



**Chelmsford Board of Health
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Zoom - 6:15 p.m., Tuesday May 4, 2020**

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TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
PATRICIA E. DZURIS
TOWN CLERK

Attending:

Board Members: Annmarie Roark
Eric Meikle, MD

Staff: Susan M. Rosa, Health Director
Donna Greenwood, Departmental Assistant

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:18pm
Zoom Session

Approval of Minutes

Upon Motion made by Eric Meikle to accept minutes, seconded by Annmarie Roark, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the Board of Health Meeting for March 2, 2020 and March 27, 2020.

New Business- Covid 19 Update

Update on Covid- 19

As of noon today May 4, 2020, there are 269 confirmed cases in town. Of the 269 cases 179 are active. The 269 confirmed means that they are laboratory confirmed.

The Board of Health continues to provide guidance to residents who have tested positive for Covid-19 and we do continuous follow up with each resident. We also contact the positive cases' close contacts and continue follow up with each contact.

Discussion on Elderly Housing Living Centers in town – The Board of Health is in close contact with each elderly housing facility each day. They are doing a wonderful job trying to control this highly contagious virus.

The Palm Center did get hit hard with the virus. They have been in close contact with us constantly. They are doing everything they need to be doing. The Palm Center is working closely with us, the state, and the National Guard to try to get enough testing to test all residents and staff members.

We are hoping to be able to get all elderly facilities to test all residents and staff very soon.

Governor Baker on Friday, May 1, 2020 has made the wearing of masks mandatory effective this Wednesday May 6, 2020. Enforcement will be by Board of Health and law enforcement. There is a civil ticket process in place if necessary. We hope to not have to use it. First time would be a discussion to help educate.

Anyone can purchase a mask online or you tube has videos on how to make one.

It is required to have one outside if you are not able to be 6 feet apart from others.

Stores are to enforce masks with employees and customers. Children under 2 do not need to wear a mask.

Also, if someone has a medical condition, they would not need to wear a mask.

You should not wear one in the car if alone.

You can wear gloves; the key is to dispose of them properly. You still need to use sanitizer, as you take the gloves off.

Example: If you are out at 5am walking and no one is around you -do you need a mask? No, you do not need a mask. If someone comes within in 6 feet of you then you would put on a mask.

Emergency team meeting: We meet daily on Zoom calls to discuss all updates. Attendees are the Board of Health Director, Town Manager, Assistant town manager, Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief. We follow Governor Baker, DPH, and CDC guidelines.

As of today, May 4, 2020 Sue Rosa is on a Team to discuss how to open town buildings. The Town hall, library, senior center, etc. The committee will be basing decisions on guidance from the Governor, DPH, CDC. Paul is also involved in MA municipal group. Everyone is speaking to each other.

Is there a common denominator on those that are testing positive? There is no rhyme or reason. We did have the one cluster at The Palm Center, but not any other clusters. Although 60 years old plus is the risk, we have had cases from 3 weeks old to 101 years old. It is hard to find a pattern. High risk is typically those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Community Hospitals – Have plenty of ventilators and rooms are available. They do have the capacity to handle patients at this time.

With stay at home, all Pediatricians of Greater Lowell want to ensure all children are receiving their normal routine vaccinations.

Daycares – Specific ones are open if cleared by state to take care of essential workers only. IE; Knowledge Beginnings in town is one of those. They reached out recently to discuss how to handle masks with the kids. They are following strict guidelines.

The Board of Health as a group is truly trying to keep our community's health in the forefront. We are following DPH and CDC guidelines. If people have questions, we are taking calls and emails. Office is also doing normal activities.

As businesses open by Governor Baker– We would imagine social distancing, masks , plexi glass, etc would still need to be in place. Businesses will need to keep this in mind.

Discussion on products being delivered; how long could Covid-19 be on the product.

Soft fiber – 2 to 3 hours; hard plastic and metal – 24 hours.

The suggestion is to leave the package in an entryway for 3 hours and then should not be contagious.

Plastic and metal leave out for longer than 24 hours or use cleaner to wipe it down.

Old Business: At this time, we will bypass this on the agenda to give them more time.

Motion to Adjourn:

Upon Motion made by Eric Meikle, seconded by Annmarie, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:02Pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: *June 1, 2020 - 6:15pm:*

Location - TBD