

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 10th, 2022

Attendees: Carol Bradford - Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton - Board Member, Susan Sama - Board Member, William (Wilhelm) Murphy - Health Director, Patty Moran - Public Health Nurse, Beth Porter - Health Admin, Jen Roberts - Select Board, Janie Dretler - Select Board, Kay Bell - Council on Aging, Lynn Puorro - Sudbury TV

Meeting Commenced at 4:05 PM

Public Comments: None

Patty Moran - Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID-19 Cases doubled in April. Positives were predominantly school age children and their parents. Probable cases were identified thru the schools. The increase in cases was attributed to April vacation and travel. There were prolonged absences from day cares because of infection and exposures from siblings. Most cases are identified as the Omicron Variant. Jen Roberts inquired where Patty is currently getting her data from. Patty uses the MDPH reporting for confirmed and probable cases. Patty cautioned that not all cases are reported, so the numbers are not reflective. Sudbury has lower numbers than other communities in Middlesex County. Wastewater is evaluated for viral load for the county and these numbers have plateaued.

Masks: Some communities have upgraded masking advisories to masking mandates because of the sharp rise in cases.

Anti-Viral: Anti-viral medication for Omicron seems to help in mitigating symptoms.

Vaccinations: The vaccination rate has not changed. Some of the children have met the timeline of getting boosted. Home Bound Vaccination Program thru MDPH has been working well. There is only a 3 day wait period from notification to the home visit. Vaccines have been effective at mitigating severe sickness and spread. Seniors seem to be least affected by COVID because they are fully boosted.

Schools: Since April vacation there have been 217 positives. Pool testing began after vacation. The biggest challenge is how quickly COVID spreads among families.

Flu: Because people were less focused on getting the flu vaccines we have seen an increase in cases this spring. Patty is trying to decide if moving flu clinics up to September will help with keeping flu numbers down this fall.

Camps: Camp applications and manuals have been coming in. Patty is working with Robert Lazo (Health Inspector) to get him up to speed with camp procedures and inspections. Because of the recent rise in COVID cases, many camps are reaching out for assistance in putting procedures in place to keep kids safe. It is important to stress that parents should not send symptomatic children to camp and to test kids prior to the start of camp.

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William Murphy – Health Director Update:

Public Health Shared Excellence Grant: Interviewing for open positions begun. Full time nursing position has been interviewed and we are waiting for a response. An epidemiologist has been hired and will work with the Health Boards and Health Departments. Purchasing has begun for supplies, electronics, software etc. Beth Porter is working on the financial portion of the grant. A stipend for processing grant money has been requested.

COVID Test Kits: Kits were distributed to each of the town public buildings before town meeting so that residents can pick up kits and test prior to attending the meeting. Mr. Murphy would like to get test kits out to underserved residents and families with school aged kids. Linda Huet-Clayton recommended Misketaquid, Longfellow Glen and the Coolidge.

Metro West Free Medical Clinic: Sudbury held the MWC at Beth El for many years prior to the pandemic. It closed during COVID and has not come back to Sudbury for re-opening.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day After Action: Mr. Murphy thanked the Board members and Health department employees for working HHHWCD on May 7th, 2022. There were issues with the vendor with cancelling the original collection date of April 9th 2 days before the event. We will start looking into collaborating with other towns to hold more dates and make HHHWCD more accessible to residents.

Sewataro: A process for mitigating algae has been the biggest challenge before opening. The State is in the process of issuing a statewide policy for ponds of this type (even though there are not many). DPH does not encourage the use of algaecides. If the use of algaecides is required to control blooms etc. what would the procedure be for application and testing for safety? A one week closure and sufficient favorable testing is required.

Abandoned Properties: One owner of an abandoned property has been granted legal authority to enter the secured property to retrieve items with documentation from a structural engineer. Another property has been claimed by a relative who currently has executorship over the property.

Tobacco Compliance Checks: Were conducted for 2022. Sudbury has had 6 consecutive years without any infractions.

Vacation: Bill will be out the last 2 weeks of June. Health Department employees will be planning time off this summer and ensuring office coverage. Health Department employees need some well-deserved vacation time this summer.

Minutes: Susan Sama motioned to approve Board of health Meeting Minutes from April, 12th 2022 as edited. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Next Meeting scheduled for June 14th 2022.

Motion: Linda Huet-Clayton Motioned to adjourn meeting at 4:47 PM