

Sudbury Board of Health  
Special Virtual Meeting 3/31/2020 COVID-19

Virtual Attendance: Board Chair-Carol Bradford, Board Member-Susan Sama, Board Member-Linda Huet Clayton, Health Director-Bill Murphy, Health Nurse-Phyllis Schilp, Social Worker-Bethany Hadvab and Admin-Beth Porter. Select Board Member-Jane Dretler, Select Board Member-Jen Roberts, Sudbury Resident-Robert McCune

4:03 – Carol Bradford called meeting to order:

Introductions are made by board and participants.

COVID-19:

**Posting Sudbury COVID-19 positives and stats on Health Webpage:**

The Health Department has been receiving many calls and emails asking for the number of Sudbury residents that are infected. The issues of posting the stats of Sudbury Residents Isolated, tested or quarantined on the Health webpage was presented. MDPH recommends that municipalities not report numbers to ensure confidentiality and privacy issues. MDPH recommends referring residents to their website which reports by county and state infection rates and deaths. Phyllis Schilp, Public Health Nurse emphasized that positive COVID-19 cases are not reflective of true numbers. Most of the cases are underreported because lack of testing and the following;

**Individuals** who are asymptomatic are not tested;

**Individuals** who have mild symptoms are not tested;

**Individuals** who live with tested COVID-19 positive patients would be clinically diagnosed not tested.

The Board agreed that the stats should be posted and discussed what should be included in reporting Sudbury COVID-19 Stats:

Positive Cases

Quarantined Cases (asymptomatic)

Number of cases by gender

Number of cases by age

**A disclaimer** that the numbers presented in the report may be outdated by the time that they are published. The compiled numbers are subject to change by content and frequency.

Attempts should be made to publish the report weekly.

**Phyllis Schilp Health Department Nurse:**

- Phyllis Schilp has been doing investigations into the Sudbury positive cases and has found that the most impacted demographic are families who cohabitate.
- The Board was concerned that the families that are being quarantined are not getting basic food and supplies. Ms. Schilp indicated families are being asked if they are receiving supplies.
- Phyllis Schilp conducts investigations and surveillance on every Sudbury COVID-19 case that is reported. This is an extremely time consuming undertaking and it is necessary to increase staffing in order to effectively follow those who are isolated and quarantined.
- Ms. Schilp described the difficulties of keeping updated regarding medical information via health websites/conference calls and changing protocol.

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- It was acknowledged that Phyllis Schilp has been doing more investigations/work than comparable towns.
- The Board commended her for her efforts.
- Hiring nurses to assist Phyllis Schilp in investigating cases was discussed. Nurses must be trained in State software MAVEN in order to track positive cases and contacts. Carol Bradford and Anne Chabot, school nurses have been trained and are actively following cases.

**Bill Murphy - Issues facing Health Department:**

Governor Baker has extended stay at home order to May 4<sup>th</sup> and augmented essential Personnel and workplaces.

The expenses associated with COVID-19 is posing a burden on health budgets. Mr. Murphy has requested additional funds in order to cover COVID-19 related costs.

Testing for COVID-19: Testing has been designated to those who present symptoms and have not had traceable contact with a COVID-19 positive cases.

Health Department has been fielding a large number of calls and emails related to the following:

**What is considered essential personnel?** Governor's directives not clear.

**Businesses** that remain open that are not considered essential personnel (hair salons)

**Grocery Stores.** Residents are concerned that not enough is being done to promote social distancing and keeping surfaces and products clean. Inspector is sent to investigate these complaints.

Mr. Murphy reported a grocery store employee tested positive with COVID-19. He felt that the store manager handled the situation appropriately. It was noted that the employee is not a Sudbury resident and the case could be handled by another jurisdiction.

Mr. Murphy reported citizens are not taking social distancing seriously in town open spaces. The Health Department receives, on average, 10 calls/emails per day with reports of people not complying with the Governor's directives. Examples would include playing basketball, tennis, organized sport team practices.

The Board recommended that all applicable Boards and Committees restrict access to the sport courts and playgrounds and Cutting Field be closed and signage posted. Mr. Murphy will collaborate with Park and Rec Department to come up with viable solutions. The Board will revisit opening the fields, courts and playgrounds once the May 4<sup>th</sup> directive has concluded or been lifted.

**Bethany Hadvab – Town Social Worker:**

Bethany Hadvab's department will play a major role in fielding all the issues that the aftermath of COVID-19 will present. Some of the areas that Bethany is fortifying against are financial instability,

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Housing, supplying essentials and emotional trauma. Bethany is currently working with clergy groups and committees to mobilize organizations who are in a position to help those who are stricken by COVID-19. Updating the Sudbury Social Work resource web-page is ongoing.

Carol Bradford – Board of Health Chair, motion to adjourn. Linda Huet Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM