

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

June 23, 2020 COVID-19

Attendees: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Phyllis Schilp-Public Health Nurse, Beth Porter-Admin, Patty Moran-Nurse Contracted, Mikayla Konopka-SW Intern, Ellie Gottlieb-Resident, Kay Bell-Disability Board, Jennifer Roberts-Select Board, Janie Dretler-Select Board.

Meeting called to order: 4:02 PM

Phyllis Schilp-Public Health Nurse-COVID-19 Update:

United States: COVID numbers reported nationwide are variable. Arizona, Texas and Florida are some of the states that are surging. There is less testing in these states and numbers give a clear indication of status.

COVID Reinfection: There is a strong possibility that people that have been infected with COVID-19 could become reinfected 2 to 3 months post recovery. Susan Sama asked if there have been any cases of re-infection reported. There have not.

COVID Infection in Young People: There has been an increase in young people becoming ill with COVID-19. This could be attributed to relaxed social distancing at rallies that many young people have been attending.

COVID Infection Rate: June 5th showed that only 5% of Sudbury residents tested for COVID were positive.

COVID Sudbury Reporting: Phyllis has posted the most recent compilation of Sudbury COVID numbers on the Health website. The Health Department used State reporting for multiple reasons. Past issues with reporting include; time commitment with lack of manpower to publish, tests are not reported back to the municipality immediately leaving gaps and inconsistencies in the numbers, duplication with state publishing.

Tick-borne illnesses: There has been several cases of tick-borne illnesses reported in Sudbury. Phyllis has posted a reminder on the Sudbury town webpage to take precautions and to check for ticks on yourself, children and pets after being outdoors.

Camps: There will be 5 camps opening for the 2020 Summer season. A Camp consultant has been hired to go over the manuals, inspect camps, and to be sure that camps adhere to State and COVID mandates.

Vaccines: Vaccines are scheduled to arrive this summer for fall flu clinics. Reimbursement checks from the 2019 Flu season are coming in to replenish Vaccine Revolving Fund.

MRC/Cert Training: Phyllis and Marie Royea will begin formulating a plan to COVID train MRC and CERT volunteers.

Emergency Cooling Shelters: If the extreme heat continues this summer, an emergency cooling shelter will need to be opened. Once a heat wave has been established, the shelters (library or senior center) will open. Linda Huet-Clayton asked what constitutes a heat wave? 3 days of 100-degree weather.

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Mikayla Konopka – SW Intern-COVID Update:

Residents in Need: Food and restaurant vouchers are in high demand. Hope Sudbury applications have increased. The amount of funds available in the Hope Sudbury Foundation is unclear, but it is believed that it may be strained at this point. Air conditioners are being requested as a result of the extreme heat. There are organizations that the Social Worker's office is directing residents to. Kay Bell pointed out that the Senior Center has resources that distribute air conditioners to Sudbury Residents.

Resource/Web Page Updates: The Social Work office continues to update the webpage with relevant and up to date resources. The goal is to get residents to viable resources quickly and efficiently, without overwhelming them with too much information.

Bill Murphy-Health Director-Updates:

Pools: Semi-Public Pools in Sudbury are currently being inspected and permitted for opening. They are meeting all of the state mandates to mitigate COVID-19. Mr. Murphy will be asking for water quality testing. Phase II will allow indoor pools to open for youths in managed sessions. Phase III will open indoor pools for general use. One of the Sudbury pools will be managing overcrowding by only allowing youths in the pool for a period of time and adult only swim time. Swimmers must shower prior to entering pool. Restrooms can be used. Changing rooms will remain closed.

Food Establishments: Many establishments have opened with outdoor seating. For some, outdoor seating posed challenges. Some establishments are located in close proximity to wetlands, which could potentially expose diners to mosquito borne illnesses.

Petro's Pizza: Is under new ownership. Opening a new establishment during COVID presents challenges.

Statewide Health Meetings: Mr. Murphy is attending virtual meetings with State health officials about COVID and other high-profile topics in order to get a handle on where the gaps are in the State/Local Health departments in order to address future challenges. COVID and EEE have exposed vulnerabilities that need to be addressed.

Nurses: Mr. Murphy explained that by not having nurses in the fall, with the potential of another COVID outbreak, will pose problems with contact tracing. Having nurses this spring and summer was quite effective and appreciated, but a lack of trained public health nurses is concerning.

Noise Nuisance: A noise nuisance complaint is being addressed at 113 Haynes Road. Both the Health Inspector and Building Inspector went out to the site to investigate the complaint. Violation order has been issued.

Septic: Processing of septic systems permits has increased. The numbers for septic installations, Title 5's and repairs are trending well above 2019 numbers.

Wells: Wells are being installed at numbers higher than 2019. Installers/homeowners must now hire an engineer to draw up the location of the well. This eliminates the ongoing problem of installers going

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Wells Continued...

back and forth with the Health office to establish a well location that is compliant with the regulations. Linda Huet-Clayton asked if Private wells were mandated to follow the Sudbury Water restriction. At this time, they are not.

Next Health Meeting: July 14th will be the only July Board of Health Virtual Meeting. The Board will decide if another July meeting will be necessary at the July 14th Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM