

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting COVID 6/2/2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – Board Member, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Phyllis Schilp- Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter – Admin., Jennifer Roberts – Select Board, Scott Nix - Police Chief, Mikayla Konopka - Social Work Intern, Ellie Gottlieb - Resident

Motion to begin Meeting by Carol Bradford at 4:09 PM

Phyllis Schilp Public Health Nurse – COVID-19 Update:

Cases are trending down. The peak of the outbreak was mid-April. Females are testing positive at a higher rate. Females have longer life spans, more females in Long Term Care Facilities.

Probable Cases: Are important in analyzing the spread of the disease. They are now being reported.

Antibody Testing: Testing positive for antibodies requires a molecular test for current infection.

COVID-19 Testing Overall: 1,045 Sudbury residents have been tested. The state average of people tested is 4%. Sudbury has tested 17% of its residents.

Total Positive Patients in Sudbury = 186. 135 patients reside in Long Term Care facilities. There are positive cases of people who work in Sudbury, but the Town of Sudbury is not responsible to investigate. The town in which the employee resides is responsible to process the case. The number of COVID positive people who are employed in town, but live in another community, are not reflected in totals.

State Reopening: Phyllis is concerned with the Phase 2 portion of the state's reopening plan. Phase 2 establishments that will most impact the Health Department are restaurants, childcare, and camps. Challenges of the establishments would include deciphering State COVID mandates, health checks, cleaning schedules, special planning and staffing.

Camps: COVID Challenges. Less campers can attend camps due to the social distancing mandate. Will it be economically feasible to open? Inclement weather shelters will need to house campers and counselors while social distancing. The amount of work dedicated to figuring out the logistics of dealing with COVID may preclude camps from opening this summer.

Long Term Care Facilities now allowing outdoor visitations. Staff needs to be trained to oversee visits.

Work Places: Working together can increase exposure and create clusters. What will be the procedure once a cluster has been identified? Is the public compromised? What is the Board of Health's role in this? Many stakeholders are discussing how these workplace clusters should be processed.

Clusters: They can teach us demographics, socio-economic trends and vulnerable work environments. Combinations of these factors can put individuals at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19.

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Bethany Hadvab –Social Worker COVID-19 Update:

New Intern: Mikayla Konopka. Mikayla was welcomed and can make an immediate impact.

Financial Needs: Increase in need. Biggest challenges are that residents are desperate, disorganized and overwhelmed. Those in need will call many times because processing paperwork on their own is challenging. Mitch Sanborn (Senior Outreach Social Worker) is helping people to gather documents and fill out applications so that they may get assistance.

Cancellation of Schools and Camps: This is posing child care problems with parents that desperately need to get back to work. Many kids need the continuity of these programs. Disruptions in their schedules can cause setbacks.

Government Care Package: Ends in July. Most households are getting an extra \$600.00 per week. This income will be missed and will increase financial insecurity.

Residents New to Programs: Bethany is being contacted by residents that have never used her resources in the past.

Gift Cards/Meals: Residents are contacting Bethany to donate gift cards and meals. She is seeing an outpouring of generosity from the Sudbury community.

Bill Murphy Health Director – COVID-19 Update:

Phased Reopening: Work places need to self-educate. Staff and employees need training to comply with mandates. The Health Department will be dedicating a lot of time and resources to each phase of re-opening.

Camps: Compliance is overwhelming. It may not be financially feasible to open camps. Most difficult hurdles are busing, monitoring health (symptoms), cleaning, health care, training of staff, social distancing, acquiring PPE. All camps must comply to CMR Regulations and COVID mandates. This will prove to be difficult.

Board of Health Staffing: In the process of renewing contracts and drafting new contracts. School nursing staff/ support will no longer be available for contact tracing in a couple of weeks and there are no replacements lined up.

Protests: Police and Public Health officials are working together. Freedom of speech and civil rights supersede Health Department mandates and compliance. Mr. Murphy offered masks to the protest organizer as a good will gesture.

COVID Training: Susan Sama referred Sudbury Town Offices for COVID-19 Training offered by the Lowell Consortium. Training will start June 10th. Mr. Murphy thanked Susan Sama for her efforts.

COVID Trends: Will dictate the reopening process. Many people are starting to become too relaxed with social distancing and remaining diligent in complying within the mandated behaviors. Loosening up too

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COVID Trends Continued:

quickly will undoubtedly create a surge in COVID cases. The fall will present new challenges with COVID-19 with the opening of schools and the onset of flu season.

COVID Confinement: Many are becoming restless with the stay at home order. 152 LSRHS students gathered at the high school last week. Many were without masks, not adhering to social distancing. Parents were present to take pictures. The crowd was dispersed by the Sudbury Police. Social media contributes to increasing the size of gatherings quickly. We will be hearing about many more instances like this as we begin to open. The fear is that there will be outbreaks of COVID-19 positive cases. The students held a car parade within protocol. The result was quite successful. Ellie Gottlieb said that Superintendent Bella Wong sent out an email to Seniors and Parents of Seniors reminding them that gatherings that are not conducted within COVID guidelines are considered high risk behavior.

OTHER:

EEE-Eastern Equine Encephalitis: Mass Dept. of Public Health will conduct a conference call June 10th for all municipal Health Departments. EEE messaging and a summer agenda will be addressed.

EMMCP: East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project has completed larvae spraying. It was conducted later than normal due to weather. Mosquito levels are quite low right now. They will be emerging in the next few weeks. Surveillance data and reporting will be released soon. The Health Department will be messaging about EEE on Facebook, Twitter and the Town and Department websites.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day: Is up in the air. We will inquire about available dates thru Vendors. HWC funds may be used to hire nursing support staff.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM