

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 September 23, 2020

The following Board of Health Members were present:

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

The following staff were present:

Bridget Sweet, Interim Health Director

The following Town Officials were present:

Mike Welch, Dedham Public Schools Superintendent
Lisa Laprade, School Committee Chair

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.

COVID-19

The Board met and received a COVID-19 update from Interim Health Director Bridget Sweet. Updates included information about new restaurant guidelines; ongoing, routine inspections & compliance checks; COVID-19 testing at the Endicott Estate. CDC guidelines regarding Halloween were released just prior to the Board's meeting. The Board is awaiting DPH's Halloween guidelines, and after a comprehensive review of both, will discuss Halloween at a future board meeting.

The Board provided the following COVID-19 testing statistics at the Endicott Estate between September 13-17, 2020:

- 2,243 persons tested (93% were Dedham residents)
- 60% female, 40% male
- Majority of those tested were between the ages of 40 and 70
- 6 positive cases were identified
- Testing results from the period Sept. 21-25 will be available at the next meeting of the Board.

COVID-19 and Dedham Public Schools

Superintendent Mike Welch and School Committee Chair Lisa Laprade spoke about COVID-19 policies implemented by the School Department in compliance with the Department of Early and Secondary Education, particularly at the ECEC . Vice Chair Kathy Reda toured the ECEC and reported at how impressed she was with the District's commitment to following DESE's recommendations and guidelines.

As a result of the community-wide testing, and the efforts on behalf of the District, the Board took the following action: *Based on the community-wide testing that was implemented the past week and a half, and protocols crafted by Dedham Public Schools and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board of Health supports the District in moving toward the safe return of teachers and students via a phased approach, beginning with hybrid and in-person learning**.

*After the Board's meeting, the state released the most recent statistics showing Dedham trending from red (high risk) to yellow (moderate risk).

Flu Clinics

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 9th and October 30th. The Board will have additional information on future clinics as soon as they confirmed.

Questions & Answers

The Board and Health Department have seen an increase in questions and concerns from the public. As a result, a section has been added to the Board's weekly update to provide responses to inquiries. Residents are encouraged to submit questions and concerns to the Board at dedhamboardofhealth@dedham-ma.gov.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

There are 508 confirmed cases in Dedham as of September 23, 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.

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.

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 September 23, 2020, which minutes were approved on September 28, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman