

Leanne Jasset, Chair
Kathy Reda, Vice Chair
Mary Ellard, Member

Bridget Sweet, Interim
Director



450 Washington St
Dedham, MA 02026
(781) 751-9220
www.dedham-ma.gov

TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes November 4, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and given the current prohibitions on gatherings imposed by Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 "Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People," this public hearing was conducted virtually, as allowed by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20.

The following Board of Health Members were present:

Leanne Jasset, Chair
Kathy Reda, Vice Chair
Mary Ellard, Member

The following staff were also present:

Bridget Sweet, Interim Health Director

Madam Chair called the Board of Health to order on November 4, 2020, at 5:32 PM.

Health Director Update

Interim Director Bridget Sweet reviewed new executive orders effective November 6, 2020. The new orders include guidelines for wearing masks while in public, closing times for certain businesses, and a modified Stay at Home Advisory. The Health Department notified affected businesses of these changes.

Sector specific protocols include changes to restaurant operations, as well as entertainment venues including movie theaters and businesses with live music. The Health Department will continue working with all affected businesses and conduct COVID-19 inspections as needed. Gathering sizes have been reduced. Indoor gatherings have been limited to 10 people, with outdoor gatherings limited to 25 people.

The Health Department hired a COVID-19 Compliance Officer, who will outreach to business sectors, providing educational materials about COVID-19 sector specific guidelines. The COVID-19 Compliance Officer will also conduct COVID-19 compliance checks. The Health Department is seeking a part-time public health nurse to support contact tracing efforts. Currently, two volunteer nurses are helping with the contact tracing, Board of Health member Marry Ellard and LPN Virginia Griffin.

The Board of Health continues to work closely with other Town Departments, particularly the School Department. A joint Question and Answer Forum is scheduled for November 11, 2020, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. This Forum will be a collaboration between the Board of Health, the School Department, and the School Committee. Questions can be submitted prior to the Forum via a Google Form.

Madam chair thanked the community for staying vigilant during Halloween and asked that the community continue to follow CDC and MA Department of Public Health guidelines for Thanksgiving.

Since the start of the pandemic, there has been 596 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Dedham, an increase of 12 cases from last week.

Madam Chair thanked the Interim Health Director, the Health Department staff, volunteers, and everyone in the community for doing their part in preventing and reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Dedham.

Vice Chair Kathy Reda made a motion to adjourn. Member Mary Ellard and Chair Leanne Jasset Seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the Board of Health's Meeting held on November 4, 2020, which minutes were approved on June 9, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman