

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

Bridget Sweet, Interim
Director



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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of November 10, 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 Town Officials were present:

Bridget Sweet, Interim Board of Health Director
Gail Kelley, Director of Health Services for Dedham Public Schools
John Bethoney, forum moderator and Planning and Zoning Chair
Dr. Dennis Teehan, Selectman
Mike Welch, Superintendent Dedham Public Schools
Lisa Laprade, Dedham School Committee Chair

Madam Chair stated that the Board of Health meeting would be led by the School Committee and the Board of Health, to address questions in the community related to COVID-19, the Health Department, and the School Department. John Bethoney, forum moderator stated that questions submitted via Google Forms would be addressed first.

Question on School reporting COVID-19 Cases and reopening

Superintendent Mike Welch stated that the school district submitted a required reopening plan to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in mid-August, which was approved. The plans include complying with CDC and DESE guidance and monitor for updates to the guidance. Superintendent Welch reported that unilateral changes in any reopening agreements would require a negotiated memorandum of agreement with the unions. Lastly the Dedham Public Schools are currently required through DESE to report any positive cases among staff or students in the schools. These reports are available on DESE's website. The School Department has purchased over 350 portable HEPA- quality medical grade air purifiers for each classroom.

Question on Contact Tracing

Gail Kelley explained the contact tracing process. She stated that as soon as the Health Department is made aware of a confirmed case within the schools, or if the schools have been informed of a case directly, The schools conduct contract tracing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the schools, the same contact tracing is conducted in the community. Close contacts are identified and instructed to quarantine, and the confirmed case is instructed to isolate. Those that are quarantining are tested no sooner than five days after their exposure. Nurse Kelley explained that the schools are a controlled setting, due to the strict requirements of the schools reopening plans, and contact tracing has shown that COVID-19 spread is predominantly happening in uncontrolled settings.

Member Mary Ellard made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Kathy Reda and Chairwoman Leanne Jasset Seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 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 10, 2020 which minutes were approved on August 19, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman