

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting 10/26/2021

Attendees: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Patty Moran-Public Health Nurse, Beth Porter-Health Admin, Janie Dretler-Select Board, Jen Roberts-Select Board, Kay Bell-Disabilities Comm, Dan-Carty, Ken Bettenhauser, Stephanie Lombardi, Derek Acheson, Lana Szcwarc, Laura Eliason, Scott Lombardi, Amy Bevan, Bob Haarde, Theresa Mahoney, Stacie Gulko, Melinda

4:00 Meeting called to Order

4:01: Open Comments: None

Patty Moran-Public Health Nurse Update

COVID Rates and Trends: Increase in positive cases in the past 2 weeks. There are currently 44 cases. Most positives are detected via SPS pool testing. Significant transmission through families. Largest demographic of COVID positives are kids under the age of 12. The second largest demographic are the parents.

Middlesex County COVID Stats: Incidence rates are trending upward. According to the CDC Sudbury is currently rated a High Transmission area. Department of Education and Secondary Education announced today that the schools will be mandated to continue wearing masks thru January 15th 2022.

Transmissions: Jen Roberts asked Patty Moran if there is a pattern surfacing as to how the kids are contracting COVID. The short answer is that there are no concrete patterns. Patty feels that because COVID mimics so many other illnesses, like flu, allergies, and colds that if it were not for pool testing most families would not know that they had COVID. Many families can be asymptomatic for some time before testing positive, allowing for time to spread the virus.

Mask Mandate: Susan Sama is still in favor of the mandate in order to keep schools and businesses open. She noted that there are layers of protection that keep infection from spreading. Masks and pool testing are instrumental to keeping COVID numbers down in the schools. Many people are out in public who are unknowingly asymptomatic and spreading infection. Hopefully with increased vaccination, numbers will continue to trend down.

Residents Comments about Mask Mandates: Stephanie Lombardi stated that there have been about 600 deaths in children under the age of 18 nationally. COVID is not listed as the primary cause of death. Source unknown. Ms. Lombardi wants to see the Sudbury mask mandate lifted for children ages 5 and under. Ken Bettenhauser feels that the mandate is unnecessary given the current COVID numbers in Sudbury. Both residents are urging the Board to vote to change the mask Mandate to exclude children 5 and under. Kay Bell is in support of the mandate. Several residents used the Q & A to voice approval of the mask mandate.

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Board's Position On Mask Mandate: Carol Bradford asked if the board would like to vote to align the mandate with EEC (Early Education) guidelines. The EEC strongly encourages the use of masks for children years 5 and under but does not mandate it. Linda Huet-Clayton feels that we are so close to young kids getting vaccinated that keeping the mandate makes sense. Susan Sama would like to continue to follow the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines. No Vote was initiated due to 2 board members not in favor of eliminating the mandate.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:49 PM.