



OBSERVER REPORT

Board of Health: 11/2/20 League Observer - Thomas Krueger

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

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.

Summary of Agenda Items:

Minutes of 10/19/20 had two changes - one a spelling error and a second was that a member for the school health and safety committee was a health professional and not a member of the BOH.

COVID UPDATES:

Andrew related that there had been a positive case at the Glover school and this was investigated by the health department nurse who found there were no close contacts. (A close contact is as per the CDC guidelines: a contact within 6 feet, over a 50 minutes time in a 24 hour periods, starting 2 days before the identified positive case.) The teacher was the only contact and is in quarantine. No names will be shared. Another case associated with the Glover school involved one who was remote learning and not in the building, so not a concern.

In reference to the handling of the Glover School case and that of the high school, the circumstances were entirely different. For the high school, there had been a party involving up to 50 students, reportedly without social distancing and masks. When this was investigated, most of the participants had fled, so that they couldn't be all identified, preventing contact tracing. In response to this Dr. Bucky decided to have the students have remote learning only for the next 2 weeks, and suspended sports and practices for the same time period. Further legal action is planned for the gathering. (There had also been a large social gathering of young adults but not students at MHD.)

- Andrew then informed the Board about the orders that the governor had issued this day - Orders 53, 54, and 55. (The content of these orders which are quite detailed are on the town website, marblehead.org. All are urged to read these as a mere summary would be not be sufficient.) Order 53 covers the stay at home advisory from 10pm to 5am and in

keeping with this restaurants and other facilities are to close at 9:30 pm. (Restaurants can continue to do take-out past this time.) The order will go into effect on 11/6/20 at 12:01am.

- Order 54 details the size and limits of public and private gatherings while allowing low risk communities a larger size (≤ 100). For gatherings of 50 or more the boards of health should be notified in advance. These gatherings are to conclude by 9:30 pm. Exemptions are made for religious and political gatherings. This order goes into effect also on 11/6/20.
- Order 55 concerns facial coverings with all over 5 years old required to wear coverings whenever in a public area. Children 2-5 years old are encouraged to wear facial coverings. Public settings include stores, sidewalks, rail trail, roads, transportation (such as buses, trains, car pools, etc.), etc. As before there are exemptions for medical conditions or disabilities. This order too goes into effect on 11/6/20 12:01am. The impetuses for the governor to issue these orders was the concern that individual communities would be making their own rules about facial covering, leading to confusion, and he was trying to avoid closing down businesses again as the the cases counts worsen.

Andrew noted that DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) has changed the “goal posts” a number of times regarding what parameters would be used to have school have to go to remote learning. It seems to be changing again.

There was some discussion about the enforcement of these orders. The health department has the authority to issue citations, but as in MHD the health department has few staff, and it would be very difficult to field calls, etc. and also enforce. The goal is always for first offenses to “educate” the violator, and only with noncompliance issue a citation.

REOPENING COMMITTEE

Helaine reported the Glover school and high school incidents noted above were discussed. A teacher survey was done and revealed their concern and fear about the logistics of lunch times where the children are without masks. The use of webinars with live streaming is being investigated. Supplies, such as, wipes are already being reordered. The school department has hired an outside custodial company to do the “deep” clean that is required, a task that is beyond the resources of the school custodians. It is expensive, \$30,000 per week, but “we couldn’t do it without them.” The reopening committee will resume weekly meetings.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

A planned event with Clean Harbors was cancelled, however, another company ACD (?) has been used. This will be, as before, a preregistered event on-line with prepayment for the service. They will come to the house for pickup and the homeowner does not have to be even at home. Currently this is planned for 12/8/20. In a previous event 100-200 MHD and Swampscott residents participated, and there was much positive feedback. Andrew said he

would like to have these events four times a year. This frequency would help with the otherwise storage of hazardous waste.

TRANSFER STATION

Due to high winds the roof on the compactor shed was damaged, and has been temporarily fixed. A new roof will be needed and will be a budget item next year.

QUESTIONS FROM ZOOM PARTICIPANTS: 1) If there is a close contact of COVID in MHD, will the HD contact the parents? This question arose as there have been situations where a coach of a team has notified the parent. Andrew answered that for each positive case, a public health nurse or CTC (Contact Tracing Collaborative) will contact the close contacts. (The CTC steps in when the local HD is unable to handle the case due to overload.) What happens on Saturday or Sunday? Andrew works over the weekend. 2) Concern was raised over the communication about the Glover school case - parents wondering when the investigating was done re: the start of school. (It had been completed.). Andrew said that sometime there is a delay because a close contact may be called, and they do not recognize the number, so might not pick up.

MISCELLANEOUS

Halloween: Andrew said there were no issues. At the high school parents from a PTO had staged a “great event” with a drive-through Halloween, social distanced, with parents and first responders all donning costumes. At the end a gift bag was handed out.

The meeting was adjourned with the next planned for 11/10/20 at 7:30 pm via Zoom teleconferencing.