



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 March 9, 2021

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: February 9, 2021

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

Public Health Nurse Report:

Ms. Sullivan has continued daily contact tracing for COVID cases. There have been 3 additional diseases reported in MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network) this month. The TB case Ms. Sullivan previously reported continues to be followed, this person is not infectious and they are tolerating the medications well.

Lyme Disease is not usually reported this time of year, however, there is a case in MAVEN. This person may have had Lyme in the past and if it is left untreated it can have cardiac and neurological consequences.

There have been two cases of Hepatitis C, which is a viral illness that affects the liver. It can be spread by IV drugs and blood transmission, there is no vaccine to prevent it. Hep C can be treated, however, sometimes the person does not present symptoms. These 2 cases could be false positives, because neither person has known risk factors.

Health Director Report: COVID-19 Update:

Westwood has seen its 14-day case count per 100,000 residents fall for the 3rd straight week. We have had 34 new cases in that time period. This was down from 40 the previous week. Our percent positive test rate is also lower, down to 1.54 from 1.67. All told, our numbers are clearly trending in

the right direction. We have had a total of 904 residents test positive for COVID-19 since testing began. The Commonwealth has re-entered Phase 3, Step 2 of the Governor's phased reopening plan. Most notably capacity increases to 50 percent are now acceptable in most businesses, and indoor dining is allowed to operate without limit so long as all tables remain six feet apart, parties are no larger than 6, and the meal lasts no longer than 90 minutes.

The Governor also announced a plan for the Commonwealth to move to Phase 4 Step 1 should our case counts continue their downward trajectory. Large capacity venues, amusement parks and some health club operations would be allowed to resume in Phase 4. More information will be provided as we move closer to that time.

Local Boards of Health will not be receiving first dose vaccine going forward. We are continuing to receive second dose vaccine for those we were able to vaccinate previously and we will have 2-3 more clinic dates at the COA.

An additional vaccine has been approved by the FDA and has been put into use in the Commonwealth. The single dose J&J vaccine is now available as an alternative to 2 dose Pfizer and Moderna vaccine. Vaccine supplies are still extremely limited and with 65+ residents and educators eligible along with 75+ and those with 2 or more co-morbidities, we urge everyone to be patient when planning their vaccine appointment realizing it may be difficult to find one right away.

Ms. Reever asks what 75+ residents can do if they still need the vaccine and cannot get an appointment. Mr. Orsini recommends folks call 211 and to keep trying the local pharmacies, they can also call the COA to possibly get on a list if other towns have extra vaccine.

The State has released guidelines for the schools this week and dining inside will require 6 feet of distancing. With warmer weather ahead, hopefully this will help schools allow more outside options for accommodating this requirement.

Camps, pools, ticks, mosquitoes and permit renewals are next in the Health Department workload this spring. Mr. Belmonte is caught up with all food inspections at this time.

Meeting adjourned 5:00PM