

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, September 14, 2021

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Joanne Miller, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters)

Web-based video conferencing meeting of the Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Andrew reported that as of September 10th there have been a total of 1462 cases of COVID-19 in town with 15 active cases. The vaccination rate in town has been excellent with 87% (14,555) of residents' fully vaccinated and 1975 people who have received the first dose. The cases per age group are as follows:

4- 0-19yrs of age
6 – 20-29yrs of age
6 – 30-39yrs of age
3 – 40-49yrs of age
3 – 50-59yrs of age
2 – 60-69yrs of age
1- 70-79yrs of age
0 – 80yrs+ of age

The average daily incidence rate (last 14 days) is 8.3 and total tests given are 68921.

The mask mandate from DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) will be in effect until October 1, 2021. There have been no updates at this time if the mandate will be extended.

The spread of COVID-19 seems to mainly spread within households which is a result of clusters. Symptoms of COVID may similar to those of a head cold. They do not have to be severe to be infectious. Fifty percent of the cases are breakthrough (vaccinated individuals). Recently, Andrew and other public health directors met with local hospitals and discussed if there are increased hospitalizations for the virus to reach out to public health. The third dose of the vaccine is being offered by primary care professionals to patients who are immunocompromised.

Helaine updated the Board on the September 3rd reopening committee meeting which is now known as SALT (Superintendent's Advisory Leadership Team). The opening of school has gone well. Everyone is wearing masks. Students that are bused to school are sitting alone. Lunches are served outside when weather appropriate. Mask breaks are given throughout the day. The test and stay method is being used for pool testing. School sports are also using the test and stay method for participation pending test results.

Joanne gave a report on the work of the Mental Health Task Force. The task force has been collecting information to build a website. The website is being patterned to be similar to the town of Lexington. A domain name is being determined and there will be a \$300 cost that the town is covering. The website will be linked to the town website for easy access. The task force is continuing to look for speakers in the community to address mental health.

Director's Report

- Household Hazardous Waste Day will take place tomorrow Wednesday, September 15th
- Tomorrow is the last day for beach water sample collection.

- West Nile Virus was found in a mosquito a week ago. An additional trap was setup and no further detection was found.
- Leaf and grass collection dates will be finalized in the next couple of weeks for 2021 – 2022. This will be posted on town website.
- Flu clinics will be held for town employees and seniors. Check website for dates and times.

New Business

Helaine inquired about how often other Boards of Health in the area meet. Most meet monthly and have additional meetings when necessary. At this time the Board decided to continue to meet monthly. The next scheduled meeting is October 12th.

Todd opened the meeting to public comment period.

MOTION to close meeting. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Miller, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk