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**TOWN OF NORTH READING**

*Massachusetts*

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**Board of Health**

TOWN CLERK  
NORTH READING, MA

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2021  
Teleconference/Virtual**

**Members Present:** Gary Hunt, Chairman  
Karen Martin  
Pamela Vath

**Others Present:**

Robert Bracey, Health Agent North Reading	Michael Gilleberto Town Administrator
Stephanie Connolly	Donna Hovey
Mary Samost	Steven O'Leary

**7:00 PM**

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

**Minutes**

Previous minutes have been approved and posted to the website.

**New Business:**

**Public Comment:**

**School update**

Dr. Daly has been updating the Dashboard for the schools on a weekly basis. At this time there has been no major spread related to the schools. There have been a few clusters and one school did close for a week to ensure that no further spread occurred. The lower grades are having a harder time with keep distance and need some reminders to have their masks on. A permission slip has gone out to the families to give permission regarding pool testing of students. Pool testing will be groups of 10 people at a time. If anyone in that group comes back a positive then the whole group will need to get a PCR test done. At the same time that is occurring the contact tracing can begin for the group. Pool testing is going to be starting at the Middle/High school level, with a start date of 3/1/2021 and will run for 6 weeks. Dr. Daly is hopeful that the staff can receive vaccines soon, but has concerns about staffing related to their appointment times and if illness occurs after the vaccine. Dr. Daly is hopeful that something can be done on the local level to assist in vaccinating the school staff. Mr. O'Leary also would like to see more vaccine allotted to the local level to help with this population. If the CDC changes guidelines, what will that mean for the schools? How will bussing look and the classroom spaces? These are all things that Dr. Daly is looking into. Pam Vath received a call from Beth Steele stating that she was a nurse

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### **Board of Health**

at the school. Mrs. Steele is a nurse that assists the school nurses on vacation and to give the nurses a break here and there. She has done some of the contact tracing for the schools. Mr. O'Leary inquired about if teachers are traveling with the upcoming vacations. Dr. Daly spoke to the Mass Travel Order that is still in effect, as well as a screening questionnaire that staff fill out. At this time there have been no issues with people willing to test upon arrival back in MA.

#### **Public Health Nurse Update**

Royal Meadowview Nursing Center is stable at this time and the Order from the Board of Health is continuing to work well.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has notified the Town of North Reading of 1008 cases of COVID-19 in North Reading including 942 residents and 66 patients at or associated with Royal Meadow View nursing and rehabilitation center. The Health Department continues to monitor about 140 cases. Sixteen (16) cases including 13 at or associated with Royal Meadow View nursing and rehabilitation center, two Town residents, and one suspected case in a Town resident, are deceased. Over the last four days we have had 16 patients, and in the last week a total of 44 cases. The numbers of cases are decreasing.

#### **Health Agent Report**

The Health Department received a statement from Department of Public Health signed by Secretary Sudders that localized clinics will not be receiving anymore vaccine beyond the second rounds needed for the patients that have received their first dose starting March 1, 2021. The Department of Public Health is moving to the vaccine to more of the State Sites and Pharmacies. The Health Department worked hard to set up the Hillview and make that a regionalized site with the capability to vaccinate up to 200-300 people a week. As well as worked for 15 years to be able to meet the needs of this type of event through the Emergency Preparedness Coalition. The Board of Health and Health Department are extremely disappointed to have received this news. Mr. O'Leary expressed his concern of what happens when the Pharmacies cannot meet the need of our community. Mr. O'Leary has invited the Board of Health to the next Select Board meeting along with Rep. Jones and Sen. Tarr. Many residents that have been to the clinics at the Hillview have said that it was very well run.

#### **Healthy Hornet Facebook page**

Currently the page has 600 likes and over 300 followers. The page is going well and no issues have arose. The Healthy Hornet also shares information to various other pages such as the NR Transcript and the NR community page. Post ideas include information about 211 for assistance in registration for clinics and reminders of masks and social distancing.

#### **Martin Fair Memorial**

Karen is going to follow up with Rita Mullen and Maggie Salt as to the progress of this project. The concept being a boat shaped play structure at Ipswich River Park.

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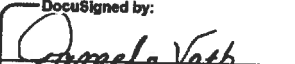
Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for 3/18/2021 @ 7pm.

**Pam Vath motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

**Motion seconded by Karen Martin.**

**All members voted unanimously in favor.**

DocuSigned by:  
  
5164239585FC489  
Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:  
  
6A9AF14FEB41408  
Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:  
  
1920A173D476497  
Karen Martin

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