

Leanne Jasset, Chair
Mary Ellard, Vice Chair
Noreen Guilfoyle, Member

Kylee Sullivan, Director
Mavis Stephany Lopez Silva,
Administrative Assistant



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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2022

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
Mary Ellard, Vice Chair
Noreen Guilfoyle, Member

The following staff were present:

Kylee Sullivan, Health Director
Mavis Stephany Lopez Silva, Administrative Assistant

Chairwoman Jasset called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Discussion & Vote: 5/18/2021, 1/25/2022 and 2/15/2022 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Mary Ellard made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written for all 5/18/2021, 1/25/2022, and 2/15/2022. Member Noreen Guilfoyle seconded the motion to accept the meeting minutes. The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Health meeting on 05/18/2021, 01/25/2022 and 2/15/2022.

Discussion: Introduction of NC-8 Regional Epidemiologists

The NC-8 has hired regional epidemiologists to provide additional public health services to communities. Epidemiologists Amber Mullen and Rachel Brase were present for the meeting and introduced themselves. They are based out of the Norwood Health Department and will be communicating regularly with surrounding towns to provide assistance and develop a community needs assessment. The epidemiologists will be working with a focus on COVID-19 and developing a COVID-19 data dashboard to better assist towns and their needs. The Board asked Ms. Mullen and Ms. Brase about their previous public health experience and welcomed them to the community.

Discussion and (Possible) Vote: MDPH Local Health Internship

Director Sullivan submitted an application for the Health Department to be a Massachusetts Department of Public Health Local Health Internship host site. If chosen as a host site, the Department would have a graduate student intern for the summer. Director Sullivan proposed that the intern assist with researching and amending local public health regulations and work with Town's Public Information Officer to enhance communications between the Department and the public. This potential summer internship would provide additional assistance within the Department and bring a fresh perspective to public health matters. Director Sullivan reviewed details such as the position being part-time with remote and in-person work. Vice Chair Mary Ellard made a motion to approve the application for a MDPH local Health Internship. Member Noreen Guilfoyle seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Update from Health Director

Since the start of the pCOVID-19 pandemic, there have been 4,896 confirmed cases and 579 probable cases of COVID-19. This does not include cases from at home antigen tests, only numbers that are reported to the State through testing facilities.

COVID19 updates

DESE Commissioner Riley announced that the DESE mask mandate will not be extended. As of 2/28/2022 masks will not be required while in a school setting. Director Sullivan reported that the School Committee voted to support the lifting of the mask mandate at their meeting last week. Chairwoman Jasset reported that 24 cities and towns have decided to keep the mask mandate. The mask mandate will be lifted except for K-12 transportation. Chairwoman Jasset stated that business can make their own requirements for their establishments. The Board would like to note that the decision to lift the mask requirement within Town buildings was not based upon input for the Board.

Chairwoman Jasset entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:08PM. Vice Chair Mary Ellard made a motion to adjourn, Member Noreen Guilfoyle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:08PM.

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 22, 2022, which minutes were approved on March 15, 2022.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman