



# City of Nashua

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

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 28 2020

9:00 AM

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

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

#### Board of Aldermen:

**City Employees:** Patricia Glastetter, Bobbie Bagley, Rene Beaudoin, Cheryl Linder, Jim Donchess, Flavia Martin, Bob Mack, Tim Cummings, Jeff Poehnert, Patty Crooker, Kim Bernard, Heidi Peek, Steve Bolton, Foqia Ijaz

**Guests:** Lisa Gingras, Mike Apfelberg, Jamal Mosely, Heather Raymond.

#### 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.

Roll call made by Director- Bobbie D Bagley

#### Review of Agenda:

- School sports safety
- New regulation on restaurants opening

#### School Sports Safety:

- Dr. Rosenblum commended the efforts of Health Department and School District. She said that she was impressed by the 25 page document provided by the school district that describes the risks and recommendations in playing sports. Dr. Rosenblum brought forth some additions/amendments to the document.
  - Locker-room safety- Previously, the CDC described a close contact as someone who spent 15 minutes or more within six feet of someone who was infectious. Now, the agency says it’s someone who spent a cumulative 15 minutes or more within six feet of someone who was infectious over 24 hours, even if the time isn’t consecutive.

- It is recommended that buses or public transport not be used for the transport of students to or from sports events. Risk of transmission of virus is doubled if kids are singing or talking loudly and are not wearing masks.
- It is of concern that wrestling matches are allowed without the use of masks.
- Are kids being screened when they travel?
- Trip wires for a change-be prepared to shut down sports if there is a substantial amount of spread.

Dr. Cappetta mentioned that CDC and State have guidelines for locker room safety. Nashua School district can look into the policies of other school Districts that are already open and transporting children to and from schools.

Lisa Gingras answered that the 25 page document is a work in progress. She mentioned that:

- Schools haven't used locker rooms this fall. Some students will be allowed to use locker rooms in winter but with masks and at least 6 ft. distance.
- Buses have been used but only one student in one seat with mask on and no singing or talking allowed. Parents are encouraged to transport students if they can.
- Wrestling matches are allowed only with one opponent and the mats and equipment are disinfected. Athletes are required to take showers. Restrooms and waiting areas are disinfected very regularly according to the recommendations.
- School district is screening students according to NHIAA recommendations. Kids play within their groups. The schools have created cohorts of teams and keep groups consistent.
- Agree with trip wires for a change and will be ready to take action in case there is a surge in community transmission.

Dr. Rosenblum pointed out that Board of Health is not there to craft documents but to provide guidance and to give the public information so they can make informed decisions about the level of risk they are willing to accept.

- In regards to wrestling matches, Covid-19 virus can stay on the skin for 9 hours so sanitizers should be used.
- School district to consider a gap of one week between regional games.
- Use of electronic whistles is recommended.

Motion for a vote of confidence in Lisa Gingras to take guidance from The Board of Health and their own processes and come back to The Board if situation changes made by Dr. Storage. Second by Dr. Cappetta. All in favor.

### **Restaurants Opening:**

- Restaurants are open at 100% capacity from October 1<sup>st</sup> and are allowed to resume entertainment from October 8<sup>th</sup>. State recommends putting nonabsorbent and cleanable barriers between booths.

- Some restaurants had to shut down for a few days due to positive cases in staff and patrons.
- Solo artists are allowed to play at a distance of 8 feet although virus can spread up to a distance of 25 feet and can linger on in the air for up to 3 hours. Barriers can trap virus and can restrict the airflow of Hvac system.
- We have to figure out how to keep businesses open safely and how to educate the restaurants and the public. It is important to give flexibility to the businesses to do business safely.
- Steve Bolton mentioned that City cannot have a recommendation that is in conflict with a higher authority like State. Regulations can be added though. All restaurants are not complying with the regulations by the State. We have to keep in mind that these are not just suggestions and can be enforced by police. We need to educate police and then police in turn can enforce the regulations.
- It was discussed that report cards can be given to the restaurants on key regulations. It is not feasible yet as the electronic system is not developed yet.
- The State has given authority to the Health Officers according to the Executive Order 65 to issue warnings to restaurants if they are not complying with the new regulations.
- BOH can send a letter to the State to look into having a flexible model that allows restaurants to scale back if the spread of virus increases. Same model cannot be applied to densely populated urban areas and the North Country.
- It was mentioned that contact tracing will be easy if restaurants log the names, telephone numbers and the seating allocation of the customers.
- Bobbie to contact the Commissioner regarding the above issues.

Public Comment: Hearing none – Meeting adjourned at 10:48 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storage- 2nd by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum.

**Next Meeting: November 4, 2020**