

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

Bridget Sweet, Intern
Director



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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes February 11, 2021

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 were also present:

Bridget Sweet, Interim Health Director
Gail Kelley, Dedham School Nurse Supervisor
Lisa Laprade, Dedham School Committee Chair

Madam Chair Leanne Jasset called the Dedham Board of Health meeting of Thursday, February 11, 2021, to order at 5:30 pm.

Dedham Public Schools Discussion: COVID-19 Quarantine in School Settings

Madame Chair introduced Gail Kelley, Dedham Public Schools Nurse Supervisor and Lisa Laprade, Dedham School Committee Chair. Ms. Laprade shared that there has been a collaborative effort between the schools and the Board of Health to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. She further stated that she is seeking guidance on COVID-19 quarantine procedures in a school setting. Gail Kelley stated prior to the holiday break, the Dedham Public Schools had agreed to recommend a 14-day quarantine for all close contacts per the State's guidance at the time. Looking at the data, the 14-day quarantine is helpful for close contacts in a household setting. However, in a sports setting, close contacts must quarantine due to another teammate testing positive or if a player on the opposing team tested positive. As a result, a student may be excluded from school multiple times for 14 days, leading them to have decreased socialization with their peers, possibly affecting their mental health. Nurse Kelley explained that the data does not currently support a 14-day quarantine for sports as there is not a significant amount of COVID-19 being spread through teams. She reported she is seeking a Board of Health approval on the matter. Nurse Kelley reviewed the MA Department

of Public Health guidelines for early release from strict quarantining. The options for early release from strict quarantine are as follows: release on day eight with a combination of a negative test and an absence of symptom development, and a release from strict quarantine on day eleven due to an absence of symptom development. Vice Chair Kathy Reda made a motion to approve the request to reduce the school quarantine from 14 days to 10 days in accordance with the most recent guidelines. Madam Chair seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Director's Report and General Updates

Interim Director Bridget Sweet reported that the Health Department has been supporting residents register for the COVID-19 vaccination clinic that occurred on February 6, 2021. She reported that over 320 doses were administered at the clinic. Interim Director Sweet concluded the clinic was a success and shared that the Department has continued to work with State partners to request additional vaccination doses. The Health Department has been busy with food establishment inspections; inspectors have been utilizing a COVID-19 inspection form during inspections to ensure establishments are compliant with COVID-19 safety standards. Assistant Health Director Leontia Flanagan worked with Fire Chief Spillane and the State's food security team to receive approval for shelf stable, nutritious boxes of food items for residents who are in isolation and quarantine and may not have the ability to get groceries. Assistant Director Flanagan has also been in contact with the school nurses who are aware of families in need of this resource.

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 5:54 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 February 11, 2021 which minutes were approved on June 9, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman