

Dover Board of Health COVID Meeting Minutes - October 7, 2021

Held remotely via Zoom

Participants: Professor Clarke, Chair; Stephen Kruskall, M.D., Kay Petersen, M.D. members

1. Meeting called to order 9:00 am
2. Review mask mandate order - After the Board examined the most recent number of cases in Dover, Sherborn, Middlesex and Norfolk counties, and the State, the Board decided to leave the order in place at this time.
3. Dr. Petersen read an email from Nurse Kaiser in which she stated that she was in agreement with the mask mandate as it is in line with the CDC's recommendation to wear a mask indoors due to the highly contagious Delta variant and in the best interest of the public.
4. Selectman Jeffries commented that the mask mandate policy is inconsistent with that of some surrounding towns. He noted that Dover is not densely populated and suggested that the order be changed to an advisory.
5. Dr. Petersen stated that Governor Baker has decided to grant jurisdiction for mask mandates to local authorities and the responsibility of the Board is to use its best judgement to keep the public safe.
6. The COA Director joined the meeting to get recommendations from the Board regarding safety measures for upcoming programming. Of concern was the issue that the senior population was among the first to get vaccinated and could be less protected with boosters just starting to become available. Programs with food were not recommended as all indoor programs would require masking. It was acknowledged that food brings in participants and socialization is especially important for seniors. The risk of contracting COVID with potential for serious illness and death supersedes any beneficial indoor programming at the Senior Center.
7. The Children's Library Director had questions for the Board regarding moving the story time and activities program back into the Library's Community Room as meeting outdoors becomes more challenging at this time of year. The Board recommended that food not be served and that the school protocols be followed.
8. There was a discussion about multiple committees in town working on water issues, potentially leading to duplication of effort and raising confusion as to who has authority.
9. Review of the town house protocols recommendations:
 - Delete the the cleaning and disinfection clause
 - Delete testing out of isolation

10. The Superintendent of Streets will be invited to a meeting to discuss sanitation issues at the transfer station.
11. At 11:25 am it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.