

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARBLEHEAD
OBSERVER CORPS REPORT FORM

Board of Health, May 7, 2020 MLWV Observer: Tom Krueger
Meeting Posted 48 hrs. in advance
Meeting held in a Handicapped Accessible Location - not applicable
Public allow to Participate in the Meeting

Summary of Agenda Items:

Coronavirus - COVID 19

Andrew gave an update on COVID from the state and local perspective. On 5/6 Governor Baker's order requiring facial coverings for all workers at essential businesses to wear facial coverings with the caveat, if unable to maintain social distancing of less than 6 feet. (The order is quite detailed and should be read in detail for all those in essential businesses. This information is on the Town website as well as [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)).

The MA DPH has guidelines for all to wear facial coverings whenever social distancing of less than 6 feet can not be met. Those exempted are children under the age of 2 and those who are unable to wear a covering for a medical condition. Facial covering should be worn if waiting in line for a store or pharmacy; if in taxi, riding sharing, bus, train, or enclosed or semi-enclosed area. Wearing a facial covering does not replace social distancing of greater than 6 feet, hand washing, or remaining at home when sick. In addition, if using a public restroom, use paper towels to dry hands, as well as, a paper towel to turn of faucets, open and close doors, so as not to re-contaminate your hands. Facial covering guidelines for children: none for those under 2, 2-5 years old at parent/guardian's discretion. (In response to the problem of glasses fogging while wearing a facial covering, one can wash one's glasses with soap and water and then dry as this seems to help. If the facial covering has a metal band over the bridge of the nose, tightening this may help.)

As of May 6, there were 72000+ cases in MA, and 158 cases in Marblehead. There have been 18 deaths in MHD. (Data will soon be shared about the numbers of case and deaths in long term care facilities versus other.) In MHD as elsewhere in MA, the long term care facilities have been the hardest hit. (Concern was raised about the reporting of COVID deaths, in that in some deaths COVID may have not been the primary cause but a contributing one, and causing some under reporting.)

Until the 5/6 the trends for cases and deaths in MA was improving, but a sudden increase occurred on 5/6. Andrew reiterated that for some reassurance about "reopening" MA, there need to be 10-14 day decrease in these numbers. Currently May 18th was set as a time when reopening might occur, but this is now in question. Perhaps June 1?

As far as reopening Marblehead, one BOH member agreed that the trends need to keep decreasing, and that we need more testing. She had concerns about when things do reopen, that people will "take advantage" of the situation and neglect the social distancing,

facial coverings, etc. Andrew said that MHD is following the governor's guidelines, and the town administrator has a team that has begun meet to plan how to safely go about this.

Other local COVID actions - the Park and Rec department have removed all the basketball hoops to prevent pick-up games from occurring. Mark Souza will be following the governor's guidelines regarding the docks, etc. Park and Rec will have a signup system for boat launchings. In addition to the town website, COVID information is being sent via CODE RED calls and via three message boards.

This weekend for Mother's Day florist shops will be "open" in the sense that the shops can have a limited number of workers and sales will only be remote by order. The workers will be practicing social distancing, have staggered shifts, different breaks, and lunch times, etc.

As of 5/7 golf courses will be open with a number of restrictions in places - e.g., no motorized carts, tee times 15 minutes apart, no caddies, groups of 4 or less, no touch ball retrieval from holes, etc.

Finally, regarding facial covering enforcement, the person will be warned once if not wearing and then potentially fined \$300 if this continues. All want just to have compliance with the order and not have to penalize. Note - if a person can not afford a covering, the BOH has a limited supply to give.

The meeting was adjourned and the next is on 5/14/20 at 4pm via Zoom teleconferencing.