

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 October 7, 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 was present:

Bridget Sweet, Interim Health Director

The Board met and received an update from Interim Health Director Bridget Sweet. Director Sweet reported that Dedham has been categorized as yellow by the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH) for three consecutive weeks; therefore, businesses may proceed with the Phase 3 Step 2 protocols announced by the Governor last week. These protocols include:

- Weekly document reported on Thursdays on a DESE dashboard related to COVID-19 cases within school districts.
- Additional spectators in youth sports.
- Movie theatre concession stands to operate if they are following sector specific guidelines.
- Dressing rooms to be open in retail clothing stores; and
- Patrons can be seated at bars if they are following sector specific guidelines.

As reported last week, Schools continue to move toward a phased approach of hybrid and in-person learning. The Board continues to work closely with Superintendent Mike Welch and School Committee Chair Lisa Laprade to ensure a safe and successful transition for students and staff.

The Board agreed that participation in Halloween festivities shall be a personal, informed decision. Those who choose to participate by way of Trick or Treating with their children or passing out candy to Trick or Treaters are urged to follow CDC and MDPH guidelines to keep you, your loved ones and your community safe.

The Board announced the first of many planned Flu Clinics, beginning with a by-appointment only clinic for seniors. Appointments can be scheduled through the Council on Aging by calling 781-326-1650. The

clinics will be held at the Endicott Estate on October 9 and October 30. The Board will have additional information on future town wide clinics as soon as dates confirmed.

The Board has added new frequently asked questions online and encourages residents to submit questions and concerns to the Board at dedhamboardofhealth@dedham-ma.gov.

Confirmed Cases

There are 527 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Dedham as of October 7, 2020. Please note, this number reflects the total number of cases confirmed since March 2020. As a result of the recent increase in confirmed cases across the Commonwealth, the Board strongly urges residents to continue to practice social distancing, proper hygiene and the wearing of a face covering.

The Board wishes to express its appreciation to the Health Department, Public Works, and Police Departments for their support during a very busy Hazardous Waste Day last Saturday, where more than 270 vehicles participated.

Resources

Residents are encouraged to visit the website, dedhamcovid19.com, for all town updates as the COVID-19 situation develops. Visitors can subscribe via email to receive notifications for new posts. Although Town Hall remains closed to the public, the Health Department is staffed and available to address all questions and concerns. Residents and businesses are encouraged to contact the office at 781-751-9220 with any questions or concerns. The Board wishes to remind the public to properly dispose of gloves and masks at all public locations.

Madam Chair made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 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 October 7, 2020 which minutes were approved on August 19, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman