



OBSERVER REPORT

BOARD OF HEALTH: 5/11/21 LWVM Observer - Thomas Krueger

Members in Attendance via Zoom - Andrew Petty, Todd Belf-Becker, Sec. Andrea Flaxer, Michelle Gottlieb, Helaine Hazlett

Meeting Posted 48 hrs in advance

Meeting held in a Handicapped Accessible Location - not applicable

Public allow to Participate in the Meeting - yes via Zoom.

Fowl Permits: Fowl permits were granted for two address: 36 Crestwood Road and 16 Rowland Street.

COVID UPDATE

Andrew read the most recent MHD Case Report from 5/7/21. Marblehead is now in the "green" zone with only 8.5 case/100,000 and test positive percent of 1.03%. There have been a total of 1328 cases (since the onset) and there are currently 14 active cases. The vaccination statistics for MHD are 10,139 fully vaccinated, and 3,492 with the first dose. The process now is easier, in that, one pre-registers and is then notified when a vaccination appointment is available. In addition, many more sites (CVS, clinics, doctor's offices, etc.) will now able to offer the vaccines. It is helpful to pre-register, so that there are fewer "walk ins". It is anticipated that the Pfizer vaccine will be available soon for all 12 and older - the FDA has approved this use and the CDC Vaccine Advisory group is anticipated to also grant approval at its next meeting, scheduled for 5/12.

The Northshore Regional Cooperative vaccination center opened today at Salem State University O'Keefe Center. This is a joint program of nine Northshore communities. This will also be open on Thursday 2-6pm. Register online at the MHD town website (marblehead.org)

As of 5/10 numerous changes in guidelines for capacity of indoor and outdoor activities were announced (see mass.gov for details). These affect public and private gatherings, large capacity sites, restaurants, retail, theatre venues, etc. Andrew said to anticipate more changes on 5/29. The face covering guidelines as of 4/30, governor's order #67

(see [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)) are still in effect. Andrew read the entire order above at the meeting. A lengthy discussion with public questions followed about face covering for various sports activities followed. Currently no face covering are required for “low risk” sports (often defined by the distance participants are from each other, e.g., >14 feet.) Some of these sports include swimming, water polo, water acrobatics, singles tennis, gymnastics, baseball, softball, etc. The caveat is that when one starts, finishes, sits on the bench, has a time out, etc. a facial covering is to be worn. Some schools and organizations have more restrictive guidelines; the guidelines cannot be less restrictive than those of the state. Following state guideline avoids a patchwork of rules from community to community.

Helaine publicly noted Andrew’s help and work with MHS principal, Dan Bauer, to make the upcoming senior events as safe and as happy as possible.

BOH MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

Michelle reported on the task force’s progress. The group met last week and is still collecting and collating available resources to incorporate into an overall spreadsheet. Much of the excellent information on school website was reviewed and the idea for the task force is not to “recreate the wheel” but act as a hub for the town with “age based” and “issue based” information. The task force is exploring other activities that might be offered, e.g., speaking engagements, safety net, etc. The group wishes to have not just a spreadsheet but something that is interactive and addresses all age groups. The next meeting is on 5/17 at 7pm.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Beach testing begins in mid-June with some extra testing at the beginning and end of the season. Leaf collection will occur next week on the same day as trash collection.

Household Hazardous Waste pick will occur on 6/9. The posting is on the town website as one need to sign up there at least 24 hours before the event. As a reminder, the pickup is at one’s residence with hazardous waste left out in front or by the garage. This program has allowed many more to be served and will be offered 4/yr. A question was raised about the minimum amount, and this can be found on the website as well as what can be accepted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A number of questions were asked about the facial covering guideline in reference to sports. The BOH discusses the guidelines with the school and Park and Rec. The school, however, decides on how to and how much to implement them, although it cannot be less restrictive than the state guidelines. One resident noted that some of the facial covering signage needs to be updated. One resident felt it seemed inconsistent that baseball was on the exception list and soccer was not.