.

Student athletes are typically extremely hard working and strong, not just externally, but internally. Academics is important to them, but their sport of choice is also a HUGE part of their identity. This identity has been quickly taken away from them over the past year. This may not seem like a big deal to you, but as a parent, my son is suffering silently with the effects of this loss of identity. Depression and anxiety have entered his life due to the restrictions imposed because of Covid-19. Everyone has passions. Well, football is his. It was extremely difficult for him to handle the missed summer of football camps, practices, and no fall season, but he looked forward to the movement of the fall season to spring, even though there would be no playoffs. However, now the looming threat of this spring football season being taken away from him because his team cannot practice or play games in Dane County, due to the COVID-19 restriction by MDCPH, it is simply unbearable for him. He is a strong kid, but people, let alone teens, can only take so much. This is affecting his mental health, which in turn, is affecting his physical health. As a parent of a student in this situation, the fear is very real.

With careful planning, our district has safely and successfully opened our school doors part-time, managed a weightlifting program for well over 100 of our student athletes and played some sports (minimally due to MDCPH restrictions.) Other schools outside of Dane County and across the United States have successfully opened their schools full time and have played full or partial seasons of all sports, and they have done this safely with minimal risk. This has forced many of our student athletes whose parents have the means, to resort to club sports that travel all over the state to practice and compete. Where is the equity in this for the student athletes that are not so lucky to have parents that can afford this? By allowing school sponsored sports within our communities, we could offer sports more safely because we have more control, than traveling around the state trying to find places to practice and compete. Why are the restrictions on the communities of Dane County so different than the rest of the state? Where is the equity in this?

In closing, I beg you to consider allowing Dane County schools' sports teams to practice and compete at their own facilities/school and compete at facilities of the schools in their conference. We will have more control in doing so. It will prevent the crazy traveling around the state (and other states) to practice and compete. It will contain exposure within our own schools and communities. It will be more equitable for ALL students. Our kids need this

for their mental and physical health. Covid-19 is affecting the health and well-being of many, more so, the elderly and immune-compromised. However, the restrictions imposed by MDCPH is affecting the mental (and physical) health and well-being of our students. The results of depression and anxiety over the loss of academics and athletics can be just as deadly for our young people. Do they deserve less than the elderly or immune-compromised members of society? They are our future! We need to take care of them, too!

Thank you for taking the time to read my lengthy letter!

Nichole Carroll

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Nichole Carroll

From: [Jo Flock](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Fall/Spring Sports (Waivers/Exemptions of Specific Rules)
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 3:14:17 PM

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I'm reaching out as a concerned resident/grandparent of children in Dane County. I am thankful for our Waunakee School District who has worked tirelessly to safely engage students during these unprecedented times.

I'm asking that you consider giving our expert educators some leeway to continue to engage kids through co-curricular activities. New NFHS guidance states that the majority of Covid spread occurs during social interactions outside of competitions. Please allow our district the leeway to create safe protocols to engage kids in the Fall to Spring Season (waivers/exemptions of specific rules). I understand that was done for other sports (ie. swimming). Our district has proven that they can safely offer co-curricular activities through detailed protocol. They understand the true benefit of offering these opportunities for kids. (Social interaction, accountability, goal setting, leadership, structure, etc).

Last fall our kids saw other schools outside of Dane County have a football season. They were given hope with the possibility of a Spring season. That kept them engaged lifting weights, eating properly, and studying. I am very worried what will happen to them if that last hope is destroyed. Without that motivation and structure/guidance, their mental health will suffer; and they could make bad choices that could follow them throughout their lives.

It is critical that we continue to engage kids in as many ways as possible. Given the mental health crisis that our children are experiencing, I implore you to allow our district to offer opportunities for our children to practice sports in the Fall/Spring season. Without the structure and accountability that these activities provide, kids will continue to find things to do that won't necessarily be safe. This potential for destructive behaviors is terrifying. We are all doing the best we can to engage children and provide structure and boundaries for them. Again, I implore you to allow our district to safely engage our kids in these activities. Our children need the structure, engagement, motivation and leadership that participating in co-curricular activities provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jo Anne Flock
1213 Water Wheel Drive
Waunakee, WI 53597

From: [Katie Dotzler](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Advocating for our children
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 2:41:20 PM

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Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out as a resident/parent of three children in Dane County. I am thankful for our Waunakee School District who has worked tirelessly to safely engage students during these unprecedented times.

I'm reaching out to ask that you consider giving our expert educators some leeway to continue to engage kids through co-curricular activities. As I'm sure you are aware, the NFHS just came out with new guidance indicating that research has shown that the majority of Covid spread occurs during social interactions. (Document attached). Please allow our district the leeway to create safe protocols to engage kids in the Fall to Spring Season. Our district has proven that they can safely offer co curricular activities through detailed protocol. They understand the true benefit of offering these opportunities for kids. (Social interaction, accountability, goal setting, leadership, structure, etc). It is critical that we continue to engage kids in as many ways as possible. Given the mental health crisis that our children are experiencing, I implore you to allow our district to offer opportunities for our children to practice sports in the Fall to Spring season. Without the structure and accountability that these activities provide, kids will continue to find things to do that won't necessarily be safe. This potential for destructive behaviors is terrifying. We are all doing the best we can to engage children and provide structure and boundaries for them. Again, I implore you to allow our district to safely engage our kids in these activities. Our children need the structure, engagement, motivation and leadership that participating in co-curricular activities provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katie Dotzler

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1924?meeting=453100>

Sent from my iPhone