

WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, September 15, 2021
3:00 PM – 5:11 PM
Weston Town Hall – Lower Conference Room

Present: Laura Azzam - Chair
Dr. David Kominz - Member
Dr. Jennifer Kickham - Member
Michele Fronk Schuckel MBA, BSN, RN – COVID-19 Response Manager, BOH Public Health Nurse
Kelly Pawluczzonek, RS, MS - Public Health Director
Beth Ann Boles – Health Agent
Michelle Hubbard – Administrative Assistant, Meeting minutes
Michael Nurczynski – Resident of 8 Hemlock Road

I. Residents' Concerns

Resident Michael Nurczynski brought up a few issues that he has been discussing with Kelly and Michele. His first concern was the children at public schools are segregated at recess and being assigned specific areas on the playground. He stated that outdoors should be a time of normalcy for the children and wanted to know if the Board of Health had assigned these guidelines. Michele Schuckel advised him that the schools make their own guidelines and that they are allowed to be stricter than the Board of Health guidelines, but not less strict. She informed Michael that some of the segregated recess was done pre-pandemic due to staffing issues, but during the pandemic it helps with contact tracing. The school may pull back on some of their guidelines based on the numbers. Michael's second concern was the Woodland school cafeteria and the separators between the students. He suggested that students be able to eat outside at picnic tables or in tents like the middle school and high school students. Michele stated that the schools may pull back on train style dining and desk separators, as neither are required by the DPH. As far as the dining outside with picnic tables and tents, it may not be feasible due to staffing issues. Michael's final concern was visitor access to the school with classes back in session. Visitor policy is more than likely due to vaccination status. Michael requested that the Board of Health share their thoughts with the superintendent, Dr. Midge Connolly and the school committee.

II. Meeting Minutes

No minutes to approve at this time.

III. COVID-19 Report - Michele Fronk Schuckel MBA, BSN, RN – COVID-19 Response Manager, BOH Public Health Nurse – Nursing Report Update

All counties in Massachusetts are in the high transmission area, with 80-90% of this being the Delta variant. 26 new positive cases have been reported between August 22 and September 4. There was a 2% increase in vaccinations in Middlesex County since August 4. More people are doing at home tests with the isolation timeline still being 10 days for a positive result. There has been a high rate of breakthrough cases. In July there were 57 cases associated with Weston. In August there were 73. And as of September 13, there were 31. These numbers include residents of the town, as well employees, students, etc. who do not live in Weston but are associated through other events such as work or school. There were no deaths from COVID-19 in August. Laura suggested that the COVID-19 guidance chart be placed on the town website.

New campaign “No Shame, No Blame” letting residents know that Weston’s COVID-19 nurses are available for confidential conversations regarding symptoms, test results, or vaccine questions.

The Weston Fire Department will be offering local COVID-19 testing for residents and employees. They cannot currently take insurance. The cost of a PCR test is \$100.

Conversation about how mental health concerns are being triggered by the pandemic. The goal is to talk about these concerns and normalize them and to think of ways to integrate awareness. Possibility of having educational materials at Pumpkin Fest.

IV. Director Monthly Review – Kelly Pawluczzonek, RS, MS – Public Health Director

Kelly spoke about instituting a possible indoor mask mandate for municipal buildings (police station, fire station, town hall, library, council on aging, etc.) as well as anyone 2 and older. The positivity rates are increasing due to the increase of in person contact such as work meetings. The bulk of the transmission in Weston are from social spread or bringing it home. The question then arose about whether it should be an order or an advisory. The advisory would be a recommendation that regardless of vaccination status, masks should be worn inside municipal buildings. Dr. David Kominz moved to issue an advisory for masks to be worn in public places regardless of vaccination status. Jennifer Kickham stated she thinks the advisory makes sense, but would like it to be put on the agenda for the next meeting so that residents can vote on it. Dr. David Kominz rescinded his motion and agreed to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

An emergency condemnation of a home in the town was discussed. The Board of Health issued an emergency order to vacate/condemnation.

There will be a flu clinic on October 13 from 10 AM – 12 PM at the Council on Aging in the Gathering Room. 140 doses of the flu vaccine have been ordered. Mini clinics were also discussed as a possibility for town and school employees. Michele stated that school nurses will not do clinics at the school during school hours, so the clinics would have to be held after hours.

The Shared Services Grant was discussed. The grant amount is \$300,000 a year for 3 years. Sudbury would be the fiscal agent of this grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The grant would be used to hire a full-time inspector, 2 nurses, and a public relations person. Dr. Jennifer Kickham made a motion to support the grant, Dr. David Kominz 2nd. All in favor to support the grant.

No state regulations have been adopted by the Board of Health, and we would like to do this. To be discussed more in depth at the meeting on November 3.

V. Next Meeting

October 6, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

VI. Adjourn

Dr. Jennifer Kickham motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. David Kominz 2nd and Laura Azzam adjourned the meeting at 5:11 PM.