

Board of Health Minutes
Town Building - Council on Aging
March 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. Present were Susan Green, Chair (SG) and Robert DeFrancesco, DMD (RD) also present were Julia Junghanns,(JJ) Dir of Public Health, Ruth Mori, M.S.N, R.N., (RM) School Nurse Leader/Public Health Nurse and Patti White Department Assistant. Arne Soslow, M.D. (AS) and John Schuler, M.D. (JS) and Brian McNamara (BM) were remotely participating. The meeting was streamed live through WayCAM, recordings will be available on line.

12:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order with a roll call RD - yes, BM -yes, JS - yes, AS -yes, SG - yes.

SG: In compliance with revised Open Meeting Law requirements, we will live stream the meeting on WayCAM; Public Comments will be received by phone at 508-358-6812 for this meeting. The phone number will be active during the public comment portion of the meeting. Thank you in advance for your patience; we intend to address all calls that come in during the public comment period.

12:10 p.m. Local Limited Food Retail Regulations-

Sign Regulations- this item will be passed over, the documents will be signed at a future meeting.

12:15 p.m. Update on the Coronavirus

Ruth Mori/ Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader (PHN/SNL)- As of today our current status is as follows. We are working with a total of 11 contacts that have been potentially exposed to COVID-19:

3 individuals tested negative,

3 individuals tested presumptive positive

5 individuals are undergoing contact surveillance (2 of these cases have been closed due to completing the 14 day quarantine without symptoms.)

We are checking daily or every other day with the 5 individuals that are under contact surveillance in evaluating symptoms and providing guidance. In addition, as a department, we are busy with contact tracing.

On March 12th, Loker and Wayland Middle School were closed for cleaning because of a positive parent test, with children who were asymptomatic. Loker and Wayland Middle School were reopened the following day. On March 13th there was potential exposure at Claypit elementary School (CPH) and a local nursery school. CPH was closed on March 13th at 1PM. Later in the afternoon, Dr. Unobskey closed all schools.

Ruth Mori and other community health nurses (CHN) made contact calls to each family that was in the direct classroom at CPH or the nursery school. The parent and two children from CPH and the nursery school were tested for COVID-19. Later, after we received negative results from the MA Department of Public Health, we reached out to people who were in direct contact with those who were tested, and notified them of the negative report. All others involved including school staff, other CHS families, custodians, etc. were also notified.

AS: Do we need to go into executive session or remove personal identifiers to share the status and numbers of who is being observed and monitored and their status? RM: We have 3 people being actively monitored for surveillance they are asymptomatic but have been identified as having direct contact with someone who was

positive. AS: Are there other schools involved? RM: Other than the nursery school and CHS, no other schools were involved with children who were symptomatic. The first instance in town was at the Middle School and Loker; there is a

positive parent with asymptomatic children. This situation is still being monitored, as the parent is still symptomatic. Once the parent is no longer symptomatic, they have to undergo testing and have two negative tests to be considered negative

JJ: Thanks so much to Ruth, CHN's and staff for all their work with the numerous phone calls, inquiries and follow ups as the testing information was coming forward. A lot of taken place including numerous conference calls from the State, at a critical time when we needed guidance on schools, cases, group sizes. The State has said each community needs to make decisions on what would be best for their community. Wayland Health staff, in conjunction with the Board of Health have made the decision to close schools ahead of the state decision, the governor then stated that we should not close schools. This is a difficult situation with little collective guidance.

JJ: Ruth and I have been contacting our peers in the area to find out what other communities are doing to protect their residents and make the best decisions for this difficult and rapidly evolving situation. We are still not sure on suggested group size numbers; the Governor said 25, the President said 10, we are planning to follow the federal level of 10. JJ: Wayland restaurants are only allowed to do takeout orders, staff has been checking with local restaurants, many are closed or only doing takeout, staff is still monitoring places that did not have signage up this morning. The Villa is doing takeout; Mel's, Starbucks are both open and keeping to the 10 or less guidance. Staff is working with the Meals on Wheels program and with the food handlers at the WHS kitchen for student meals. JJ and RM viewed the CDC podcast (quite helpful science based presentation) with info on asymptomatic cases. This could be a big problem, if it is being spread through asymptomatic persons.

RM: We encourage individuals, who are self-quarantining due to a potential exposure to COVID-19, to please contact the BOH. We are not always being informed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) as they are so overwhelmed; we need to have local information. If an employer or a friend has advised a Wayland resident of direct exposure, please provide the information to the Health Department. If you have questions or concerns regarding symptoms similar to a flu or cold, people are free to contact the Health Dept.

SG: What are the recommendations for those who self-quarantine after traveling from outside US? RM: When this first started, we had information arriving from DPH, we are not sure given the volume of calls that DPH receives that they can keep us apprised, this notification would allow us to assist DPH by providing info we may have and they do not.

JS: Can we set up a Covid-19 page on the website so that when testing information becomes available we can let people know where to go? JJ: We have heard some discussion that Framingham may be doing testing, we will update the website.

JS: What are the requirements of persons arriving from out of country arrivals? RM: There are lists of the level 3 countries that list is being updated regularly. The Wayland Health dept. would like to be informed of individuals returning to the United States from outside the country, we can help them navigate the system and assist if they need to be tested. We do not have the ability to do testing, it now requires clinician approval; persons interested cannot just arrive at testing sites and request testing. There is a protocol set in place regarding who

will be tested, when and where it will be done. If someone calls the Wayland Health Department, RM calls the State hotline and they follow up with DPH, and a clinician will order the testing.

AS: Regarding testing- are we moving to service oriented testing? Can staff look into how the Town can access testing kits to provide testing to our residents? I am also concerned with food handling. Do we know if the food preppers for takeout orders are wearing masks? Are the employers monitoring their employees' health? This is also a concern for our Nursing homes and assisted living residences.

JJ: That was part of the discussion on the CDC podcast; Food handlers do not have masks, we do not have supplies to provide those masks for food preparation, the supplies we have are being held for medical needs.

AS: The simple surgery ear loop types are still available to purchase. We are just talking about the hand- mouth contact regarding food. JS: What is the difference between produce handlers in the grocery stores and food handlers in restaurants? AS: We are more concerned regarding the hand-face contact with food preppers. BM: Should we put food handling suggestions on the BOH website? JJ: We can deliver information directly to the restaurants, we don't know what type of social media, internet or email these persons may have. AS: There are concerns for the food preparation in the nursing home in town. SG: How many food establishments do we have in town? JJ: I don't have the number of food service establishments, but I do have the contact info for those locations, I have email contacts to provide the guidance; those facilities are on lockdown. AS: Workers are concerned for their jobs and may be denying their symptoms to protect their jobs.

JJ: We are conducting an inventory of supplies, working with our Public Safety personnel and town management to set up forecast of supplies being needed. Town Building is operating with just essential staff presently, the President want to people to work from home. Health Dept. is essential during this Pandemic; other depts. have been pared down to critical essential staff and needs. We are aware of 1 septic pumper still doing business in town, keeping septic systems pumped with families at home all day is something we want to support. We have been in contact with our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers of all levels including medical and administrative assistance. Supermarkets are setting up special hours for at-risk and seniors to go shopping to avoid crowds, these high risk groups (medical condition) should be cautious of exposure to persons with any type of symptoms. Staff is continuing to work on keeping up on CDC guidelines. Social distancing is critical; use this in grocery stores and pharmacies, keep distance of 6 feet or more. Health Dept staff will reiterate the need for washing hands and cleaning high contact surfaces to the food services that are remaining open. We encourage everyone to keep up with their use of hand sanitizer. The pools in town have closed and the BSC sports club has closed as well. Some of the 1-1 personal training sites are still open.

SG: What is the status of the letter that we worked on to CHS parents? JJ: That was sent out today.

1:00 p.m. Public Comment- there were none.

1:05 p.m. General Business

Bills have been signed; there was no written Director's Report.

Next meeting date – Monday March 30th at 7p.m

1:10p.m. RD: motion to adjourn - Second JS vote by roll call SG- yes, JS – yes, RD - yes, AS – yes, BM - yes

Respectfully submitted,

Patti White
Wayland Health Dept.
Department Assistant
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