



BOH MEETING MINUTES 11-9-2020

Attending via TEAMS Conference Call
Call # 1 617-433-9462, Conference ID: 507 935 122#
Joseph Tennyson, MD, Chair
Jim Griffin, Vice-Chair
Robin Williams, Member

Also in attendance: Director John Garside, Public Health Nurse Michelle Andrade, and Clerk Tina Nolin

Meeting called to order 6:30 pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for October 13, 2020 meeting: Member Williams motioned to approve the minutes and place on file, Chairman Tennyson seconded the motion, Board roll call vote was 3-0 to approve the October 13th, 2020 minutes and place on file.

New Business

- **Discussion & Update of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Director Garside updated the Board on the recent activities of the Health Department regarding COVID-19.

- As of this meeting, the City has had 1543 cases since February 1, 2020, 1412 people have recovered, and there have been 72 deaths. We currently have 59 active cases, with the average age among active cases being 33 years. There are no cases in long term care facilities at this time.
- We are currently reporting 18.1 cases per 100K population, while the State as a whole reports 15.3K cases per 100K population. Marlborough's positivity rate today is 3.29%, whereas the State positivity rate is 1.84%.
- Last week the State changed the risk categorization definitions, and Marlborough slid from the red (highest risk category) to the yellow (medium risk category). According to the new categorizations, if the cases in a city of our size (10K-50K population) are greater than or equal to 10 per 100K population, OR we have a positivity rate greater than or equal to 5%, we will stay in the yellow. If cases become greater than or equal to 10 per 100K population, AND our positivity rate is greater than or equal to 5%, we will move into the red.
- Other changes from the State include earlier restaurant closing times. Now the last serving of alcohol or food is at 9:30 pm, with restaurants having to close to in-person dining at 10:00 pm. Restaurants may remain open until their usual closing time for takeout and delivery. Package stores are also required to close at 9:30 pm.
- Director Garside updated the Board on the COVID-19 numbers at the Marlborough Public Schools (MPS). Currently, they have 1500 students, out of 4500, learning in person. Grades K-2nd and ESL classes are back in school, and the special needs children have continued to come in for classes as always. Tomorrow night at its meeting, the school committee will be discussing how to best move forward with regards to in-school vs. remote learning from now through the new year.

- The current number of cases at the Marlborough Public Schools are as follows.

School	Positives	Quarantine
Kane Elementary	0	2
Richer Elementary	1	0
ECC	0	0
Jaworek Elementary	0	10
Goodnow Elementary	2	13
Whitcomb Jr High	1	6
Marlborough High	0	2

- Assabet is still operating in the hybrid model. As of today, they have only one student in quarantine.
- Marlborough Hospital says they are still doing well and have not seen a new surge of in-patients with COVID-19.
- Chairman Tennyson reported that Leominster Hospital currently had 16 COVID-19 cases in the hospital, with five of them in the ICU and two on ventilators. This amounts to a significant upswing in cases, many related to the church outbreak in Fitchburg.
- Director Garside also reported that the Health Department had sent out a robocall before Halloween with reminder tips and is now switching to Thanksgiving messaging. This messaging will center around safe practices for Thanksgiving and limiting gathering sizes in households.

Director's Update

- We have completed two more of our flu clinics, one at 250 Main Street for senior housing, and the other was our city employee clinic at City Hall.
- Next week the public health nurses will be going into the schools to provide flu shots to the kids to help meet Gov. Baker's mandate for having all school-age children vaccinated for flu by December 31st. We are formalizing those clinics now, and we will be doing a couple more in December.
- On two days next week, we will be giving flu vaccinations to employees in the Fire Department.
- Our two COVID-19 Ambassadors have started working. One of them speaks Spanish and the other Portuguese. It is anticipated that they will add a good dimension to what we do and augment community connections and reach. They already seem to have a real connection with the community. They had a great event at Spirit Halloween on Halloween morning and were able to get masks and sanitizer out there as well as our messaging shirts. It's been useful also to get back into our retail locations and housing complexes.

- Director Garside reported on changes with the Stop the Spread COVID testing sites due to coming colder weather. AFC Urgent Care has moved to the Trade Center as of last Saturday (11/7/2020) conducting tests indoors versus having people stay in their cars. They have set up the space with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.
- The APW van is still located at Hudson St. and conducting drive-up testing. The City has supplied them with a heated trailer to work out of this winter.
- The Director and public health nurse Andrade reported a Chicken Pox outbreak in an infant room at one of the City's daycares. The first child was sent home, and then two other children broke out with it. Two additional children were spared but had to be out from day 7 to day 21. As reported by the parents, except for the daycare, they had not traveled or gotten together with anyone. None of the children were from Marlborough.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Director Garside reported Raising Cane, a chicken chain restaurant, is coming into town at 141 Boston Post Rd W. It will be a while before they open as they are tearing down the existing building and putting up a new building.
- Indo Labs, a new marijuana testing lab located at 257 Simarano Drive, had its health department inspection today. They have their provisional permit from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) and expect to have their final permit from the CCC on 11/18/2020. They have received their special permit from City Council, and their hosting agreement is in place, so they are ready to start within the next few weeks.
- The department attended the virtual Tobacco Control Collaborative meeting today, and the Director of the collaborative will most likely attend our next meeting to introduce herself to the Board.

ADJOURN

Vice-chairman Griffin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm; Member Williams seconded the motion; the roll call vote was 3-0 in favor to adjourn.

The next meeting of the Board will be on December 7th at 6:30 pm. Attendance will continue to be remote via Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Joseph Tennyson

12/07/2020
Dated

Cc: Board of Health Members
City Council, City Clerk, and City of Marlborough Website