



City of Nashua

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

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 14, 2020

12:30 PM

Minutes

Attendees:

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

Board of Aldermen: Elizabeth Lu, Tom Lopez

City Employees: Patricia Glastetter, Sandra DeLosa Angela Consentino, Nicole Viau, Ren Beaudoin, Flavia Martin, Heidi Peek, Bob Mack, Kim Bernard, Jane Goodman, Angela Consentino, Michael Apollo, Patty Crooker, Foqia Ijaz and Bobbie D. Bagley.

Guests: Lisa Gingras, Mike Apfelberg

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

Director's Report.

- Review of Agenda.
- Report that a number of clusters and outbreaks in the city have brought issues for the Health Department.

Report from Epidemiologist:

- As of today we have 38.1 mil cases worldwide. 7.8 mil in US 215k US deaths.
- We are currently experiencing substantial community-level transmission in Nashua... that's defined by the state of NH as exceeding the threshold for 1 out of three indicators, being, new cases per 100k over 14 days, percent positivity, and new hospitalizations.
- Last week in Nashua we had 100 new cases and 214 new contacts, for an average of 14 new cases a day and 30 new contacts a day.

- Gate City Outbreak: 37 confirmed positive cases. 76% are from Nashua, the remaining cases are from surrounding towns. A total of 115 individuals associated with Gate City Church were tested. It was a 10 day service that was attended by a 100 people. Church followed recommendations by the Health Department. People did not wear masks for singing or when they were in their family pods. Contacts from the church should all be out of quarantine by now.

Community Health: Covid-19 outbreaks at 4 locations, one cluster, and 7 are on enhanced monitoring.

Q: Were any protocols broken at those outbreaks?

A: Staff went to lunch together at one outbreak and took off their masks.

Halloween:

- A meeting was held at the City level on October 5th to decide whether Nashua should go ahead with the Halloween or not. Nashua Police asked for guidance around safety procedures. It was decided to go ahead with Halloween as it is an outdoor activity with low risk of exposure to the virus. People should make sure that they wear cloth masks, wash hands frequently, not go out if they are sick and hand out candy in a safe way.
- It was discussed that public officials are under pressure to open things.
- Aldermanic liaison can push forward the recommendations made by the Board of Health to Board of Alderman and will support them in their decisions.
- A letter can be sent to the City establishments and public stating what practices will be acceptable during Halloween. Incidence Response Team can be charged to do that. Alderman Lu can look at it before it is disseminated.

Athletes' Masking:

- Discussion on whether athletes should play sports with or without masks. A person watching a sports match took pictures of athletes playing without masks and sent it to the Board of Education with a complaint. Board of Education responded and called the Athletics Director Lisa Gingras to make wearing masks mandatory for everyone including spectators, coaches and students from both teams at all times. A lot of parents, coaches, and Doctors are upset about it and are writing emails to Lisa Gingras. Some will be canceling games due to this mandate.
- It was discussed that playing sports is important for the mental health and well-being of youth especially during the pandemic as the youth are isolated.
- Lisa pointed out that one athlete had a very high heart rate after running while wearing a mask.
- Mike Apfelberg spoke about the measures that can be taken to protect the athletes. He is willing to advocate for them if they follow a common sense approach. Amount of risk in playing indoor games vs outdoor games. If social distancing is not possible then wear a mask. Discussion on risks vs benefits.
- Dr. Stephanie pointed out that there is no scientific literature that says that playing while wearing masks inhibits oxygen levels. Athletes can leave particles/virus trails while running. Social distance of 6 feet is not enough in these types of scenarios as the particles hang in the air. There is a solid scientific proof that masks prevent exposure. There is also a concern that church outbreak is not over yet. Angela pointed out that the incubation period has been over for the

church outbreak. Bobbie added that there was no connection found between the church outbreak and the students or their family.

- Lisa is looking for guidance specifically for the Cross Country race on Saturday and then in general for the winter sports. Students, parents and coaches are waiting for a decision to be made. They have been educated on the risks of being exposed while playing.
- Decision was made to send out a letter to Lisa that she can disseminate to the school community. Bobbie to draft the letter saying that as long as the athletes wear masks, they can play. All spectators and coaches should be wearing masks.
- A special meeting was scheduled for Thursday October 22nd from 9:00-10:00 am to discuss the rest of the two items on the agenda:
 1. Restaurants Opening Changes
 2. Halloween Messaging/Communication

Public Comment: Hearing none – Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace- 2nd by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum.

Next Meeting: October 22, 2020