

**Newburyport Board of Health Meeting
July 16, 2020
Webinar Meeting Held Remotely due to COVID-19**

Date of Approval: 8/13/2020

Attendees

Dr. Robin Blair, Chairman of the Board
Dr. Sam Merabi, Board Member
Dr. Rob Slocum, Board Member
Frank Giacalone, Health Director
Patricia McAlarney, Note Taker

Call to Order: Dr. Blair called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the Board of Health Meeting on July 2, by Dr. Sam Merabi and seconded by Dr. Rob Slocum. Votes to approve: 3; Votes to oppose: 0. Motion passed.

High School Graduation – Andrew Wulf, Principal of Newburyport High School

Mr. Wulf addressed the Board to discuss the high school graduation ceremony that is planned for July 23 at the school's football field. Mr. Wulf reiterated that social distancing will be maintained for all graduates and guests seated on the field for the ceremony and parking and walking to and from the field will follow planned paths and will be staggered to maintain social distancing. Attendees will enter through four gates and each group (consisting of a graduate and two guests) will be escorted onto the field to their designated spot within one of the four sections of the field. Mr. Wulf provided slides depicting the pre-registration form that will be used to compile contact information for graduates and their guests for use, if necessary, in contact tracing. The Board discussed the plan and agreed that it met with the state's criteria for high school graduation and approved the plan.

Drive In Movie at the Nock Middle School – Director Giacalone

Director Giacalone informed the Board that he was approached by Don Jarvis with a plan for a drive in movie night for Veterans in the City. The event is scheduled to take place at the Nock Middle School on July 28, 2020. In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines from the state, all attendees will be required to remain in their vehicles throughout the event. Mr. Giacalone further explained that cars will be required to park in alternating spaces to further provide social distancing. A large pizza, popcorn and water bottles will be delivered to each group/vehicle. The Board agreed that the event could take place since the plan met with the guidelines set forth by the State.

Corona Virus Update – Frank Giacalone and Patricia McAlarney

Phase 3 Re-openings – Director Giacalone noted that Phase 3 of the State's Re-Opening Plan occurred on July 6, 2020 and provided for the opening of movie theaters and outdoor performance venues, museums, fitness centers, certain indoor recreational activities and professional sports teams (but without spectators present.) Indoor gatherings will be limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet (but cannot exceed 25 people in a single enclosed space.) Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in attendance.

The Board expressed concern with a lack of face coverings being worn by the general public and also by City staff, specifically Department of Public Services employees and members of the Police Department. Director Giacalone agreed to draft a memo citing the Board's observation of the non-compliance with the required face covering guidance and reiterate the importance of face coverings in reducing spread of COVID-19.

Contact Tracing – Patricia McAlarney

Ms. McAlarney informed the Board that the City continues to fare better than many other communities in terms of COVID-19 cases. The current case count is: 98 total confirmed cases; four current active cases; and seven deaths in the City. She stated that the Department was notified earlier in the day that a routine COVID-19 test of all employees at one of the City's long term care facilities had shown that four employees had tested positive and results from remaining staff members were still pending. The facility immediately tested all of the residents and the results are due to be received within a day or two. The facility instituted a plan to ensure isolation of residents who test result is positive and/or who exhibit symptoms (should either of these occur) and, if necessary, to quarantine any residents who are exposed to positive COVID-19 cases. The facility is working closely with the State Epidemiologist and with the Health Department. At this time there have been no employees or staff members who have exhibited any COVID-19 symptoms.

Arbovirus Update – Frank Giacalone

Director Giacalone informed the Board that he had attended a meeting of a City Council Ad Hoc Committee that addressed concerns raised by a resident questioning the need for mosquito surveillance and, more specifically, application of pesticides in Newburyport. The Board stated that the City's continued participation in the Mosquito Control Program is important and necessary due to the threat of diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV.) The disease threat was particularly high in 2019 and is typically known to follow a three year cycle. It was noted that in addition to aerial larvaciding and ground adulticide spraying (when necessary and as ordered by the Board of Health), the Northeast Mass. Mosquito Department and the Department of Public Services perform a variety of other measures to reduce threats posed by mosquitoes such as: cleaning and baiting of catch basins, ditch maintenance, barrier treatments and mosquito habitat mitigation, etc. The Board reiterated their position that it is advisable to continue the Mosquito Control Management program for the current year.

Food Establishments – Frank Giacalone

New Establishments in Newburyport

- **Tuscan Sea Grille** has now opened and is in compliance with all social distancing requirements
- **Chipotle** has submitted plans to the Health Department but the opening date is not yet known.
- **Vera Ristorante** is now in operation on Market Square
- **Olive's Coffee and Bake House** - at the prior location of Eva's Organic Butchery will be opening soon.
- **Lin's Little Kitchen** is now open, serving Asian fusion foods

Board Meetings – The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held remotely on Thursday, August 20, 2020.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Merabi; seconded by Dr. Slocum. Votes in favor: three; Votes to oppose: 0. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.