



City of Nashua

Division of Public Health & Community Services
142 Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 9, 2020
12:30 PM

Minutes

Attendees:

Board of Health: Dr. Anthony Storace, Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum

Board of Aldermen: Elizabeth Lu

City Employees: Sandra DeLosa Angela Consentino, Nicole Viau, Ren Beaudoin, Flavia Martin, Heidi Peek Foqia Ijaz and Bobbie D. Bagley.

Guests: Alex Granok, MD (DPHCS Medical Director)

Call to Order: By Board Chair – Dr. Storace

In continued compliance with the Governor’s Safe at Home Order, announcement made of the meeting held via Zoom. Phone numbers provided to call and for support. Meeting ID and number shared with attendees. Zoom meeting recorded.

Role call made by Director- Bobbie D Bagley

Approval July, 2020 Minutes: Minutes approved by board members: Moved by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum and 2nd by Dr. Sorace. All in favor.

Director’s Report.

Overview of report provided by Division Director. Highlights of ongoing initiatives included:

- Received funding for two years in the amount of \$294, 676 from the NH Charitable Foundation to hire two Community Health Workers to support Covid-19 and other Public Health activities in Greater Nashua Region.
- Completion of 1st rotation of UNE Medical Student in Public Health.
- Supplemental changes to face covering ordinance went to the Board of Aldermen for approval.
 - The supplemental changes were approved by Board of aldermen. Director clarified to that face coverings can be removed at gyms if the machines are 6 feet apart.
- The Director was added to the Governor’s Equity Response team to implement strategies and recommendations.
- Appointed to the State Health Improvement Plan Council.

- Appointed to the NH Drug Overdose Review Commission.
 - Surge Control Campaign- promoting a challenge to the Greater Nashua Region to work on controlling the spread of Covid-19.
 - Update on Construction at 18 Mulberry: Demolition began on September 8th. The department is settling well in the new building at 142 Main Street.
- *Director's full report can be found on City Website under September 2020 BOH Meeting Reports*

Department Summaries

1. Community Health

- Nurses and staff continue to focus on testing, education, disease investigation and contact monitoring for Covid-19.
- Update of current cases to date provided: 68 confirmed cases in Nashua with close to 240 contacts investigated.
- Closed investigation on one long term care facility which was going on for three months.
- Investigating three potential cluster outbreaks.
- There were some exposures in early September at youth summer camps and activities.
- Staffing: One Community Health Care worker hired. Position of PHN nurse is open.
- Outreach services: partnered with St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic to host immunization clinic next week. St. Joseph also allowed storing vaccines during moving.
- Partnered with Lamprey Health to run STD clinics starting at the end of September.
- Flu clinics are starting on September 16th in schools.
- 2 phone visits for lead.
 - Q: Do we have a plan for Covid-19 vaccine Moderna as it requires careful handling and storing?
 - A: The State is devising a plan and has done a short survey to check capacities and back up plans to safely store the vaccines. Department will be following all the protocols developed by the state.
 - Q: What can we do for the safety of the flu vaccine as people could be concerned about the side effects of the vaccine?
 - A: The department has been messaging to the community around the safety of the flu vaccine.
 - Q: What can we do to prevent lead risks since children are at home to an extended period of time?
 - A: Information around lead safety was provided at the back to school event in August. 1200 packets were distributed containing information around lead safety.

**Community Health s full report can be found on the City Website under September 2020 BOH meeting reports.*

2. Community Services:

- Ongoing meetings with local hospitals, Nashua Joint Information Center, DPHCS IRT, and City Division Covid-19 Task Forces.
- Working closely with CDC Foundation Communication Specialist to distribute weekly updates to community partners.
- Created a billboard to promote staying at home if sick. Covid-19 testing appointments to online and will post a video to teach people how to do it.
- Back to school messaging included heat safety, breastfeeding, eye health, mental health, lead poisoning.
- CHA survey in English and Spanish-230 English and 15 Spanish.
- Greater Nashua Childhood Lead Poisoning conference at the end of September.
- A billboard focused around Asthma and Covid-19 will be posted From October 5th to November 29th.

3. Epidemiologist:

- Situational update: there were 664 tests were done in the state yesterday and 1.7% were positive. The curve is creeping up a little. It is .6% higher as compared to last week.
- There were 28 new cases per day in the state in the past weeks and less than 1 new case in Nashua.
- There are 7494 cumulative cases in NH and 236 are active. 4121 Cumulative cases in Hillsborough County and 74 are active. 844 cumulative cases in Nashua and 5 are active.
- Overall localized outbreaks of Covid-19 in the country are stabilizing.
- Working on 2020 Community Health Assessment.
- DPHCS was selected as a host site for 2010-2022 CDC Public Health Associate.
 - Q: What is the difference between positive and active cases?
 - A: Positive meaning all the cumulative case even if they are recovered. Active are the one that are sick.
 - Q: Are any of the positive cases asymptomatic?
 - A: About 30% of the cases are asymptomatic.

4. Environmental Health:

- Outreach to licensed food facilities regarding changing requirement, events, issues and general food safety. Reminding them that we are not an enforcement agency but only promoting safer practices.
- Offering guidance for City divisions, departments regarding safe resumption of necessary activities and events.
- Continuing septic and site plan approvals.
- Conducting foster home and child care inspections.
- Working with schools on their reopening plans.
- One position open in the department.

- Educating organizations on how large scale events have to be cancelled and can be done outdoors on a smaller scale. No issues have been reported on those events.
- The major aspects around indoor safety are dilution of air by opening windows/doors and circulating air, filtration of air and sanitizing surfaces.

5. Welfare:

- Total amount of assistance given was \$24,521.80 in the month of August which is significantly down compared to August, 2019.
- The department assisted 8 families in emergency housing placements. Department staff continues to work with Crisis Assessment and Referral, shelter providers and other housing programs to move households out of homelessness.
- Welfare staff refers clients with Covid-19 related rental issues to SNHS. Up to July 1st SNHS have spent \$750,000 of their budget for paying rent and utilities in Nashua.

Other Discussion/Questions

- Board member visited a prominent grocery store and some workers were not wearing masks properly. Complained to the manager. Need to provide messaging to continue wearing masks as people are getting fatigued. NE Journal of Medicine-Sept. 8th Edition-'Variolation' of Covid-19 patients in heavily masked communities. Covid-19 positive patients are asymptomatic e.g. in meat packaging plants workers were disproportionately getting sick with Covid-19 so companies made masking mandatory. Now 95% of the positive cases are asymptomatic. Clarification made on what asymptomatic means. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2026913>

Public Comment: Hearing none – Meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace- 2nd by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2020