

# Sudbury Board of Health

## Virtual Meeting COVID-19 April 14, 2020

Attendance: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Phyllis Schilp-Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Beth Porter-Health Administrator, Scott Nix-Police Chief, Jane Dretler-Select Board

4:03 – Carol Bradford called meeting to order.

### Phyllis Schilp – Health Nurse COVID-19 Update:

**Positive cases** continue to rise in Sudbury. More than 100 residents are currently being tracked. Age group over 80 years has seen the largest increase. Senior living facilities particularly affected. Testing at these facilities has been ordered through the Commonwealth’s Mobile Testing Program (a partnership between the Department of Public Health, the National Guard and the Broad Institute).

**Nurses:** Patty Moran was hired as a part time public health nurse. Patty and the school nurses have been instrumental in assisting with contact tracing. Phyllis is managing the contact tracing and will inform the Director when support is needed. MDPH will be rolling out an initiative with Partners-In-Health private healthcare agency to support Board of Health efforts to contact trace. The program is expected to be operational by the end of April.

**Isolation and Quarantining Protocol:** Procedures for monitoring and following COVID19 positive residents frequently change and it is often difficult to keep current on the revisions and updates. Many man hours are devoted to staying informed of changes.

### Bethany Hadvab – Town Social Worker COVID-19 Update:

**Interns/Volunteers:** Bethany is interviewing interns from Simmons. She continues to dispatch current volunteers and vet new volunteers for services that assist Sudbury residents.

**Resources:** Bethany updates many new programs and resources that are emerging with new social challenges from COVID-19.

**Donations:** Goods/programs that are available to the Social Worker’s office are being utilized.

### Bill Murphy – Health Director COVID-19 Update:

**PR:** Steve Jang, MPH Health Law, Policy and Management & Epidemiology Boston University School of Public Health will be conducting research with students and finding helpful resources and websites related to all aspects of COVID-19 to share with Sudbury. The team will work with Leila Frank in the Select Board office to determine the best methods for distributing information. The Health Department continues to work with PR firm Steinfeld Communications regarding messaging.

**Susan Sama:** Messaging should be transparent, but always scientifically based. This will be critically important when we start posting/messaging information related to transitioning back to normalcy.

**Robo Text:** Some residents had a negative reaction to the robo-text from Dr. Hoenig. The Board and Health Director outputs information that is considered pertinent to the health and wellbeing of Sudbury residents. It was agreed that too much information and messaging will become ineffective.

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**Septic/Office Procedures:** The Health Department continues to process septic permits, complaints, compliance, inspections, applications, ordering supplies, accounts payable, accounts receivable and all general requests and correspondence.

### **General Discussion:**

**Social Distancing:** It is difficult to quantify the effectiveness of social distancing but it appears there has been a substantial decrease with large gatherings and the Park and Recreation closings have been beneficial in stemming people from congregating.

**LYME/EEE:** COVID-19, social distancing and nice weather has prompted residents to get outside and use the Sudbury open spaces. The Health Department will get messaging up on the website and the boards (that are posted at the trail heads) for residents to take protective precautions against tick and mosquito bites.

**Facial coverings:** The public is encouraged to wear facial coverings when in public spaces.

**Police Chief Scott Nix** has seen an uptick in domestic calls. Officers are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when on calls. Officers are not enforcing, but imploring residents to be responsible when addressing behaviors related to COVID-19. Police Chief expressed gratitude regarding continued collaborations with health department staff in keeping the town healthy and safe. Mr. Murphy concurred.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:40 PM