



TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Board of Health

**'North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2022
Teleconference/Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pam Vath

Others Present:
Robert Bracey, Health Agent
Christine Doolin

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Pam reports that last week we had 21 patients total. People who have had new infections that have been reported through the Mass Department of Public Health, there are 877 who have not been vaccinated of 1632 patients and 746 have been vaccinated. One staff member tested positive at the nursing home last week and is being treated. All the patients that were in contact with the infected staff member are being retested and there have not been any positives as a result of that. Many people are doing home testing now and they are not being reported. The numbers we have are tremendously different than the numbers that are reported out of Mavon.

Health Director Update:

Mr. Bracey reports for the week of June 9, that the positivity rate went down from 10% to 8.13%. The positivity rate is going down and vaccination rates are going up. Individuals with one dose are at 83%, individuals fully vaccinated at 76% and individuals with one booster 48%. Based on the department of public health numbers looks like that we are close to having 100% of our population vaccinated based on these numbers.

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TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Board of Health

Public Health Announcement

Mr. Bracey stated he met with Town Administrator, Director of Public Safety, and Superintendent of Schools, they all reviewed what the board is about to accept as a platform moving forward and Mr. Bracey's comment is that the working group reviewed the Public Health Announcement and is in support of it as well.

Karen Martin motioned to approve the attached Board of Health Statement regarding COVID-19.

Motioned seconded by Pam Vath

All members voted unanimously in favor.

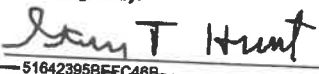
Karen Martin suggested that we put the Public Health Announcement on the Board of Health website and send to the Transcript. Pam Vath said we should also add it to the Healthy Hornet. Mr. Bracey recommended other avenues for distribution such as putting it on Norcam, getting it out to the schools, police and fire department. This announcement can help the community prevent themselves from getting the COVID-19 virus.

Next Board of Health Meeting is to be scheduled for July 28, at 7:00 PM.

Pam Vath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Motion seconded by Karen Martin

All members voted unanimously in favor

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Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:

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Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

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Karen Martin

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Public Health Announcement

Dear North Reading Residents,

The North Reading Board of Health wishes to make the following public announcement. Since March of 2020, the North Reading Health Department/Board of Health has followed the COVID-19 CDC/MDPH/DESE/EEC guidance and adjusted North Reading directives and orders as these bodies have changed their guidance for the community of North Reading. During this time the Town of North Reading has established a COVID-19 working group consisting of the Town Administrator, Director of Public Safety, Fire Chief, Superintendent of Schools, Public Health Nurse and Director of Public Health

The COVID 19 working group has worked tirelessly to review all COVID-19 directives, guidance, information, community transmissions, and positivity and vaccinations rates and have made timely and sound fundamental and informative decisions for prevention and mitigation of COVID 19 disease transmission. These decisions have always been presented to the North Reading Board of Health for review and consideration. The Board of Health has always based its decisions on the impacts to the community and the science of the COVID-19 virus.

Since March 2020, the Board of Health/Health Department/COVID 19 group has worked to develop and implement public health tools for the residential, business and school communities to assist, combat and most recently learn to live with the COVID 19 virus. Those tools include COVID-19 public messaging, weekly updates, educational information, guidance and presentations, vaccination and booster clinics, local and regional testing as well as providing home test kits and masks.

As of today, the CDC/MDPH are close to considering/defining COVID-19 as an endemic. At this time, the Board of Health/Health Department/COVID 19 working group will continue to meet regularly and evaluate the COVID-19 community transmissions as well as positivity and vaccinations rates. The Board of Health/Health Department/COVID 19 group will continue following the CDC/MDPH/DESE EEC guidance and continue providing that same guidance and direction to the North Reading community

The Board of Health/Health Department /COVID-19 working group recommend as the following precautionary measures be taken to protect residents and their families to reduce the chance of infection from the COVID-19 virus:

Prevention: COVID-19 resources and guidance protect yourself, your family and your community.

1. **Get Vaccinated:** Town of North Reading Health Department recommends every North Reading resident get vaccinated and booster against the COVID-19 virus. The North Reading Health Department will continue to provide COVID19 vaccination clinics:
<https://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department/news/covid-19-adult-pediatric-booster-vaccination-clinic>. To find other locations that are available throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Merrimack Valley please visit the vaccine finder on mass.gov or <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>
2. **Get Tested:** The Town of North Reading/Merrimack Valley COVID-19 Testing site. The North Reading Health Department is providing free COVID-19 testing at the Shriners Auditorium 99 Fordham Road Wilmington, Ma. To sign up and register go to the following registration link to make an appointment;
<https://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department/news/shriners-auditorium-covid-19-testing>

Home Test Kits: The Town of North Reading has provided home test kits to residents in 2021 and will continue to provide residents home test kits commencing in June/July of 2022. The Federal

Government will also provide residents with home test kits. To find out more information please visit the following link <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

3. **COVID-19 Vaccine Information:** To access current information on COVID-19 vaccines and frequently asked questions, please visit the following links below:

- (FDA) <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid19-vaccines>
- (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fkeythingstoknow.html
- FAQ's <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions>.

4. **What to do if you have or have been exposed to COVID-19:**

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#what-do-i-do-if-my-test-is-positive?>
- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-guidance-for-the-general-public>

5. **Treatments for COVID-19 - Positive for COVID-19?** If you or any of your loved ones tests positive for the COVID-19 virus, the Health Department recommends that you get treatment, right away. For the most updated COVID-19 treatment, please visit the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/treatments-for-covid-19>

6. **Social Distancing:** The Health Department recommends that residents when out, vaccinated or not, to properly social distance to prevent contracting the COVID-19 virus. To learn more on proper social distancing please visit the following links: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-updates-and-information>

7. **COVID-19: How to Select and Wear a Mask/Facial Coverings:** The Health Department advises wearing a mask over your mouth, nose and chin is important to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in locations where a mask is advised or required. To learn more please visit the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-how-to-select-and-wear-a-mask>

For further information on COVID-19 press releases please visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-updates-and-information>

Residents with questions about COVID-19 can contact Mr. Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health at the Town of North Reading Health Department 978-357-5242 or visit the Town of North Reading Health Department web site at www.northreadingma.gov/health-department

Note: The North Reading Board of Health will continue to follow the COVID-19 CDC/MDPH/DESE/EEC guidance, monitor positivity rates in town and adjust North Reading directives and orders as necessary for the protection and betterment of the community

