

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting 6/30/2020 COVID

Attendees: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Beth Porter-Admin, Patty Moran-Nurse, Bella Wong-LSRHS Superintendent, Jennifer Roberts-Select Board, Ellie Gottlieb-Resident, Kay Bell-Disability Commission, Scott Smigler-Resident

Meeting Called to Order @ 4:05 PM

Patty Moran – COVID Update for Phyllis Schilp:

Cases in Sudbury: As of June 22nd, there have been no new cases in Sudbury. Currently 8 active cases.

Statewide: 4th of July approaching, but there are no Sudbury events planned for the holiday. The state is encouraging social distancing and face coverings.

National: Other states are on a sharp rise of COVID positive cases. Many states do not have detailed reporting that Massachusetts has, making it difficult to analyze where they are on the curve. Sama noted that AZ is at 95% maximum hospital capacity.

How Stats Work: Question posed, total number of positive cases that would reverse re-opening in Mass? The answer is dependent on several variables. Are there hot spots? Slope of positive cases? Event related? Numbers will be constantly monitored and evaluated to determine risk and possible action.

Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent – COVID Update:

Dept. Of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE): Bella has been involved in collaborative meetings with other communities navigating the guidelines that have been recommended by DESE. She will be engaged in meetings throughout the summer. Three plans must be submitted from each community. Plan #1 is for 100% return and in-house teaching. Plan #2 is a hybrid teaching model which includes remote virtual and in-house learning. Plan #3 is remote virtual teaching only. Bella was recommended to look into Back to School Guidance released by Harvard University.

In-House Learning: DESE is prioritizing this model. Challenges: 50% capacity would have students positioned 6 feet apart. 100% capacity would have students positioned 3 feet apart. There are questions regarding where to house students when they are not in class? How long can students wear face coverings? Students with hearing impairments will have difficulty reading lips. Can outside areas be used for student down time? Many of these questions will need to be answered.

Hybrid Learning: is the most challenging because it involves two models for teachers and students. Consideration is being given to partnering with other schools to relieve some of the burdens that this model will present.

Remote Learning: Would present the least amount of physical and teaching based obstacles.

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Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent – COVID Update Cont.

Threat of COVID: The threat of spreading COVID while learning in-house full time is a concern for students, faculty, staff, families and those with compromised immune systems. Any surge of COVID in the schools will move us to remote learning. School nurses must contact the Board of Health with COVID positive/suspected cases so that contact tracing can be engaged. There is currently no guideline in place for this communication.

Surveying Families of Students: Bella surveyed the parents regarding input as to what they think school opening should look like this fall. The results would drive policies.

No Guidance has been offered for transportation, meals and extra curricular activities.

Air Exchange: Mr. Murphy expressed concerns about the quality of air and air movement in the school. COVID-19 is highly contagious and this could contribute to the spread. Bella felt that the air quality in the building is very good. She is looking into purchasing enhanced filters.

Number of kids per classroom: Classroom modifications such as removing furniture may be required to meet social distancing guidelines.

Concerns: Students will not social distance. Students will need to remove masks to eat. Bella has coordinated a Task Force, a Planning Committee and an Advisory Group (made up of a diverse group of students) to look into solutions to school reopening. Mr. Murphy asked if Ellie Gottlieb, LS student would be a good addition to one of the groups as she has been attending all of the Board of Health meetings since the beginning of the pandemic.

Mr. Murphy will stay in communication with Bella for updates and to support her efforts.

Carol Bradford: Brad Crozier has put together a task force with representation from administration, parents, teachers, student services and special education. The task is addressing the 3 return models.

Concerns are that there is no isolation area or room in the schools for students who fall ill.

Bethany Hadvab: Town Social Worker – COVID Update.

Bethany is updating website with new and relevant resources. She continues to service residents in need. She is concerned with the mental and financial well being of many families in Sudbury and has been looking for ways to identify those most in need and getting them in touch with appropriate resources.

Massachusetts is offering **emergency rental assistance**. Bethany will look into this new resource.

Bill Murphy – Health Director – COVID Update/Other.

Phase 3 Re-opening: Governor Baker pushed off announcing the date of Phase 3 re-opening.

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Bill Murphy – Health Director – Cont.

EEE/West Nile Virus: EEE/WNV Risk Map Tool was posted on the State website. We have linked to this tool from the Sudbury Health webpage.

Video from Kate Brown (state Epidemiologist) about EEE was posted to Sudbury TV.

Adulticide Spraying for EEE: is ongoing in town. Streets where and when spraying is posted on town website as soon as we are notified.

Mosquito Surveillance: has reported Zero mosquitos positive with EEE or WNV.

Mr. Murphy will keep vigilant in messaging to Sudbury residents.

Town Meeting is being planned for around September 15th. Looking into outdoor or multiple venues. Outdoor would have the meeting during the day and most likely on the weekend.

Record/Information Requests: Extremely busy. This task takes up a large percentage of manhours. Requests are primarily for Title 5 information and property information to locate wells.

July 14th will be the next Board of Health Meeting; Bill will send out an agenda focused on school re-opening.

August 18th and 25th: Board of Health Meetings Prior to School Re-opening. These will be critical meetings to discuss schools.

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM