

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 8, 2020

Attendance: 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, Jane Dretler – Select Board, Kay Bell – COD Member, Scott Smigler – Finance Comm., Brad Crozier, SPS Superintendent, Bella Wong, LSRHS Superintendent.

Meeting Start time: 4:04 PM

Brad Crozier SPS Superintendent: Update on Sudbury Public School opening. Brad acknowledged that Carol Bradford has done in-depth training for the school nurses and has worked hard to get all staff up to speed. The schools have put up signage and adopted messaging that they refer to as the Three “W”s Watch Social Distancing, Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands.

SPS COVID Forum held last week. Panelists included physicians, infectious disease professionals, health and safety engineers. Panel answered questions asked in advance and addressed concerns. The schools received a “healthy building assessment” to ensure the buildings have met code and passed improved standards. The buildings can be opened up with some minor updates such as air filters. Sama watched the meeting on video and thought that the presentation was well done and that most of the high profile topics were covered. She was concerned that one of the physicians had mentioned that a child that is identified as a known contact could attend school if the child presented as asymptomatic.

Buses: Social distancing and masks on the buses will be enforced and the windows will be open for the entire ride.

Testing of Students: One of the major barriers is the cost of testing. Transparency is being demanded by parents which contradicts confidentiality guidelines by not identifying the spreader. Sama, on the record, voiced concerns that because the students are in an enclosed classroom even with the 6 foot rule, because of the method of COVID spread (aerosol), that there is still a significant risk of contagion. Parents would want to be notified, and ethically, should be notified if there is a COVID positive case in the classroom. Brad Crozier agrees that in order to protect everyone’s health that there should be some sort of notification that goes out. He also mentioned that the 3 case COVID positive rule would trigger rapid response testing. Details and logistics need to be formalized with schools and the BOH. Asymptomatic students would be identified, increasing totals, and increasing contact tracing. Sama stated that the false negatives on the rapid response tests are high. There are a lower percentage false positives.

Contact Tracing: The school nurses are ready, because of the training that they have had since the outbreak of COVID. The Health Department will have the ability to help out the schools and support their efforts in controlling outbreaks. The Health Department really appreciated the recent support. Skilled contact tracers aid in identifying area of vulnerability within communities. This oversight will help to reassure students and parents.

School Nurses: The schools have hired a floating nurse and are looking for additional substitute nurses.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 8, 2020

Early Childhood Programs: Boards of Health have been tasked, MDPH, with oversight of the Remote Enrichment Programs. Programs such as dance, martial arts, and learning now may apply to serve as child care providers with the approval of the town. One dance and theater program has applied. Mr. Murphy is working with the Town Manager and Building and Fire Departments to insure the guidelines are met. These programs will fill a significant void in childcare due to the hybrid and remote learning schedules.

Phyllis Schilp- Public Health Nurse:

Sudbury Numbers: 214 positive cases, 39 probable, 138 Contacts, 5 active cases. Community cases are 68 and Long Term Care are 146. In looking at previous months, Sudbury is experiencing a slight increase in numbers. On the Massachusetts COVID map, Sudbury remains at the lowest level of positives. Cases moving in and out of the “workflow” and being transferred to other jurisdictions make it difficult to use the data to assess community risk.

Schools Re-opening: Mobil testing, used for long term care facilities, may be affective with schools. If this model transitions easily into the schools, we will get fast turnaround with test results. Very important with the student population to identify and quarantine . Many documents were created and distributed to the school nurses for instructional use in COVID related situations.

Flu Clinics: There are currently 4 drive thru flu clinics planned for September and October. Some concerns are limited volunteers, scheduled vaccine shipments, and set up and take down of the stations. If there is enough flu vaccine remaining, an additional clinic may be scheduled. Many man hours have been devoted to the planning and set up of the clinics. On line registration filled within 72 hours of postings.

Long Term Care Facilities: Have been struggling with COVID positives in employees and testing. Phyllis continues to monitor the facilities closely.

TB Case in Sudbury: There is a TB case in Sudbury that must be monitored closely. There must be contact with the patient daily and they must be witnessed by a public health professional taking their medication. This done via ZOOM.

Meetings: At least 15 hours per week are dedicated to meetings. COVID, MAVEN, MDPH, and many other entities that provide updates weekly or bi-weekly.

Contact Tracing: Even though the numbers reflected in the COVID reports are low, contact tracing is complicated and time consuming. The numbers do not indicate the amount of time that goes into tracing clusters, contacting other public health offices, contacting close contacts, and investigations.

Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent:

Safety Training/Informational Sessions: Staff is trained. There have been informational sessions with parents.

Parents Concerns: Students cannot bring drinks into classrooms. We created a system where the student can stand outside the classroom door and still hear the teacher while having a drink and a snack. Mask breaks prompted a lot of questions from parents.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 8, 2020

Utilizing Outdoor Spaces: Bella would love to get everyone outside to use the outdoor spaces, but realized there are just too many students to get them all safely outside. Indoor spaces like the cafeteria and other large indoor areas will be used in conjunction with the outdoors. Work on the HVAC systems is being done. This will increase air exchange rates in the building. Linda Clayton found that the air exchange was sufficient. Filters have been replaced.

Indoor Spaces: Assigned seating will be implemented. Parking fees will be waived to encourage students to drive to school as opposed to using the bus.

Hours of school: 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM Mon. Tues. Thurs and Friday. Wednesdays will be completely remote. Half days will encourage kids to eat at home as opposed to school. There will be grab and go lunches for students who want them. The cafeteria capacity is for 70 students.

Student Lunches: For students learning remotely, the school is offering curbside pick-up for school lunches. For those that are in school, the lunches will be prepackaged and picked up outside near the buses.

Bethany Hadvab- Social Worker:

COVID Update: Bethany continues to work with residents with food insecurities, financial insecurities, day care issues, children with special needs and other issues. She refers them to the appropriate service that can most efficiently satisfy their requests.

Childcare: Governor Baker has signed an initiative for funding child daycare to open. The next step will be getting the funding to the families that will use the daycares. St. Paul DeVincent and Hope Sudbury can hopefully take up some of the slack for Sudbury families.

New Interns: Bethany has been working on creating and updating resources that will help interns work with self-directives. She now has 5 interns working for her.

Back Pack Drive: Hope Sudbury has supplied 50 Sudbury children with backpacks. There is still a need to fill the backpacks with back to school supplies. The Sudbury community has really stepped up to help their neighbors in need with generous donations.

Mental Health: The office is currently working on finding resources, identifying mental health symptoms, issues, gaps and barriers in mental health treatment.

Grant: Bethany has been working on writing a grant application for the Health Department. The grant would supply funds to hire a person to head the Emergency Dispensing Sites (EDS). They would recruit and train MRC volunteers, coordinate, train and recruit long term care facilities to adopt and take part in table top exercises for EDS.

Bill Murphy-Health Director:

COVID Complaints: We have been addressing complaints as they come in. We encourage people to document the alleged infractions. We have been getting pictures and videos. Some of the images that the Health office receives are not infractions, but we address any of the complaints and try to educate everyone so that they understand better practices .

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 8, 2020

Bill Murphy-Health Director Continued...:

Reopening: Most difficult areas of reopening for Sudbury are sports, recreational activities, and religious gatherings. The Health Department provides guidance that is based on CDC and MDPH guidelines and mandates.

Inspections: Contracted Health Inspector has been inspecting Sudbury food establishments. The inspections are two fold, making sure that establishments are up to code and inspecting for COVID mandates/protocols. Educating managers and food preparation staff is important. In addition to doing basic inspections the inspector is addressing COVID complaints. In some cases it is just a matter of training and informing. In most cases, it is an isolated situation that occurs in a point in time and is difficult to investigate.

Septic: Plans for review continue to increase. Title 5 research in order to supply record requests is in high demand and drains office resources.

Meetings: There are many hours per week devoted to meetings. Estimates for Phyllis and Bill are anywhere between 15 – 20 hours.

Biohazard Call/Good Samaritan: There was a private contractor working at a Sudbury establishment who had cut a major artery. The Health Director was called to the scene to isolate the bio-hazard and ensure protocol was followed to clean up. A Good Samaritan was caught on video (posted on FACEBOOK) helping and ultimately saving the contractor's life.

Nurses: This month the health department has lost the school nurses as they transitioned back to school duties. They were instrumental in assisting with contact tracing thru the summer. The Department is currently onboarding 4 part-time nurses replace the school nurses.

COVID Cases: It is projected that there will be an increase in cases with students returning to school and colleges. Contact Tracing will be important to minimizing COVID spread in the community.

Waste Water Treatment Plant: A developer is proposing building a waste water treatment plant at Sudbury Crossing on Boston Post Rd. This location is within an aquifer protection district (ZONE II). The business community is struggling to maintain retail establishments especially during COVID. Other uses such as schools or medical facilities would be desirable but need an increase in sewage flow to accommodate. The property owner and their engineer will need to present to the Board of Health for approval before advancing the project to the Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) . Mr. Murphy has had multiple ZOOM meetings with the MDEP and the developer. The developer is looking to increase capacity right to just below the 10,000 gallon limit. The usage would accommodate a preschool.

Town Meeting: Concerns include COVID spread due to congregating and the meeting running into dusk, increasing the risk of EEE and WNV. Mr. Murphy asked if anyone from the BoH would like to speak at Town meeting about the environmental initiatives. Sama would get back to Mr. Murphy to see if she could attend and speak.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 8, 2020

Other: Linda Huet-Clayton expressed concerns that there are Sudbury establishments that are closing their restroom facilities to patrons. She feels that it is important that patrons have the ability to wash their hands to prevent the spread of COVID. The public health Inspector will include checking rest room availability during the inspections.

Meeting adjourned: 5:45 PM