

# Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

## November 24, 2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford-Board Chair; Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member; Susan Sama-Board Member; Bill Murphy-Health Director; Phyllis Schilp-Health Nurse; Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker; Beth Porter-Health Admin; Jennifer Roberts-Select Board Member; Susan Berry-Finance Committee Member; Kay Bell-Comm on Disability; Maria Proujansky-Resident

### **4:00 PM Carol Bradford Called Meeting to order.**

#### **Public Comment:**

**Kay Bell: Holiday Travel** poses problems. How do we know if people are quarantining, getting tested and following state guidelines? Tracking travel compliance is difficult. Carol Bradford intoned that if they hear that a family from school has traveled, they contact the family to ensure that protocol has been followed. It is difficult to determine who is traveling and if they are following Mass Travel Guidelines.

**COVID Reporting (new format);** less user friendly (to the general public) and difficult to disseminate information. Sudbury is using the state template for publishing COVID reporting. The new format is consistent with State reporting and metrics. It shows how Sudbury compares to surrounding communities. It would be extremely time consuming to report cases of out of town transmissions.

#### **Phyllis Schilp – Public Health Nurse Update:**

**COVID:** Sudbury cases have increased 3 fold in the past week. This week there have been 13 positives, 2 probable's, 42 contacts and 57 cases actively being investigated.

**Businesses with Cases:** In 8 Sudbury businesses, there were 22 cases reported. The state handled these cases. Many cases are residents from other towns to be followed up by the BoH in those towns. Most businesses contacted our office prior to the Health Departments that the residents resided in.

**Quarantine Guidelines:** Have changed to 10 days of quarantine. On day 8 of quarantine you get PCR tested and if asymptomatic and you receive a negative result you are released from quarantine on day 11. You must continue to self-monitor, for symptoms, through day 14. Sama was concerned with those who are living with COVID positives being released from quarantine before COVID has been cleared with everyone living in the same dwelling.

**COVID Testing:** Day 5 of COVID Symptoms is the highest day of testing. Because cases are multiplying, getting COVID testing appointments will become increasingly difficult.

**Antigen Testing:** If it comes back positive, you must get a PCR test within 48 hours post antigen test. If the PCR comes back negative the person is released from quarantine. An obstacle to this method of follow-up testing is scheduling the PCR test in the 48-hour window.

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### Phyllis Schilp – Public Health Nurse Update Cont.:

#### **COVID Testing at the Schools:**

**Pool Testing @ LSRHS:** Binax testing has begun with the first round was submitted the weekend before Thanksgiving.

**Sudbury Public Schools:** Carol Bradford reported that Binax testing will begin at the SPS level. Nurses are currently going through training. The test will be administered to symptomatic staff and students. If parents refuse consent for testing, the child will need to be tested by Primary Care Physician. Sama noted that a PCR test will need to be done 48 hours post Binax. Binax is the best antigen test available, but PCR is the gold standard of COVID testing.

**COVID Vaccine:** In the process of determining how vaccines will be stored, who will get the vaccines (by rounds) how vaccines will be administered, how many doses will we receive and how will we staff the clinics?

**Emergency Shelters:** In planning Shelter coverage during COVID there are challenges to consider. Among the most concerning are allowing overnight stays in the shelters, cleaning of the shelter, charging stations and showers. Bill Murphy reported that Henry Hayes is involved in helping in coming up with solutions to keep people in their homes during a black out in order to prevent the spread of COVID. There are many details to work out.

### Bethany Hadvab – Town Social Worker Update:

**Biggest Needs of Residents:** Food is the highest on the list of residential needs. Bethany is working with multiple organizations to connect people with agencies that can help with supplying food.

**Neighbor Brigade:** raising funds for gifts this holiday season. The first hour that the applications were posted online, 40 applications were registered. The office has processed 80 applications.

**Basic Needs: are not being met.** Families are trying to make things feel like normal for the moral of the kids. Food, housing and clothing are in high demand.

**Housing insecurities:** 1 to 2 families per week are facing homelessness or looking for shelters (which are full). Should an infraction (caused by the person(s) being sheltered) take place while housed in a shelter, they immediately lose sheltering privileges.

**SMOC:** South Middlesex Opportunity Council has been helping families by funding rent and utilities. Response time for SMOC is 8 weeks. If applications are not filled out correctly the applications move to the bottom of the queue.

**HOPE Sudbury:** Applications continue to come in and are time consuming.

**ONLINE Mental Health Training:** More seminars to come.

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**Bill Murphy** – Sudbury Health Director – Update:

**Nurse Staffing:** Health Department has lost a part-time nurse leaving a gap in the workload. Other part-time nurses have been offered additional hours. Henry Hayes has been working with the Finance Comm. To obtain more nursing hours to be dedicated to contact tracing.

**COVID Vaccine Roll Out:** number of cases should remain the same or increase until we start the roll out of the COVID Vaccines (spring being the target date).

**Metro West Tobacco Control:** Olivia Dufour will be conducting compliance checks in Sudbury. She will also be educating kids in the schools. Some students will be appointed agents of the staff.

**Linda Huet-Clayton Motioned** to approve publishing November 10<sup>th</sup> BoH Meeting minutes as edited. Susan Sama seconded motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Carol Bradford Motioned** to adjourn meeting at 4:52 PM. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn at 4:52 PM passed 3-0-0.