

Dover Board of Health COVID - 19 Meeting - January 20, 2022

Held remotely - via zoom - meeting recorded

Members present: Professor Gerald Clarke, Chairman, Dr. Stephen Kruskall; Dr. Kay Petersen

1. Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.
2. News Items relevant to COVID
 - Wastewater testing is catching on elsewhere and the information is used to educate the public. In larger populated areas Biobot Analytics reports wastewater testing is more accurate.
 - In Massachusetts hospital cases are falling; there are fewer staff shortages
 - The Biden Administration will distribute 2 free Rapid Antigen Test Kits per family by mail and there may be free masks, on-line Government and Postal sites are now available to order Rapid Antigen Kits.
3. Update from Public Health Nurse Kaiser:
The past 8 days had a total of 53 COVID cases
 - up to 18 years of age - 25 cases
 - 19 - 39 years of age - 8 cases
 - 40 - 60 years of age - 15 cases
 - ages 61 and up - 5 cases
 - Contact tracing continues in schools and childcare centers.
4. Nurse Kaiser will be on leave in the next couple of weeks at which time Nurse Brooks will take on her role, as well as another full time nurse. There are 2 contact tracers on Tuesday and Fridays
5. DPH Webinar: 95% Omicron in Genotyping being done has been stable the past couple of weeks.
6. The Rapid Antigen Test Kit order for the Town of Dover has been submitted and has been shipped to the town
7. Health and Hygiene Committee Update
 - A lot of testing is being done in the schools approximately 20 cases per day
 - Students with symptoms are being tested by the school nurse. The AFC drive-up testing at Regional Schools continues for anyone of any age in town.
 - Dr. Matt Vitale Sherborn Board of Health reports most of the spread is in households,
 - The testing sites are reporting that open slots from cancellations are not being utilized as they become available due to residents canceling too late.
 - High School and Middle school students who have tested positive have been most likely infected in social gatherings rather than from attending school.

8. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommends ending the Test and Stay Program and to do no further pool testing as it shows only a 20% positivity rate. Focus should remain on testing students with symptoms
9. Early Education and Care
 - A new program for childcare centers now suggests they may choose one or all of the following options: test students with symptoms, test the whole class, or weekly pool testing on site
 - The state will supply test material and offer a training video. Dr. Petersen will email the Dover childcare centers with this information.
10. There was a discussion about the Dover/Sherborn Boosters on their outdoor events in May, the 10K race and breakfast as well as the Sept. 18, 2022 triathlon. The Board raised concerns on social distancing and the possibility of gatherings before and after these events.
11. Mark Ghiloni, Director of Parks and Recreation reported
 - The winter programs were going well. Students in the art class were being spread out with 3 - 4 tables and wearing masks. No snack time.
 - The indoor classes at the Caryl Community Center are 12 students per class.
 - Gym class and basketball are more challenging with closer contact.
 - It is unknown where the Spring/Summer dance, music, and tae kwon do classes will be held at this time.
 - Dr. Kruskall would like an update on indoor spring classes
12. Professor Clarke made a motion seconded by Dr. Petersen to retain the Mask Mandate Order of September 13, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
13. The meeting was open to the public for comment. Carol Lisbon commended the Board for its continued diligence and efforts on COVID.
14. Dr. Petersen and Dr. Kruskall will review each other's drafts for the town report later today.
15. Rapid Antigen Test Kits
 - Tests are due to arrive anytime; 2000 kits are expected.
 - Distribution by the Board of Health will be discussed tonight at the Board of Selectmen meeting
 - Schools, seniors, and health status will take high priority as part of the distribution process.
 - It was suggested that 50% of the total tests go to the seniors
16. Dr. Kruskall wants a secure site for the storage of the kits, the Town House or possibly the Police Department. Security and proper room temperature must be considered.

17. Dr. Petersen will speak with the Police Chief to see if a plan could be developed with a possible weekend distribution of the Rapid Antigen Tests.

18. Rapid Antigen Test Breakdown

- 400 kits - will go to the schools as a reserve; Jill Fedor RN,BSN School Nurse reports the schools have a current stockpile available
- 100 kits - for the 3 Childcare Centers
- 100 kits - for town employees
- 800 kits - for the Council on Aging
- 600 kits - available at the BOH

19. Professor Clarke spoke with the Postmaster of the Dover Post Office, strongly recommending the use of masks. Employees are wearing masks but the postmaster will not police the customers.

20. Messaging: information for the residents will include free antigen tests that are available through the town, and how to obtain tests from the US postal site, and other government sites.

21. At 11:18 am, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.