



Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director
Jason Belmonte, REHS/RS, Food Inspector/Sanitarian
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant

Roger L. Christian, M.D., Chairperson
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N

Minutes of the Westwood Board of Health meeting held on September 15, 2020

The meeting began at 4:35PM and was held by remote participation via Zoom, Westwood Media hosting and live streaming.

Members Present: Roger Christian, M.D., Chairperson
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N

Staff Present: Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director
Jason Belmonte, REHS/RS, Food Inspector/Sanitarian
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Minutes: June 16, 2020

Dr. Christian moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 2-0-0.

Health Director Report:
COVID-19 Updates:

Mr. Orsini updates the Board on the current COVID cases, there has been an uptick so far in September with 7 cases; the total number of positive cases in August was 15. We are in the yellow category for number of cases according to the weekly DPH assessment and he hopes this will decrease so we can go back to green. Yellow indicates the average daily case rate over the last 14 days is 4-8 cases per 100,000 population; Green indicates the average daily case rate over the last 14 days is 8 cases per 100,000 population.

The Health Department continues to encourage residents to wear face coverings, wash their hands and to practice social distance.

Food establishment renewals are almost complete, permits had been extended for 3 months and expired August 31, 2020 instead of May 31. Mr. Belmonte has been working to catch up on routine food inspections over the past several weeks and should be caught up by the end of the year.

School Reopening & COVID Safety Guidelines:

Mr. Orsini has been working with the School Department on their COVID plan for their reopening. The Board of Health has an established line of communication with Westwood Public School's COVID-19 Safety Team. Mr. Orsini will work with that team to advise on suspect, probable and confirmed cases as well as conduct contact tracing for any positive cases in the WPS. The goal is to make collaborative decisions using evidence based models in order to ensure the safety of all participants.

Several benchmarks will be given due consideration in the event it becomes evident in person learning would present a demonstrable risk to students and staff for contracting COVID-19.

#1 The average daily incidence rate per 100,000 (Last 14 Days) turns red meaning Westwood's cases are greater than 8 per 100,000 residents. Currently Westwood is designated yellow with 5.3, up from 2.4 on August 19, 2020.

#2 The testing percent positivity rate exceeds 4.0%. Currently our testing positivity rate is 1.8%

#3 The testing percent positivity rate exceeds 4.0% in MA. Currently it is 1.7 %

#4 The average daily incidence rate per 100,000 (Last 14 Days) for the Commonwealth of MA. Cases statewide should be below 8.

The benchmark they will be looking at in order to have a mix of remote and in person classes is the average daily incidents per 100,000 residents, if it rises above 4% this might indicate community spread.

Karen Poreda, RN is leading the COVID team for the Westwood schools and the health dept. would be notified if there are cases and DPH would be contacted if needed for additional guidance. Dr. Christian asks about Xaverian HS and Mr. Orsini explains they do have a plan and would contact him if they have cases.

Flu Clinic Planning:

Mr. Orsini has been working with Wegmans pharmacy to plan a flu clinic in October or November. The public health nurse position is vacant and it is doubtful a new nurse will be on board before November. Wegmans would provide all the supplies, staff and vaccine and the Town would provide the space. Most likely it would be held outside in the rear parking lot of the high school on a Saturday. More information will be provided once all the details are finalized.

Public Health Nurse Vacancy:

Ms. McCarthy has resigned from her position and Mr. Orsini and the Board members would like to thank her for her service over the past 3 years. The job opening has been posted on the Town website as well as the MA Public Health Nurse Association website.

Mr. O'Sullivan was not reappointed to the Board, therefore, that position is also vacant. Mr. Orsini would like to fill the nurse position first and then proceed with interviews for the Board vacancy. Dr. Christian and Ms. Ahearn agree with Mr. Orsini.

Meeting adjourned 5:30PM