

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

November 10, 2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford – BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – BoH Member, Susan Sama – BoH Member, William Murphy – Health Director, Phyllis Schilp – Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent, Janie Dretler, Select Board member, Susan Berry, Finance Committee member, Sylvia Nersessian

Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM. Carol Bradford BoH Chair called meeting to order.

Open Comments: None

Phyllis Schilp Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID Numbers: Massachusetts has seen a sharp rise in COVID positive cases. 12,000 tests per day, 2.35% positivity, 588 hospitalized and 143 in ICU. State positive cases have risen by 300%. Sudbury 29 confirmed cases, 105 contacts, 1 probable, 36 out of town cases, 141 communicable diseases.

COVID State Metrics: The state has updated the COVID Metrics to align with a metrics that is used by other states.

Nursing staff: 2 full time and 4 part time on staff. 441 hours logged in October.

Positive Cases: 17 contacts sent to the CTC. Sports clusters over 30 contacts. 3 Day-Care Clusters. 1 Long Term Care Cluster.

Sports Clusters: Are sports teams that are travel teams – Basketball, Hockey and Soccer.

COVID Possibility of a Vaccine: Pfizer and Moderna have announced the possibility of a vaccine roll out in the near future. There are many challenges in obtaining, storing, and administering the vaccine. Most notable obstacles are storing vaccines at required temperatures to retain effectiveness and what age groups receive vaccines and in what order. Sama inquired if we had freezers or access to freezers that can accommodate the COVID vaccines. Towns may utilize coolers with dry ice. Phyllis stated that there are still many questions and outstanding issues that she is looking into.

Flu Clinics: We had 54 MRC Volunteers (totaling 292 hours). 2 Worcester State interns totaling 60 hours. Volunteers (Fire, Police, DPW, Facilities, School Nurses, Other Town Employees, MRC and Interns) all totaling 512 hours of flu clinic logged time.

Future Flu Clinics: Planning 2 Curb Side Clinics November 17th and 18th in order to supply flu vaccine to those who missed the previous clinics. There will be vaccine left over in the event of a surge.

Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent Update:

COVID Cases: There have been a total of 9 COVID Positive cases at the High School.

Holiday Remote Learning Plan: Bella noted that there was disagreement with the remote learning plan that would extend through the Thanksgiving break. Massachusetts changed the COVID metrics making the figures seem manageable, however Bella remained concerned that families will gather outside of cohorts and that there will be an exposure increase to COVID.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

November 10, 2020

Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent Update Continued:

She expressed her appreciation for those who supported her decision to move forward with the remote learning plan.

School Testing Plan: Funding for PCR Pool testing has been obtained and will enable testing through December. The cost of testing is \$60.00 per student for 4 weeks of testing. Tests for 1,500 students will be sent home with them on Thursdays and Fridays, then sent off to the labs. Results will be available within 24 to 48 hours. These tests will allow the testing company to isolate positive results and identify the COVID positive individual(s). Huet-Clayton wanted to know when the testing would start. Bella is targeting the Thursday and Friday before Thanksgiving for the first round of testing. Sama wanted to know the sensitivity and specificity of the test that Bella chose. Bella was confident that she had the most reliable and economical test available. Huet-Clayton felt that pool testing will shed light on high risk activities and identify spread patterns.

COVID Testing into 2021: Bella is exploring obtaining more funding for weekly testing into March of 2021.

Students' Response to Governor Baker's new mandates: Bella sees that the students are respectful and adhere to the mandates while in school. She believes that the children are more relaxed in mask wearing and social distancing when outside of school. Bella expressed her appreciation for the Board of Health, Bill Murphy and Phyllis Schilp for their help and support through this entire process.

Bethany Hadvab – Sudbury Social Worker Update:

Recap of Concerns: Financial, Food, Housing and Day Care Insecurities continue to pour in from Sudbury residents.

Holidays: with the holidays approaching (historically a season of highest needs) Bethany is concerned that resources that are normally available to residents will not be enough to cover needs.

Bill Murphy – Health Director's Update:

Sports: Bill discussed that he has been communicating with Art Reilly (LSRHS Athletic Director) and commended his efforts for compliance to sector specific guidelines and consistent messaging with youth sports and HS athletic programs.

Governor's Orders: Restaurants to close by 10:00pm. Last tables served at 9:30. Retail stores can remain open (with exception of liquor and cannabis stores). Masks must be worn out in public. Complaints are coming in from both sides. Most complaints are about kids using public courts and fields to play unmasked games of basketball, tennis and other sports. Parks and Rec is considering closing down public sports courts and fields.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

November 10, 2020

Bill Murphy – Health Director’s Update Continued:

Health Inspector: Bill has advertised for the position of Health Inspector and has received 2 applications. He will explore other platforms to submit the position under. The minimum requirement for the inspector would include an under-graduate degree in science.

Sudbury Field House: Is under new management and they are very serious about adhering to COVID compliance.

Sama Motions to approve Oct. 27th, 2020 minutes as edited. Huet-Clayton and Bradford second the motion. Sama declare motion passed 3-0-0.

Bradford Calls meeting adjourned at 5:00PM. Sama motioned, Huet seconded. Motion passed unanimously.