



# CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

## BOARD OF HEALTH

60 Pleasant Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950

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**WEBSITE:** [www.cityofnewburyport.com](http://www.cityofnewburyport.com)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### **Board & Staff Present:**

Dr. Robin Blair, Board Chair  
Dr. Robert Slocum, Board Member  
Dr. Sam Merabi, Board Member

Laura Vlasuk, Director of Public Health  
Michael Lawler, Office Manager

### **\*Remote\* Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**June 23, 2022**

#### **I. Call to Order – 7:00pm**

Meeting called to order by Dr. Blair at 7:05 pm

#### **II. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

*Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Slocum, seconded by Dr. Merabi. Motion passes 3-0.*

#### **III. Director's Report**

Director Vlasuk gave an update on the department.

The Health Department has started its weekly bathing beach water quality testing. The results are posted on the Health Department Facebook page and we also post them on our website for easy viewing access.

The Health Department hosted a COVID-19 vaccine clinic today at the Senior Center and we vaccinated 36 people ages 5 and up. We will be hosting a vaccine clinic focused on 3 years of age and up on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 4pm at the Senior Center.

We will be hosting another Blood Drive on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm at the Senior Center. To register, please go to [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) and search Newburyport.

The Health Department received 4 pediatric and 4 adult epi pens through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

NEMMC sprayed the salt marshes for mosquitos on June 14<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to post updates on when spraying occurs through our Facebook and website.

We renewed our Fresh Fridge grant with MIIA Wellness and 6AM Health. One of our locations that had a fridge in the FY2022 grant cycle did not wish to continue due to low sales, so that fridge will be moved to City Hall for those employees.

The Health Department is packed full with paper so we are working with the Commonwealth's Secretary of State Office to destroy records in accordance with the record retention policies they put forth.

The city was awarded 6,600 at-home COVID-19 tests by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at no cost. Once we receive them, we will work on a distribution plan to the community.

COVID percent positivity rate dropped down to 4.82%. Statewide is 5.53%.

**IV. Next Meeting**

July 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm

**V. Session for topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of meeting**

Dr. Merabi asked if the Mayor or Board of Health can do a citation, proclamation or thank you to everyone at AJH for all their thankless work over the past two years. Director Vlasuk will look into this and said we may be able to present it to them at the July meeting.

Dr. Slocum inquired about beach and ocean safety. Wondering if it can be a topic of discussion at next meeting or if we can get more information on it, like do we offer any education at the beach about rip currents or do we post flags about current conditions. Director Vlasuk will speak with the Harbormaster to see what it is his department currently is doing and if there are areas we can partner with him on.

**VI. Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn made at 7:17pm by Dr. Slocum, seconded by Dr. Merabi. Motion passes 3-0.*