

# Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

## February 9, 2021

**Attendees:** Carol Bradford-BoH Chair, Susan Sama-BoH Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Patty Moran-Public Health Nurse, Beth Porter-BoH Admin. Jordan Dasilva-Martins-Social Worker Intern, Kay Bell-Comm on Disabilities, Sue Berry-Finance Comm, Jen Roberts-Select Board, Janie Dretler-Select Board, Elaine Taranto-Resident, Maia Proujansky-Bell, Resident

**Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM**

**Public Comment – None**

**Patty Moran: Public Health Nurse Update:**

**January Cases:** 164 confirmed and probable cases. 173 Contact Tracing. 70 Cases (mostly sports) sent to the CTC (Community Tracing Collaborative). 27 cases were long term care cases (based on testing). Based on the timing and surge of cases reported, it is suspected that the majority of positive cases were directly related to holiday gatherings. As of February, cases have been trending down.

**Chat Comment COVID Reporting:** There is town data on COVID positives, but not separated by asymptomatic or by schools? The State reporting is not set up to be that detailed. The amount of man hours required to produce that kind of detailed report, would take nurses away from contact tracing and other high level/critical work.

**Sudbury Businesses and Day Cares:** Have been contacting the Health Department to report positives cases and often close operations to mitigate COVID spread.

**Sports/Nursing Hours:** Health Department nurses and School nurses have been working together in contact tracing positives cases reported through sporting activities. These cases often yield high number of contacts and these cases are very time consuming.

**Chat Question about Sports:** How are close contacts identified or ruled out? A positive is identified and they are contacted and questioned. If criteria is met, which is, people that are COVID positive have been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes (non-consecutive minutes) within a 24 hour period, those people would be considered a close contact.

**Re-Infection:** Nurses are finding that people who were previously infected with COVID and have become re-infected or exposed are less likely to cooperate or comply to COVID isolation/quarantine protocol. This is because with their first infection, protocol was more severe. Testing was not as accessible and people were not being released from quarantine until tested results were reported (which in many cases took weeks).

**New COVID Variants:** Labs are starting to detect new variants of COVID in their testing. There is no reporting on this data yet.

**COVID Vaccination Update:**

**Concord Vaccine Clinic Collaborative:** Sudbury Partnered with Concord, Bedford, Lincoln, Carlisle and Maynard getting first responders vaccinated. The first dose of the Moderna vaccine was administered on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Second doses will be administered February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

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### COVID Vaccination Update Continued:

**Vaccination of Volunteers:** Sudbury front line workers/volunteers, first responders, MRC, CERT, and health related town employees need to be inoculated before participating and helping with COVID clinics.

**Potential Sudbury COVID Vaccination Clinics:** It is unclear if the state will be supplying vaccine to municipalities. The Sudbury Health Department is moving ahead with planning should COVID vaccine doses be made available for Sudbury residents. The clinic would, initially, be located at the Curtis Middle School (which is the Sudbury Emergency Dispensing Site). The state has already determined that smaller towns will be limited to 100 doses per week. The Moderna vaccine is a 2 dose process, with vaccinations being 28 days apart.

Should Sudbury get the vaccine, it will take 6 weeks to vaccinate 300 residents. There are obstacles associated with running a clinic: storage of vaccine, staffing clinics weekly, scheduling appointments, commitment to 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, weather conditions, potential of wasted doses.

**State Metric of Distributing Vaccine:** It is unknown what metric the state is using to determine who gets the COVID vaccine and in what quantities. Bill Murphy has spoken with State Rep. Carmen Gentile who is aware of the challenges that the Health Department is facing.

**Mass State Clinics:** Clinics run by the state that can vaccinate thousands of state residents daily, may be the direction that the state takes in vaccinating. Currently, Gillette Stadium and Fenway are up and running. Natick Mall is being looked at as a potential Mass vaccination site. There may be the possibility of shuttling Sudbury residents to Natick Mass vaccination site when it opens.

**Stage 2 Vaccinations – 75+ years old:** The demand for vaccinations is four times the available product. The Health Department is getting calls daily for information about a Sudbury clinic and help getting into local clinics.

**Homebound Residents:** How do we vaccinate residents who are homebound and cannot get to a vaccination site? Sudbury Health Department is not receiving vaccine from the state or any other source, therefore this demographic remains vulnerable.

**Collaborative Partnerships:** Susan Sama asked if the possibility of collaborating with Pharmacies and Hospitals has been explored. Bill Murphy explained that these locations are getting vaccines directly through the state and they are not open to a collaboration at this point in time.

**Pool Testing LSHRHS:** Patty Moran stated that the pool testing has been helpful in mitigating spread. Testing allows for immediate identification of positives or probables prior to becoming symptomatic. Nurses are finding that the most impacted are sports teams and families. Of the 70 positive cases that were sent to CTC for contact tracing, 60 of them were kids 18 years old and younger. Many families are calling asking which scenario of coming out of quarantine applies to them. There are 3 ways to come out of isolation and quarantine and it is confusing requiring more communication with families.

**Pool Testing SPS:** Carol Bradford reported CIC-Health, who is supplying starter COVID testing kits to each school, has only supplied the central office with one kit. The Nixon school has been working with the starter kit. Because the kits will not be available until after February vacation, there is a concern that weeks of testing that could mitigate spread will be lost.

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### **Bethany Hadvab Social Worker Update:**

**MRC:** Residents are volunteering for the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). COVID has inspired residents to participate in helping the community through the pandemic. Many have offered their medical services. The generosity and outpouring of Sudbury residents has been tremendous. Bethany has taken on the task of onboarding these individuals so that they can be contacted should the need arise. Bethany is vetting and processing the new applicants.

**New Intern:** Bethany introduced her new intern, Jordan Dasilva-Martins, who attends UMass Dartmouth. Jordan has been updating the Social Worker website making sure resources and information are up to date and relevant.

**Mental Health/Food Insecurity/Housing/Social and Ethnic Inequities:** all continue to be issues for many residents. Residents are being more vocal about their mental health issues, because they are finding that COVID has made people less fearful to open up.

### **Bill Murphy – Health Director Update:**

**Health Office:** Public Record Requests continue to roll in. Septic plans are being submitted for review. Permits for Food, Septic, Trash and Tobacco have been processed. Innovative Alternative septic systems continue to be monitored. Stables, pools and camps will be permitted throughout the 2021 calendar year. Tobacco packets were delivered to the Permit holders (8) and cursory inspections were made for signage and product.

**Health Contractor:** Bob Landry has been doing septic and food inspections and handling COVID complaints.

**Re-Emerging Issues:** Issues and questions that the Health Office dealt with last year are re-emerging. Are graduations, proms and other social gatherings safe/feasible?

**Vote:** Susan Sama motioned to publish January 26<sup>th</sup> Board of Health minutes as edited. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-0.

**Susan Sama: V-Safe** is a CDC website developed to monitor symptoms and infection post-vaccination. Those who have been vaccinated are encouraged to report any side effects. Susan Sama and Susan Berry would like to see a link to this website posted to the Sudbury Health Webpage.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM.