



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
Margaret M. Sullivan, R.N., M.S.N., Public Health Nurse

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

Minutes of the Westwood Board of Health meeting held on February 9, 20201

The meeting began at 4:30PM 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
Shelley Reeve, R.N., B.S.N., J.D.

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

Approval of Minutes: December 15, 2020

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

Public Health Nurse Report:

Ms. Sullivan reports that COVID continues to be the main source of cases being reported in MAVEN. There is a TB case that she discussed previously, which is no longer infectious. She is monitoring medication administration for this person and they have been very compliant. This monitoring could take 6 months.

There was one case of Campylobacter, which is a common cause of food related diarrhea, this person isolated within the household.

Health Director Report:

COVID-19 Update:

Westwood has had an increase in COVID cases and we are back in the "Red" designation. We had over 299 cases in January and have about 190 cases so far this month. Residents need to remain vigilant in distancing from others. There is about a 75% in home transmission rate, sometimes there are 3-4 people testing positive in one home.

There are 3 predominate COVID variants identified right now and there is a question as to whether or not they are more transmissible. Usually a virus becomes more transmissible but less lethal. We will

know more if someone tests positive here in Westwood.

There have been some complaints regarding grocery stores being above the occupancy limit. Stores are currently allowed 40% occupancy and Wegmans can have up to 1400 people in the store and this can appear to be overcrowded, but it is not.

Mr. Orsini will keep people posted on any reopening updates by Governor Baker in the coming weeks.

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout:

COVID vaccine clinics have been held at the COA with the assistance of the Fire Department.

Mr. Orsini would like to thank Mike Crawford of the Westwood FD for all of his assistance with these COVID clinics, he has done a great job.

100 doses of the Moderna vaccine are being sent weekly to us and this should continue until at least the end of February.

The Health Department has had assistance from coworkers in calling residents who need assistance setting up an appointment online. We will also be holding 2nd dose clinics about 3 weeks after the first ones.

Due to building capacity and vaccine limits we cannot hold clinics every day. The larger sites can accommodate thousands of people daily. We are encouraging people to go to the larger facilities at Gillette and Fenway Park if they cannot wait for an appt. here.

Dr. Chrisitan comments that he was able to get an appt. at Gillette recently and it went very smoothly.

Ms. Reeve asks about homebound seniors receiving the vaccine and Mr. Orsini explains we will possibly be able to make home visits but there are issues with handling the vaccine properly and the observation time frame needed after the vaccine is administered.

Mr. Orsini has continued to be in communication with Westwood Public Schools from the start of the Pandemic last year. The Board of Health does not make policy for schools, the School Committee decides any course of action for them. They can ask for the Board to advise in decisions regarding public health and safety, however, it is not up to the Board to decide when children should be back in school full time. The CDC may have new guidelines in the coming weeks and Mr. Orsini will update the Board as new information is available.

Meeting adjourned 5:07PM