

Wellesley Board of Health  
CONFERENCE CALL  
Meeting Minutes  
August 5, 2020  
11:30 AM

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair  
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair  
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary  
Carol Hannenberg, MD, Associate Member

Staff:

Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nurse Supervisor  
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator  
Leonard Izzo, Director  
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator  
Joyce Saret, Senior Community Social Worker  
Vivian Zeng, Environmental Health Agent

In attendance:

Marjorie Freiman, Board of Selectmen  
John Lanza, Advisory Committee  
Catherine Mirick, School Committee  
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

This was a remote meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 am.

**1. Administration**

a) Director's Report

Leonard Izzo provided the following updates:

- Mr. Izzo elaborated on recent issues surrounding Coronavirus in the Town of Wellesley.

b) Department of Public Health Update- Travel Ban

Leonard Izzo reported on the travel ban that went into effect on Saturday, August 1, 2020. At that time, all New England states were considered to be lower risk. Mr. Izzo reported effective Friday 8/7/20, Rhode Island will no longer be listed as a lower-risk state.

c) Wellesley Public Schools – School Reopening Plan

Shepard Cohen said the priority is to be able to allow children back to school as soon as possible and do this safely.

Leonard Izzo discussed the importance of understanding the opening metrics and creating a decision-making matrix. He reported that the State released guidance (over the weekend), and at the local level, health department staff will work together with school staff. Ann Marie McCauley has been working with Linda Corridan.

The goal for the School Committee is to vote on the school opening model. Although the deadline from the State was August 10<sup>th</sup>, Wellesley is going to be a bit late as its deadline was extended to August 13.

As reported at a previous meeting, Leonard Izzo said the schools formed a reopening committee (with multiple sub-committees). Mr. Izzo has an active role in the planning of school opening and how schools will operate in the Fall.

## 2. Community Health

a) Influenza Vaccine

Leonard Izzo reported the State, as well as local governments are promoting a campaign to vaccinate for flu.

Mr. Izzo anticipates the Health Department will conduct a drive thru flu clinic.

b) Mental Health and Social Services

Joyce Saret reported that overall, there has not been any major unmet mental health/social service needs so far. As the social worker at the Council on Aging is on a temporary leave, Ms. Saret has been working with some seniors and assisting the COA with issues raised by senior citizens.

c) Coronavirus – cases, etc.

The Public Health Nurse Supervisor was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Izzo reported there are no new cases today.

Heidi Harper, Public Health Nurse, reported that much of what is being reported thru MAVEN are probable cases. These (probable) cases are individuals that have been getting antibody blood tests. These are not confirmed cases. No confirmed cases have come in since July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Harper reviewed the various tests available, as follows:

Antigen – looks for the active component of the virus. This test has produced many false negatives. The person may be infected with the virus, but the test shows up as a negative.

PCR – is considered the “gold standard”. This molecular test detects the genetic material of the virus.

Serology or Antibody test- detects the body's immune response to the infection caused by the virus rather than detecting the virus itself. It is recommended that this test be followed by a PCR test to confirm whether an individual is infectious.

#### **4) Environmental Health**

##### **a) Sporting Groups and Camps**

Leonard Izzo reported that he continues to receive complaints about outside groups. Mr. Izzo reported there is a baseball group that has been operating in Wellesley on the fields with no masks or PPE. There seems to be general noncompliance among sporting groups. It is a mandate that masks be worn during these activities.

##### **b) Mosquito Control**

Leonard Izzo reported that Needham had a positive West Nile Virus (WNV) mosquito isolation which was announced yesterday. Messaging is being prepared for dissemination. Flooding rains and heat make mosquitoes problematic.

DPW treated the catch basins at the beginning of July, and East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project is conducting testing of collected mosquitos and does spot checking of catch basins.

c) Babson College

Leonard Izzo reported there was a question regarding testing at Babson College and whether the Health Department could provide any assistance to test the staff. The College outsourced to an agency to provide testing.

d) Wellesley College

Leonard Izzo reported that Wellesley College is using a hotel (The Verve) in Natick to temporarily house students coming from certain high-risk areas, before they are cleared to join the college population. The staff is also working with Natick staff to provide guidance in the area of food service being provided to these students.

Vivian Zeng is working with the College's food service division to make sure that all food going to Natick is handled properly and safely.

Quarantine and monitoring will take place on the college campus, not at the hotel.

e) Private Schools

Updates will be provided on Ten Acre, Dana Hall and St. John operations.

f) Wellesley Public Schools

Marcia Testa Simonson highlighted the school opening discussions, which took place during the 7/29/20 meeting. She reviewed various aspects of risks of children going back to school. There remain many questions to be answered.

Leonard Izzo reported that Joe McDonough, head of the Facilities Management Department has been reviewing the schools' ventilation systems. Catherine Mirick reported that systems have been cleaned and filters have been changed out. Marcia Testa Simonson added the EPA has current guidelines for ventilation and cleaning. Mr. Izzo reported that there have been promises for new state guidance that have yet to be released.

The Board of Health has concerns and would like additional information about the school ventilation systems, as well as the cleaning protocols.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for August 11, 2020. The time will be announced.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner  
Administrator

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Documents reviewed during this meeting and on-file in the Health Department:

- NONE