

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 14, 2021

Attendees: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Patricia Moran-PH Nurse, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Robert Lazo-Health Inspector, Beth Porter-Health Admin. Sue Berry-Budget Comm. Liaison, Janie Dretler-Select Board Liaison, Jen Roberts-Select Board Liaison, Kay Bell-Disabilities Comm, Lynn Puorro-Sudbury TV, Mark Thompson-IT. Abby Stoller-SW Intern, Jamie Harsip-SW Intern, Rebecca Whitley-SW Intern, Residents:Stephanie Lombardi, Scott Lombardi, Donna Morris, Laurie Eliason, Theresa Mahoney, Melinda Schultz, Ed Mitiguy, Taryn Trexler, Melinda Manente, Dr. Polergrade

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

Patty Moran: Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID: Delta Variant surging. 60 confirmed cases, 9 probables, 39 contact. Of the 69 Confirmed and probables, 2 cases were less than 10 years of age, 17 cases were ages 10 – 20 years of age, 15 cases were 20 – 30 years of age. The majority of the 39 contacts were 20 years old or younger. Current rates of positive cases are approaching the highest surge of the pandemic. Sudbury is experiencing break thru cases at high rates. Middlesex County is considered an area of high transmission by the Center for Disease Control. The Community Tracing Collaborative has been taking some Sudbury cases. Patty has kept an open line of communication with the CTC supervisor and case follow up is satisfactory.

COVID and Businesses: All sectors are notifying the BoH of COVID positives and are seeking COVID guidance. Guidelines are sector specific which causes confusion. Preschools and daycares follow ESE and EEC guidelines separate from DESE which governs public schools The DESE guidelines that the public schools follow are confusing. There are different definitions of close contacts that are in school and close contacts that are outside of school.

CDC redefines COVID cases: 90 days after test positive, if an individual becomes re-infected it is considered a new case.

Long Term Care Facilities: are showing COVID positive cases in staffers but not residents.

Lyme and Anaplasmosis: cases have been creeping up. Residents are urged to protect against ticks and mosquitos.

Sudbury Face Covering Mandate: Sept 1, 2021 public indoor buildings and all private indoor spaces open to the public require occupants to mask. The mandate follows both CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines. Susan Sama believes that these measures should be in place to help keep schools and businesses open. The mandate helps to protect the unvaccinated and immunosuppressed residents. Transmission of COVID is at its highest at the start of infection. Vaccination helps with minimizing hospital visits and deaths. But break thru infections are increasing. Linda Huet-Clayton sees the mandate as necessary for the following reasons: protection for the unvaccinated, unsure about the long term effects of COVID-19, Sudbury is not a singular community. Many people who live in other communities, that have high rates of transmission, work, shop and are schooled in Sudbury.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 14, 2021

Patty Moran: Public Health Nurse Update Continued:

Sudbury Face Covering Mandate: Carol Bradford noted that although staff have challenges when working with preschoolers the benefits far outweigh minor issues with mask endurance and hygiene.

Stephanie Lombardi 36 Barbara Rd. – requested that the Board roll back the mandate to an advisory. Her argument against the mandate would be that young children experience delays and growth in development suppressed by not seeing social queues. She asks that the minimum age be lifted to 5 years of age.

VOTE: Carol Bradford motioned to maintain mask mandate as is and will re-visit at next meeting following cases and metrics. Sama seconded motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

VOTE: Susan Sama motioned to use CDC risk rate of “Low” for 2 consecutive weeks to rescind mask mandate to advisory. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Bill Murphy-Health Director Update:

Stone Road: Securing and demolition of abandoned home. Process is under way. Court hearing scheduled for next week to determine course of action. Property owner will be given the opportunity to speak on their own behalf.

Share Services Grant: Weston was on-boarded. 7 communities are now included in the Shared Services grant. The inter-municipal agreement, drafted by K & P, was distributed to towns for review and approval. Some immediate services that will need to be provided are contact tracing and nursing. Epidemiologists and nurses are an important factor to a proactive public health approach.

Mosquitos: Late Season. West Nile Virus has been identified in Middlesex County. There have been human cases reported. Monitoring continues along with relevant state notifications. No EEE cases have been identified to date.

Rob Lazo – Health Inspector Update:

Training continues. Food Inspections are being done at convenience stores. Smaller septic repairs are being inspected.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update:

Interns: An intern that was scheduled to complete internship in Spring of 2022 has accepted another internship. Bethany has on-boarded 4 new interns.

Metro West Foundation Grants: \$20,000.00 Grant will be used to pay for laptops and training. A second Grant for \$30,000.00 will be used to pay a stipend to the interns. Both grants have been accepted by the Select board.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 14, 2021

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update Continued:

Cases: There has been a 36% percent increase in cases from last month. The Social Worker queue continues to be reprioritized as cases pour in. Bethany would like to convey appreciation to Sudbury residents for their patience.

Areas of Insecurities Identified: Rent/housing, cell phone payments, internet payment/access, utilities and food. Single parents are overwhelmed and elders are isolated.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.