

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2022
Virtual Meeting

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann, Emily Cilley, Dr. Peter Sheckman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health; Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse

OPEN MEETING

- The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

- On MOTION by Cilley and SECONDED by Sheckman, the Board of Health voted to approve prior meeting minutes from August 10, 2022. Roll call: Cilley (yes), Sheckman (yes), Hartmann (yes).

COVID-19 AND MONKEYPOX UPDATES

Covid-19

- Case numbers:
 - As of September 13, 2022, Swampscott has had 3875 lab-confirmed cases to date. 113 of those cases have been in the last five weeks. These numbers do not reflect those who are probable cases or those who test positive on only a home test.
 - The 7-day average of percent positivity in Massachusetts is 7.13%
 - There have been 57 new, confirmed deaths reported in Massachusetts in the past 7 days. This brings the total number of confirmed deaths to 20,169.
 - According to the CDC COVID Data Tracker by county, Essex county is currently considered an area of high transmission based on the case rates and percent positivity. According to the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels numbers, Essex county is currently considered a “low” level community based on the number of

new Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population (7-day total), new Covid-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total), and percent of inpatient beds occupied by Covid-19 patients (7-day average).

- 87.5% of new cases in the USA are attributed to BA.5 variant. 9.2% of new cases in the USA are attributed to the BA.4.6 variant.
- Vaccines:
 - On August 31, 2022, the FDA authorized Pfizer and Moderna's updated boosters.
 - On September 1, 2022, the CDC signed off on updated Covid-19 boosters (bivalent vaccines) to better protect against the newer variants. The bivalent vaccines contain two messenger RNA (mRNA) components of SARS-CoV-2 virus: one of the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the other one in common between the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.
 - The Moderna Covid-19 vaccine, bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older.
 - The Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older.
 - Both Moderna and Pfizer's bivalent boosters are recommended at least two months after receipt of a primary series or prior monovalent booster dose.
 - Those with recent SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a vaccine dose by three months from symptom onset or positive test.
 - People ages 5 to 11 years of age are currently still recommended to get the original (monovalent) booster.
 - The vaccine schedule for most people is dependent on multiple factors such as age, vaccine manufacturer, and whether or not they are immunocompromised.
 - May get annual Covid vaccines. TBD.
 - Swampscott vaccine rates:
 - One dose – 93%
 - Fully vaccinated – 84%
 - First booster – 57%
 - Second booster – 15%
- Testing options:
 - Cataldo site – North Shore Community College Lynn campus on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11 am until 7 pm. Appointments can be made online or individuals can go as a walk in.
 - As of July 28, 2022, the Stop the Spread program has been extended through March 31, 2023.
 - Rapid antigen/at home tests are covered by insurance as mandated by the federal government. They can be found at a pharmacy, retail store, or online.
- Isolation and exposure guidance:
 - If positive: isolate for a minimum of five days. If you have never had symptoms or symptoms are improving, you may end isolation on day 6 provided that you are able to wear a mask around others through day 10. You may remove your mask prior to day 11 if you have had two negative tests taken 48 hours apart.

- If exposed: you do not need to quarantine as long as you remain asymptomatic, regardless of your vaccination status. You must wear a mask any time you are around others for the 10 days following your exposure. If you were exposed and develop symptoms at any time, isolate and take a test and stay home until you know the result. If the test is positive, follow isolation protocols. If your test is negative or you have remained asymptomatic, take a test on day 6.
- Test types:
 - If you have not had COVID-19 in the last 90 days: rapid antigen or PCR test
 - If you have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days: rapid antigen only
 - If you have had COVID-19 in the last 30 days: not recommended to test unless you develop symptoms
- Quarantine is no longer required nor recommended for children or staff in child care, k-12, OST, and recreational camp settings regardless of vaccination status or where the exposure occurred. All exposed individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who can mask should do so until day 10.

Monkeypox

- Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus, a part of the same family of viruses as variola virus (the virus that causes smallpox).
- Symptoms of monkeypox can include a rash, fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, exhaustion, muscle aches and backache, headache, and respiratory symptoms (i.e. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough). A rash follows the initial symptoms. Painful lesions can appear anywhere and will scab over and resolve within 2-4 weeks, following which the person is no longer contagious. Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has healed, all scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of skin has formed. Those positive for monkeypox should isolate at home.
- Monkeypox can spread:
 - To anyone through close personal skin-to-skin contact, including:
 - Direct contact with the monkeypox rash, scabs, or bodily fluids from a person with monkeypox.
 - Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.
 - Contact with respiratory secretions.
 - A pregnant person can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta.
 - It's also possible for people to get monkeypox from infected animals, either by being scratched or bitten by the animal or by preparing or eating meat or using products from an infected animal.
- Case numbers:
 - As of September 13, 2022, there have been 356 lab confirmed cases in MA, 22,630 in the United States, and 59,179 globally.
 - On August 31, 2022, the US reported that there have been at least 31 cases of monkeypox among children.

- On September 13, 2022, the first US death due to monkeypox was confirmed in Los Angeles County.
- Vaccines:
 - The vaccine most commonly used for preventing monkeypox infection is JYNNEOS (also known as Imvamune or Imvanex) which has been licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
 - On August 9, 2022, the FDA authorized a change in how the monkeypox vaccine is given (intradermally).
 - In the United States, there is currently a limited supply of JYNNEOS and is solely distributed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Vaccines will be available to individuals who live or work in MA and meet the current eligibility criteria, prioritizing those who are most at risk of exposure, such as:
 - Known contacts identified by public health
 - Presumed contacts who know that a sexual partner in the past 14 days was diagnosed with monkeypox or who have had multiple sexual partners in the past 14 days in a jurisdiction with known monkeypox
 - On August 9, 2022, CDC and FDA released an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) allowing an alternative dose vaccination regimen in people 18 years and over and allowing the use of the JYNNEOS vaccine in individuals younger than 18 years.
 - The original JYNNEOS approval included the use of two 0.5 mL doses administered subcutaneously (under the skin). The alternative regimen allows the use of two lower doses, 0.1 mL of vaccine administered intradermally (into the skin). Providers administering JYNNEOS vaccine began utilizing this alternative dose vaccination regimen on August 18, 2022.
 - People who get vaccinated should continue to protect themselves from infection by avoiding close, skin-to-skin contact, including intimate contact, with someone who has monkeypox.
 - The state has activated mobile providers to assist in vaccine administration.
 - The Salem Board of Health, in partnership with Health Innovations, will hold a free monkeypox vaccine clinic at the Major Jean Levesque Community Life Center in Salem on September 19, 2022. Appointments can be scheduled on healthinnovationsinc.com
- Isolation and exposure guidance:
 - People with monkeypox, who do not require hospitalization should,
 - Contacts of animals or people confirmed to have monkeypox should be monitored for symptoms for 21 days after their last exposure. If symptoms develop, contacts should immediately self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider and their health department for further guidance. Those without symptoms can be permitted to continue routine daily activities. As a precaution, contacts should not donate blood, cells, tissue, breast milk, or semen while they are being monitored for symptoms.

- The Swampscott Health Department will be holding a high dose (65+) flu clinic on Thursday, October 6, 2022 from 4-6 pm at the Senior Center.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENT WASTE STORAGE – UPDATE

- Over the past two weeks, Jeff visited the Vinnin Square area to check in on the trash situation. He stated that most restaurants were good but that there were a few restaurants that was an issue both times he visited (trash not properly secured, trash overflowing, bags outside of the dumpster) so that they would be getting a \$25 fine.
- Cilley asked if they had received a warning. Jeff stated that he had sent notices with the food permit applications.
- Sheckman asked how the fine was set and stated that it seems insignificant/not substantial. Jeff stated that it was a fine for the dumpster issues and that \$25 is the fine for a first offense per the Board of Health Regulations.
- Sheckman asked why the inspection is not tied to licensure. Jeff stated that it could impact licensure if it was a constant problem.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- After numerous years of dealing with a residential property on Fuller Terrace in collaboration with the Attorney General's office, a contractor has been hired for the exterior of the home. Work should be started in a few weeks.
- DEP grant funding has been used for the purchase of five see-through recycle barrels.
- On September 24, 2022, the Town will have a tire collection event. This will be on the same day as metal drop off for September. Jeff reminded residents that the tires cannot have rims on them, but that the rims can be thrown in the metal drop off dumpster. This event is sponsored by the mosquito control group.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOH

- Cilley stated that following a recent resident incident in Town related to mental health, she felt it was important to issue a reminder to people to be aware of concerning behaviors and check in with people if you are concerned.
- Jeff, Neia, and Emily recently met with Superintendent of Schools Pam Angelakis to discuss guidance for Covid-19 and monkeypox and develop written guidance for parents.
- Sheckman asked if there have been any more coyote incidents. Jeff stated that there have not been any recent bites, but there was a coyote hit and killed by a car recently.
- Hartmann stated that the Town recently received money from an opiate settlement and that she spoke with Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald to express the Board's interest in being involved in discussions about use of funding. Hartmann stated that she would like to see more prevention efforts. She stated that she would like to discuss regional options. Neia spoke on what other municipalities are doing.

- Cilley stated that she had a parent reach out with concerns about an increase in vaping in middle and high school age students. She stated that when this problem initially started the Town did do some educational measures and that perhaps they should do it again.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting has been scheduled for October 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURN

- On MOTION by Sheckman and SECONDED by Cilley, it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Sheckman (yes), Cilley (yes), Hartmann (yes).
- The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

True Attest,

Brittney Jones