

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

December 16, 2020

TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Present by remote roll call were Robert DeFrancesco, D.M.D. (RD) , Chair, John G. Schuler M. D. (JS), Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS), Susan Green (SG), Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader.

RD: Roll call to open meeting: RD - yes, JS – yes and SG - yes

5:05 p.m. Covid-19; updates, new information, quarantine and isolation protocols

5:10 p.m. Arne Soslow joined the meeting.

RM: Added 22 cases since last week's report. It's on the website as of today, plus 18 new cases this week. Have not found that the cases are related to large gatherings. There was a middle school student and a kindergartener who tested positive for COVID. There seems to be mainly in family/household spread. Spread also seems to be due to work, or friends/family outside of the home. One long-term care facility, had 4 staff that tested positive. One person died of COVID at an assisted living facility.

AS: Is there evidence of in school transmission? RM: no we do not feel that in school transmission is occurring at this time.

Assisted living facilities testing once a week. JS advocated for more frequent testing at assisted living facilities. AS asked what the state standards are for frequency of testing. RM said she has been in touch with assisted living facilities to do more frequent testing than the state standards.

JS: Motion: Effective immediately, the BoH asks the assisted living facilities and nursing home to test residents and staff more than once a week. Second: SG

Roll Call vote: JS: yes, AS: yes, SG: yes, RD: yes. Vote: all in favor 4-0.

JJ: Has sent out a form to each facility asking about testing frequency. RM: She is in regular touch with assisted living facilities and nursing home to discuss more frequent testing. RM and JJ will draft a communication saying BoH requesting additional testing.

RM is in the process of setting up 4 additional contact tracers. It is proceeding, but not complete yet as there are a number of steps. They all are Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and have professional health care licenses like nursing or NP. They have been getting training online through MAVEN as well.

Wayland will likely be getting vaccine in Phase 3 which will be in the spring. RM said state is looking for the BoH to vaccine first responders, but need a minimum of 200 first responders, so Wayland is not eligible right now, however we are looking into options. RM and JJ are planning for vaccine deployment

including supplies, location/logistics, paperwork process and other prep work. JJ mentioned she is getting new applications for new Medical Corps volunteers so there should be adequate numbers of people to give the vaccines, using the drive-through flu clinic model. However, we are not sure what will be expected/asked of us by the state, it really depends on frequency and duration of clinics which will determine what we can handle/provide to the community. Wayland may be able to charge individual's insurance an administration fee for giving the COVID vaccine like is done for flu vaccines. There will be no costs to the town nor to an individual receiving the vaccine. CVS or Walgreens will be going to assisted living facilities to administer vaccines, we believe in the near future.

JJ and RM have been working on a complaint involving an investigation regarding COVID compliance at an assisted living facility in town. RM was involved in making inquiries also. It involved not using appropriate PPE and close contacts not being quarantined. There was information gathering and discussion, review of protocols. It was an infection control issue, we did not identify any violations during the time of the inspection and the complaint was unfounded. It involved a facility where there has been a fatality of a resident. JJ and RM took the complaint seriously and did an extensive investigation.

AS asked about asymptomatic individuals who become symptomatic, and what quarantine protocols are. If individuals become symptomatic, and there are close contacts, test close contacts immediately, isolate them until test results are available. AS said this wasn't clear in the guidelines from DPH, but this is what RM and the contact tracing team follows for protocols.

No update on the school COVID testing strategy.

JJ will have PW send bills to JS for review and to approve.

JJ will disseminate an article published in JAMA provided by AS about difference between who got COVID and didn't in students, lack of school transmission in schools. Study was done in Mississippi.

No meeting next week. Next meeting on 12/30/16 at 5 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any

6:05 p.m. Public comment

SG: Motion to adjourn the meeting, second JS roll call AS yes JS yes RD yes SG yes. All in favor.

Adjourned 6:05 p.m.

Submitted by Board of Health member Susan Green.

APPROVED 123020