



2021 SEP 14 AM 10:53

TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Board of Health

North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021
Teleconference/Virtual

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pam Vath

Others Present:

Robert Bracey, Health Agent Stephanie Connolly
Donna Hovey, Public Health Nurse Dr. Daly Superintendent of Schools
Steven O'Leary

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

Minutes

Previous minutes being reviewed, signed and posted to the Board of Health/Health website.

New Business:

Steve O'Leary- the Select Board voted Monday night to have the Town Meeting indoors on 10/4/2021. Will the Board of Health be issuing any guidance in relation to Town Meeting? Mr. Hunt- At this time the Board will follow the data and guidance issued via Department of Public Health. As of today facial coverings are strongly recommended indoors. Mr. O'Leary -With the Schools adopting the potential 80% of people being vaccinated to remove masks, should public building be the same. Mr. Hunt- topic of masking in Public buildings has been brought up and would require more discussion. Dr. Daly- with the mandate via DESE it says that all visitors would need to wear a facial covering. I would think that would extend to Town Meeting. Mary Samost would like to have an educational table set up at Town Meeting to inform people about the COVID vaccine, also maybe an opportunity to have some vaccines available to administer. Donna is interested in doing more education around the vaccine and the importance of it as well as other vaccines. There will need to be more discussion

Dr. Daly Superintendent of Schools:

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DESE has come out with the official announcement dated 8/25/2021 requiring masks in all schools. To read the announcement please visit <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0825mask-requirement.pdf>

This will require all staff, students and visitors to wear masks indoors at any of the schools. The mandate is currently in effect until at least 10/1/202. Discussion at DESE is a potential of 80% vaccinated threshold to have the possibility to remove masks, but that remains undetermined at this time. Dr. Daly reported that he has gotten a lot of feedback from the community both in support and against the wearing of masks.

At this time the Board of Health will continue to support the schools and district as you develop your plans for implementing the DESE guidelines and be in constant contact as we have been throughout the Pandemic. The Board has seldom if ever deviated from that, except in the case of the Nursing home where we were more aggressive and assertive in protecting the patients than the State might have asked of us. The Board will also be monitoring the data in the community, infection rate, vaccination rate as we currently are.

A vaccine clinic was held 8/25/2021 where there was 9 students that received vaccinations. Mrs. Martin made a Facebook post while at the clinic to encourage walk up appointments. There will be more clinics to come as well.

Public Health Nurse Report:

July 1 to August 26, 2021 COVID - 19 Data

Total of cases 131

0 # of new cases at Nursing Homes

73 # of new cases of unvaccinated residents

58 # of cases of vaccinated residents – Breakthrough cases

- 46 # of Pfizer
- 6 # of Moderna
- 6 # of Janssen

Ages - Years	Unvaccinated	Vaccinated		Comments
< 11	13	0		
12 - 15	0	1		
16 - 19	3	7		
20 - 29	19	9		
30 - 49	16	17		

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50 - 64	12	15		
65 - 74	5	2		
75 and older	5	7		
Total	73	58		131 Cases

1 male 65 years of age – unvaccinated currently hospitalized for COVID

Health Director Report:

Mr. Bracey reported that within the community our numbers are going up for vaccinated persons. Individuals with one dose 67%, an increase from last week's 66%. Fully Vaccinated 64%, an increase from last week's 63%. The two week community percent positivity rate is 16.3% while the Commonwealth percent positivity rate is 15.3%. Daily average positivity rate for the Commonwealth is 2.91% North Reading's is 3.8%.

At this time the age category that is concerning is 12-15 year olds, as of today those numbers are one dose 65% and fully vaccinated 59%. 16-19 year olds, one dose 79% and fully vaccinated 75% all the older categories are above 70%-80%. Vaccination numbers continue to trend in a good direction.

Public Comment:

Abigail Hurlbut- 1 Green Meadow Dr- Dr. Daly there are parents that have refused to have their child vaccinated and as a result they have been ostracized from parties and gatherings. Does the school have plans to address this if it becomes an issue? Dr. Daly: At this time we are not seeing this as a concern. There are some concerns regarding identifying students as vaccinated or unvaccinated as the October 1st date comes closer.

Maureen Doherty- 26 Alvin St, Wakefield – Regards to the 4 previous Town Meetings, when doing your contract tracing was there ever a case that was traced back to the Town Meeting? Mr. Gilleberto- Not to my knowledge and that is a testament to the facial coverings and social distancing. These meetings also over lapped the Public Health Nurses Pam and Donna. Neither of them traced any cases back also.

Healthy Hornet Facebook:

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Karen is making regular posts to the page, as well as some real time posts. One such post was from last night's vaccine clinic, stating that all ages and walk up appointments were available. The following post is also going to be shared tomorrow (8/27/2021)


The purpose of the Healthy Hornet Facebook page is to provide information to the North Reading community regarding Health Department initiatives, public education, and notices for upcoming events. The Health Department/ Board of Health abides by its mission statement, "to educate, promote, improve and protect the public health and well-being of the citizens of the Town of North Reading, while contributing to building a healthy community and environment in which to live." If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Health Department directly during normal business hours, 978-357-5242. Response to comments on this page will not be provided, unless to clarify information that has been posted. Thank you.

Next Board of Health Meeting is to be scheduled at a later date.

Gary Hunt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Motion seconded by Pam Vath.

All members voted unanimously in favor.

DocuSigned by:

5184239587524492
Gary T. Hunt

DocuSigned by:

8A9AF14FEB41408
Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

1920K33016
Karen Martin

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