

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

December 16, 2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford – BoH Chair, Susan Sama – BoH Member, Dr. Peter Hoenig – Sudbury Town Doctor, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Phyllis Schilp – Public Health nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter Admin., Janie Dretler – Select Board, Jennifer Roberts – Select Board, Kay Bell – Comm On Disabilities, Susan Berry – Finance Comm, Olivia Dufour – Tobacco Compliance.

4:03 PM - Meeting called to order

Public Comment: Jennifer Roberts congratulated Bill Murphy on receiving the 2020 Sudbury Supervisor of the Year. Ms. Roberts added that Mr. Murphy has worked tirelessly thru EEE and COVID and deserved the honor.

Phyllis Schilp - Public Health Nurse Report:

COVID Stats: 305 Total Cases.

12/1/2020 – 53 New Positive Cases, 5 Probables, 98 Close Contacts, 129 Active Cases being monitored by staff.

Nursing Staff: 520 hours this month (equivalent to 3.7 full time nurses) dedicated to contact tracing. Working weekends and evenings. Contact tracing mitigates the spread of COVID. This kind of contact tracing allows the schools to remain open keeping COVID exposure to a minimum.

Cases: Families, Preschools, Public Schools and Long-Term Care are most of the cases that are being reported. Clusters are complicated when the above-mentioned entities have an outbreak. Clusters create the most amount of work because exposure fans out from those who are infected to those who have been exposed via close contact standards. Ms. Schilp noted that the Public Schools have been doing a great job.

COVID Vaccine: There are many moving parts to the roll out of the vaccine. It is unsure when and if Sudbury will receive vaccine to administer. How will vaccines be stored? How will we track timed sequence of second or follow-up vaccine? Who will enter dosing of individuals into the MIIS System? Because the Health Department has conducted many drive thru clinics this fall (over 900 vaccinated), there is a system in place for administering the vaccine, but there are too many unanswered questions to move forward with a concrete plan.

Schools: LSRHS has been doing weekly antibody testing on over half of the students. The results are less than 1% positive. Sama intoned that these results seem inconsistent with positive PCR testing of teenagers in the community. She is concerned about the sensitivity and specificity of the antigen tests. Dr. Hoenig believes that if the BINAX tests are being administered improperly (because the kids take them home to get a sample and drop them at the school the following day) the results will most likely be (skewed) inaccurate resulting in false negatives.

Schools: SPS-Carol Bradford noted that SPS will be using BINAX antigen testing kits for symptomatic kids. This program will be up and running by January 2021. All kids will need to do a follow-up PCR test regardless of positive or negative results.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

December 16, 2020

Dr. Hoenig – Sudbury Town Doctor:

Vaccine: Contents of vaccines are egg free and preservative free. It is unknown how long the vaccine will last and if it will need to be administered annually like Flu shots. Masks will need to be worn for those who have been infected and vaccinated until 60% – 80% of the population is immune. Most common side effects to the vaccine have been anaphylactic reactions. Post Vaccination Reactions that are common to Tetanus, Shingles and MMR can also be expected in the 1 to 2 days following injection. The approved vaccines are for people 16 years and older.

Roll Out of Vaccines: will be administered in a progressive format as vaccines become available. Starting with those working with patients, first responders, Professionals, people who are high risk, Long-Term Care, teachers, and so on... It will be rolled out in a tiered approach.

Sama – noted that kids are starting to present symptoms of COVID, but the overall impression is that kids are not becoming ill at all. Testing and vaccines are crucial to bringing this to a manageable impasse. As time passes new vaccines will become available.

BIOGEN was mentioned as an example as to how quickly the virus is spread. It is believed that 300,000 people were infected as a result of the BIOGEN meeting.

Isolation/Quarantine Procedure: Phyllis was asked what is involved in contact tracing per person. The contacts are given instructions based on test results. There is a phone call, a follow up email and then two additional points of contacts post email. Some people require more instruction, but 4 contacts per person seems to be the basic procedure. Isolation in many households has become too relaxed and you see contagion throughout families.

PPE Supplies: For the most part most PPE is now readily available, however, there are shortages on specific items at any given time. For the Vaccine Clinics it is extremely important that those who administer the vaccine and those who volunteer at the clinics, are supplied with the appropriate PPE.

High Risk Individuals: Kay Bell (Commission on Disabilities) wanted to know how high risk individuals would be ordered to receive the vaccine? Mr. Murphy said that the Board of Health and other Health agencies will follow state mandates for distribution and that the second phase will be more defined as vaccines become available.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update:

Highest Areas of Need: Housing, Food, Jobs, Child Care. Many families are losing employment because of COVID or because of loss of Day Care.

Trauma and Stress: Has escalated mental illness and domestic violence.

Food Pantry: People have limited means of transportation to and from the food pantry. The Food Pantry is now pre-packaging foods by category making less waste and smaller lines at the distribution point.

Police: have been delivering goods to Sudbury residents in need.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

December 16, 2020

Discretionary Fund: This is a Sudbury Charitable Fund that is 300 years old. Because there is no 2020 Holiday gift Program, the Select Board will disperse Discretionary Funds in the amount of \$500.00 to families that have exhausted all programs and resources, that are available to them.

Red Tape: Ms. Hadvab is trying to find ways to get around acquiring resources without submitting mounds of paperwork and getting directly to the source and resource.

Resources: Bethany is joining with outreach from other communities to share resources and procedural shortcuts. In addition, it is important to stay aware of any new programs or updates in programs that are coming out.

Programs/Volunteers: There has been an outpouring of volunteers helping neighbors. These programs are providing and delivering clothing, paper goods, cleaning products, furniture and much more.

Mr. Murphy thanked Bethany and the Select Board for giving the important update on helping the community in meeting their needs.

Olivia Dufour-Program Manager – Metro West Tobacco Control District

Mr. Murphy introduced Olivia who has started the position of Program Manager for Metro West Tobacco Control. Olivia will be working for 13 Communities in Metro West area.

Tobacco Laws changed June 1, 2020. Olivia will head research, compliance, education, cessation and data collection and tracking. Olivia will be working with Local Boards of Health and the High Schools to bring about awareness of the dangers and risk involved in smoking and vaping.

VOTE: Sama made Motion to pass Enforcement of Tobacco Compliance in the Town of Sudbury. Bradford Seconded the Motion. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Bill Murphy – Sudbury Health Director Update:

Nurses: The managing of nurses take a larger portion of day to day man hours to support. The Health Department will be losing a nurse leaving a gap in the tracing efforts.

Man Hours Spent on COVID: The nurses spend weekends contact tracing as cases come up on MAVEN. Bill believes that if the cases involve LSRHS kids or SPS kids that the school nurses should take the cases and do the contact tracing. The health Department nurses are spending more than scheduled hours on these cases. Mr. Murphy is making it a priority in taking a stronger roll in controlling the time spent on weekends handling these cases.

Sudbury Businesses: Work related positive cases have smaller businesses closing because of lack of coverage. Risky behavior creates positive cases.

Meetings for 2021: Monthly Meetings will resume to the second Tuesday of the month.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

December 16, 2020

VOTE: Sama Motioned to Publish Board of November 24th Health Meeting Minutes as edited. Bradford seconded motion. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20.