

Dover Board of Health COVID- 19 Meeting - February 24, 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 9:02 a.m.
2. Motion made by Chairman Clarke, seconded by Dr. Petersen to approve and amend meeting minutes from 2-3-2022 and 2-11-2022 as modified. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Dr. Petersen gave an update from Public Health Nurse Brooks:
 - 2 COVID cases were reported in the Town of Dover last week.
 - The DPH 7 day average continues to drop, in hospitals and ICUs. Death count continues to decrease.
 - Biobot Analytics reports an average decline in wastewater testing, stable at a low rate but not quite as low as last June/July
4. COVID case breakdown by age - 6 total cases
 - Up to 18 years of age - 1 case
 - 18 - 39 years - 3 cases
 - 39 - 60 years - 1 case
 - 60 years and up - 1 case
5. Dr. Matt Vitale's data report indicates Dover has a higher COVID case rate than Sherborn.
6. Dr. Kruskall had questions about email from Nurse Brooks and if there was a need to use a secured site.
7. The Walpole Natick VNA contract still has not been renewed. Dr. Petersen is looking into a follow up discussion with Elaine Stephens, Chief Executive Officer Walpole Natick VNA.
8. Dr. Petersen gave an update on the nursery schools: There were 8 COVID cases in total, students and faculty. All of those cases were reported in late December and early January.
 - Noanet Nursery School - Kristen Dennison reported there was no pool testing; plenty of tests available.
 - Precious Beginnings - Rick Garron prefers to continue with masks; needs more rapid antigen tests; no pool testing.

- Center for Development of Children - Sandy Blinn 3 year olds speech may be affected by mask use; concerns for family members with children not vaccinated. Sandy prefers to not have an optional mask policy. Most parents test Monday mornings.
9. The Board is recommending the mask mandate continue at the nursery schools through 3/7/2022, when the Board will revisit the need for the mask mandate.
 10. The Board also offered additional rapid antigen testing kits to the nursery schools.
 11. The EEC has advised nursery schools to look to their local Board of Health for support as we move forward with mask mandates.
 12. Professor Clarke indicated there will be more rapid antigen tests available through PHEP funding.
 13. Mask Mandate: Dr. Petersen made a motion to maintain the current mask mandate in municipal buildings, seconded by Dr. Kruskall. The motion passed unanimously.
 14. The Board of Health has received 2000 Rapid Antigen Test Kits and 500 were distributed to Dover residents and employees. There are more tests available for Dover residents at the BOH office. There may be another distribution of tests at the Transfer Station at a later date at which time a table and sign would be provided. Bob Tosi will be consulted on this event.
 15. Professor Clarke has replied multiple times to the Middle School request for a speaker. He has received no response.
 16. The Swap Shop continues to have a problem with black mold. Selectman Robert Springett is working on remediating the issue. When the Swap Shop opens it should be viewed as an enclosed structure and municipal building with the current mask mandate in effect.
 17. Community Paradigm Associates
 - The Board is in support of the following recommendations: full- time Health Agent, part-time Public Health Nurse, full time administrative position and permanent part- time administrative assistant.
 - Professor Clarke and the Board expressed concerns on the suitability of some of the towns used for comparison.
 - While the Board strongly supports this report, there are sections in which the Board would like some further clarifications. They will discuss the matter with the consultants.

18. Chairman Clarke requested that the Board go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.
19. At 10:50 am it was moved and seconded by roll call vote to move into executive session and not return to open session. The motion was approved unanimously.