



Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant
Margaret M. Sullivan, R.N., M.S.N., Public Health Nurse
Ivan Kwagala, REHS/RS, Food Inspector/Sanitarian

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 15, 2022

The meeting began at 5:00 PM and was held at the Carby Street Municipal Office Building, 50 Carby Street, Westwood.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: January 11, 2022

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

Public Health Nurse Report:

Ms. Sullivan has continued daily contact tracing for COVID cases which have decreased somewhat. There were cases of Hepatitis B and C and a case of Burkholderia cepacia complex reported in MAVEN. This is a bacterial infection found in soil & water, it is rare and often resistant to antibiotics. Contaminated medical equipment could also be a source and it can be difficult to treat in people with lung disease.

Health Director Report

COVID-19 Updates

Expiring Mask Mandate

Dedham Westwood Water District Update

Mr. Kwagala has prepared a report for the Board describing his inspections in January and he hands this out to Ms. Ahearn and Dr. Christian. Mr. Orsini explains that we are trying to get back on track with food inspections and hope to be caught up by the end of March.

Mr. Orsini reports that COVID cases have decreased from about 30 per day to 2 per day now. This is good news if we continue to stay at this level; the public health report from last week put us at 9.51% positivity.

At home COVID test kits have arrived. The COA also has these test kits to distribute and we are in the process of contacting Highland Glen & Westwood Glen to see if they would like any for their residents. This shift to at home testing appears to be the direction we are headed and this could impact the actual case counts because it is voluntary.

There is a Google form on the website for residents to self-report if they have COVID and they can request a call from us. We can also provide test kits to residents that are ill and we will make arrangements to bring the kits to their home.

An advisory from DPH came out today recommending fully vaccinated people do not need to mask in most settings. The School Committee voted to follow DESE guidelines and masks will not be required in Westwood schools as of February 28, 2022. Masks will still be required on the buses at this point.

The Board discusses whether to allow the face covering requirement in municipal buildings to expire on February 28th. Mr. Orsini reads a letter from a Westwood resident, William Brooks, 1666 High St.

He is an RN who is requesting that the Board not rescind the mask requirement in municipal buildings.

Mr. Orsini does not think we need to keep the mask requirement at this point.

Dr. Christian thinks that if schools are mask free then the town buildings should be as well. Ms. Ahearn agrees masks should be voluntary now.

The Board does not have to vote on this issue, the mask mandate will expire on February 27th at 11:59 PM.

Mr. Orsini has provided the Board with a memo from the Dedham Westwood Water District regarding the elevated levels of TTHMs (total trihalomethanes). We are currently below the MCL (maximum containment level) and remediation is ongoing. We first discussed this issue at the November 2021 meeting.

Meeting adjourned 5:40 PM