



Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director
Jason Belmonte, Food Inspector/Sanitarian
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant
Tiffany McCarthy, R.N., B.S.N., Public Health Nurse

James M. O'Sullivan, J.D, Chairperson
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N
Roger L. Christian, M.D.

Minutes of the Westwood Board of Health meeting held on April 21, 2020

The meeting began at 5:05PM and was held by remote participation via Zoom, Westwood Media hosting and live streaming.

Members Present: Jim O'Sullivan, JD, Chairperson
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N
Roger Christian, M.D.

Staff Present: Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director
Jason Belmonte, Food Inspector/Sanitarian
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant
Tiffany McCarthy, R.N., Public Health Nurse

Approval of Minutes: March 10 & 23, 2020

Dr. Christian moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 3-0-0.

Health Director Report:
Coronavirus Update:

The Health department has been monitoring the emergence of coronavirus since late January/ early February. Governor Baker declared a state of emergency shortly before the meeting today due to coronavirus.

Mr. Orsini explains that the department has been instructed by MA Dept. of Public Health (MADPH) to conduct surveillance of individuals coming back to the United States from China who were asymptomatic at the airport and told to self-quarantine at home for 14 days. Under the supervision of the public health nurse, these individuals were instructed to take their temperatures twice daily for 14 days, and to call to report any fever to Ms. McCarthy or Mr. Orsini with symptoms. The 14 day period for those individuals has lapsed and they have been cleared.

During this time, the Health department has been receiving updated guidance from DPH on the presence of coronavirus in the state and guidance on the handling potential cases to reduce the opportunity for community spread here on the local level. That information has been relayed to all department heads and the town administrator in multiple meetings held over the past two weeks. Mr. Orsini gave a presentation to Town of Westwood department heads on proactive steps they can take

in their offices to reduce the risk of respiratory illness among their employees and town resident with whom they interact. All municipal buildings are being sanitized daily to limit the potential spread of disease.

There are plans in place to deal with multiple scenarios regarding coronavirus exposure. These plans are based on the most up to date guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control. In addition to CDC, our partners at MADPH have been readily available for consultation and advising local boards of health to the most up to date information on new cases or reports of exposures. MADPH has also issued and will update school specific guidance to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who will then communicate that information to the Westwood Public Schools.

Mr. O'Sullivan asks if there are any confirmed cases here and Mr. Orsini responds there are not as of today. Mr. O'Sullivan reminds residents that they need to stay out of public buildings if they are symptomatic and Mr. Orsini agrees that the best way to stay proactive in preventing community spread is for everyone to stay home from work if they are feeling sick.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Ms. McCarthy explains how MAVEN works as it relates to coronavirus. MAVEN is the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network. This is a confidential reporting system that notifies Ms. McCarthy via email or a phone about anyone who has been told to self-quarantine for 14 days. She reaches out to those individuals daily to see if they are taking their temperature and find out how they are feeling. If an individual does not feel well they need to also notify their physician. Other reportable infections are also followed in the MAVEN system such as Lyme disease or salmonella. There are 3 individuals in Westwood in quarantine and 3 are no longer in quarantine. She cannot provide more specific information, due to privacy issues; however, if there is a positive case, she may be able to share more information.

Dr. Christian believes a major issue is the lack of testing for coronavirus at this point. He has heard reports that between 40-70% of individuals will contract the virus at some point. Mr. Orsini stresses the best way for people to slow the spread is social distancing and to follow the guidelines that are being given by CDC.

Mr. O'Sullivan thanks the staff for all the work they are doing on this issue and he and the other Board members offer their assistance as well.

Mr. Coleman also thanks the Health Department staff for their work on this issue and for their assistance in educating municipal employees and public about coronavirus.

Meeting adjourned 5:15PM