

Dover Board of Health Meeting - February 11, 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 8:01 a.m.

2. Draft minutes of the meeting of January 3, 2022, were reviewed and minor modifications were made by Drs. Petersen and Kruskall. Motion to accept the minutes of January 3, 2022 made by Dr. Petersen, Chairperson Clarke seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as so modified passed unanimously.

3. Dr. Petersen reported about COVID cases in Dover.
 - DPH report:
 - There were 35 new cases 1/23-2/5/202. During the previous two week period there were 40 cases.
 - The average daily incidence/100,000 was 48.7, down from 55.7 during the previous reporting period.
 - Test positivity rate was 7.59%, down from 8.48%.
 - Public Health Nurse report:
 - February 3-10: 12 cases with no hospitalizations or deathsHome testing results are not included in either report.

School data 2/4-2/11 (8 days): 22 cases (mean 3.1 cases/day), 1/29-2/3 (6 days): 25 cases (mean 4.2 cases/day)

Wastewater analysis by Biobot shows rapidly declining viral signal.

Dr. Kruskall noted that the statistics for Dover and the school system are consistent with both statewide and national trends.

4. The Board discussed the mask mandate in publicly-accessible buildings in Dover. Dr. Kruskall stated his support for repealing the mandate in commercial buildings at this time and moved that: "The Board of Health, as of today, February 11th relieves the obligation for mandatory masking in those publicly accessible buildings that house commercial establishments. Nevertheless, the Board of Health advises those in such facilities to continue masking on a voluntary basis." Chairperson Clarke seconded, and there being no objection, the motion passed.

5. Dr. Petersen reported on the distribution of rapid antigen tests yesterday at the Transfer Station. There was lower demand compared with the week before. She suggested developing a plan to distribute the remaining tests through the COA and the BOH office with a publicity campaign to inform residents of the availability of the test kits.

6. Dr. Petersen informed the Board that the Health and Hygiene Committee of the Dover/Sherborn school system has advised the Superintendent to continue the school masking requirement until March 7th.

7. Community Paradigm Report - Dr Petersen has held discussions with the Warrant Committee regarding expanding the BOH budget to accommodate proposed changes recommended in the report. Chairperson Clarke indicated his support for a new online permitting system recommended in the report. Discussion occurred regarding the job description and responsibilities of the new position of Health Agent which is recommended in the report. Sources of funding for this new position were discussed.

8. A discussion occurred regarding the responsibilities and funding of the position of Public Health Nurse which was also recommended in the report. The consultants also recommended that the position of part-time Administrative Assistant be made permanent.

9. Transfer Station Swap Shop - Dr. Kruskall stated that construction on the new area was proceeding but the copious black mold in the existing ceiling was not yet remediated. He stated that he did not favor the BOH approving public use of that enclosed space as a swap shop until the mold problem was remediated.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 am