



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARBLEHEAD

Observer Corps Report Form

Joint Board of Health :Date - 5/21/20 League Observer - Thomas Krueger
Members in Attendance via Zoom - BOH : 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

Summary of Agenda Items:

Coronavirus - COVID 19

Andrew gave an update of the COVID statistics for MHD - 209 cases, 138 active cases, 19 deaths. As per guidance from the state, the number of reported deaths will be higher, as the cause of death will include COVID as a primary and secondary cause. In effect this will change the 19 deaths to 28. Of the 209 cases, 58.85% were in long term care facilities (LTCF), and 68.42% of the deaths were also there.

The major topic for discussion was the “reopening” of the state as of 5/18/20. Phase 1 of four phases has begun with guidelines promulgated by the state. The “stay at home” guidance has been changed to “safer at home.” (All of the earlier recommendation are still important - for those 65 or older, stay home except for needed trips for grocery stores, pharmacies, or medical needs; if ill, remain at home; practice social distancing (SD); wear a mask is unable to SD; wash hands, etc.) The guidelines above are detailed and comprehensive and are available on the MHD BOH website as well as [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov). Of particular note with the Memorial Day weekend coming is that gatherings of people should be less than 10, especially if in confined spaces, but in “unconfined” spaces, such as, parks, beaches, fields, etc. larger gathering, with social distancing and facial covering still being practiced. (For example, at the beach, groups of 10 or less family units may be together, but each grouping should be 12 feet apart.) Each phase will be started about 3 weeks apart, depending on the following metrics: number of COVID cases, # hospitalized, # tested, # deaths, etc. Each phase will have different guidelines and may supersede previous ones.

In regards to the guidelines for businesses, they are very detailed and specific for each type of business - for each of these refer to the appropriate business on the website, [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov). Each business needs to comply with their category specific guidelines, and will self-certify their compliance. Among many of the requirements are create a control plan, follow a check list, and hang a poster in their business about their compliance. This order will be enforced by each local BOH with the following procedure: first violation, a verbal warning; second, a written warning; third, a \$100 fine; fourth, a \$200 fine; fifth, a \$300; further enforcement,

could be “cease and desist” with a court order. The overarching approach is cooperation versus punishment.

The above guidelines will be followed by all MA BOH towns and cities, so there is consistency from town to town. During the implementation, there will be uncertainty and many questions coming from local BOH. These will be channeled up to the appropriate state agency, answered, and then communicated to all the BOH, again emphasizing consistency.

Questions were raised about a variety of activities (for which there are specific guidelines); tennis - can only play with members of the same household; golf - as noted before, no clubhouses, no touch cups, walking in groups of 4 or less, wearing masks, waiting in the car before tee time, carts for ADA people, etc; farmer’s market - comprehensive guidelines, many of which are similar to groceries stores, including spacing. The plan currently is to open the MHD Farmer’s Market on 5/30/20.

The MHD Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted on 5/21 to have a town committee to address issues of reopening in MHD. The committee is to include the town administrator, members of the BOS, chair of the BOH, police chief, fire chief, a retailer, a restaurateur, and others. These meeting will be open meetings for the public.

Questions and comments were discussed about high school graduation. Currently, the graduation ceremony plans at the high school are as noted previously (BOH 5/14/20), with each graduate being honor separately and having the ceremony videotaped. The process with 15 minutes of spacing will take place over 4 days.

The governor’s office promulgated guidelines as of 5/19/20 about how to conduct graduation ceremonies safely. Previously, a group of MHD parents of high school seniors had been working on how to “stage” such an event. One parent of this group was pleased to see that their work dovetailed quite well with the governor’s. Briefly, graduation ceremonies prior to 7/19 are to be quite limited. After 7/19, the guidelines are for ceremonies to be outside in unconfined areas to allow ample SD and good airflow. There are to be no tents, no food, no drink. Among the many “rules” are attendees to be the graduate and immediate family and discouraging children < 5 and older seniors from attending; seating at least 6 feet apart; graduates spacing at least 6 feet apart; entering and exiting also respecting SD; etc. One thought is that this event would take place of Piper Field, and would be in addition to that noted above.

Other questions dealt with size of groups who are performing park and beach clean up; parking at beaches - 50% of max; playgrounds - still closed; play dates - limited but that will be open to interpretation.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting will be on 5/28/20 at 4pm, via Zoom teleconferencing.