



City of Nashua

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

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 4, 2020
12:30 PM

Minutes

Attendees:

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

Board of Aldermen:

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

Guests: Kim Haughton

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 October, 2020 Minutes: Approval of minutes tabled till next meeting. Moved by Dr. Storace and second by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum. All in favor.

Report from Environmental Health (EH):

Following concerns were mentioned:

- Covid-19 is transmissible by aerosol and droplets.
- Community exposures are on the rise. State's guidelines are not being met by restaurants.
 - Distancing of tables does not meet CDC guidelines.
 - Some establishments use wicker barriers. Plexi-glass barriers restrict the airflow and can trap the virus. Virus can linger on in enclosed spaces even if the Hvac systems are in place.
- On October 29th, 2020 State announced that restaurants will be required to collect contact information for patrons dining at their establishments beginning on October 31st. EH department has sent out emails to restaurants with this announcement.
- Shout out to the establishments that are trying their best to reduce the risks either by reducing the capacity or by putting up safety measures like Hvac systems.

- EH staff is working tirelessly to give out information and address the concerns of restaurant owners.
- It was clarified 100% occupancy does not mean that restaurants will work at pre Covid-19 capacity. They can seat people with no distancing only if there is a barrier. Social distancing of 6 feet has to be maintained wherever barriers cannot be placed.

Q: Do we have a system to monitor if the restaurants are not following codes?

A: FDA has created a sheet and tries to get the information to the restaurants.

Q: Are you getting calls asking what the guidelines are? How are you communicating with the restaurants?

A: Messages are distributed via email. Sometimes FDA also sends out messages. EH get calls from restaurant owners complaining about patrons not wearing masks. Bars are crowded at night time. Staff finds it difficult to have patrons comply with the regulations.

We are in a difficult situation. BOH can provide the guidelines so that risk can be diminished. The information given to the public should be clear so they can make informed decisions about the level of risk they are willing to take.

Q: Can BOH do anything to recommend guidelines that supersede the recommendations by the state?

A: BOH or City cannot do anything that contradicts the regulations that the State has put out. They can make recommendations that address concerns the State has not done e.g. sending recommendations that are above and beyond State's recommendations.

Independent of the above, we can speak to the Commissioner of Health and Human Services regarding the fact that Nashua is on the border so there is more risk involved as people come to Nashua restaurants and bars from MA.

Discussion on setting up a meeting with the Commissioner that will be attended by Board of Health members and EH staff to discuss the recommendations put forth by BOH. Those recommendations are:

- Sending out a letter to the establishments that would help them understand the risks of operating businesses at 100% capacity.
- Create information for patrons that lists the activities that are low risk, high risk and highest risk, so that people can make informed decisions. Jane to help make a graphic that will highlight the most important things.
- Request that the State provide information on any changes to Safer at Home in a timely fashion (i.e. not Friday afternoon) so that the Department can send out information to businesses in a timelier manner.

BOH can bring the information back to the group after the meeting.

Report from Community Health:

1500 Flu vaccines have been administered this season so far. The department will scale back the clinics moving forward.

Dr. Storace shared that pharmacies have seen a tremendous increase in the number of people getting flu shots this year which can be attributed to Covid-19.

Meeting minutes from October 22, 2020 meeting will be approved at a special meeting on November 9, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

Public Comment: Hearing none – Meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace- 2nd by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2020

DRAFT