

Minutes for Board of Health Meeting
Friday, March 6th, 2020 at The DPW Conference Room

Attendees: Carol Bradford, Chair, Susan Sama, Member, Bill Murphy, Health Director, Bethany Hadvab Social Worker

4:00-4:05 Public Comment- None

4:05- Mr. Murphy, at the request of the Board members, called a meeting to address the growing concern with a response to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Mr. Murphy summarized events leading up to today's meeting.

There is an overwhelming number of calls and questions. Most of the answers could be found on the CDC or MDPH website and residents should continue to be referred there. Current Sudbury information and links to those sites will be found on the Town Website.

Sudbury, through the MAVEN system, was notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19. The person is in isolation and is quarantined and recovering at home. Many cities and towns have been reporting problems with access to testing and the threat of contacts not being identified.

Phyllis Schilp, Public Health Nurse, updated the Board on other cases of travelers and contacts. Ms. Schilp informed the Board of her concerns with lack of capacity to handle hundreds of events that might get reported. Also, the need to immediately contact cases that might be identified in schools.

Mr. Murphy updated the Board on frequent and open dialog with both Bella Wong and Brad Crozier, Superintendents of schools. Each MAVEN case will be investigated and schools' cases, in addition to the high-risk senior group, prioritized to prevent spread in school groups.

Discussion of whether all international travel should be reported to schools with the changing CDC protocols. Decision made to adhere to CDC protocol at this time.

Both members expressed concern with kids of "contacts" and travelers not being quarantined.

Carol Bradford reported Noyes School is proposing a trough handwashing sink to encourage student handwashing. Members discussed supporting efforts such as these to promote personal protections.

Mr. Murphy reported his biggest challenge is responding to the question "Should I close...?" Susan Sama made the case that all large events and gatherings should consider closing to prevent spread. Essential government functions will need to be discussed and the legalities of closing private entities.

Board asked Mr. Murphy to assess before next meeting on March 11, 2020 when Dr. Peter Hoenig would be in attendance.

Board asked for continued assessments for this rapidly changing landscape of COVID-19 pandemic.

Information sharing among critical stakeholders necessary moving forward.

Meeting adjourned @5:15pm.