



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Board of Health: Date - 9/29/20 via Zoom 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 - yes via Zoom.

Summary of Agenda Items:

Minutes of 9/9/20 and minutes of 9/15/20 were amended and then were accepted.

COVID Update:

Andrew presented the latest statistics: for MHD 272 cases (to date), 4 new ones from the previous week, a total of 30 deaths (to date) and the advisory to self-quarantine for 14 days from all state except from CO, CT, ME, NH, NJ, NM, NY, VT, and WA.

For the state of MA the following statistics as of 9/23/20: 269 cases (up slightly), from 8,292 tests completed. With more testing there is a better idea of how much COVID is in the community.

The governor as of 9/29 announced that reopening could proceed from Phase 3 Step 1 (P3S1) to Phase 3 Step 2 (P3S2) as of 10/5/20. These pertains to select and limited low risk activities and businesses. One caveat is that for a town to proceed to P3S2 that town could not be in the "red" zone in any of the last 3 week MA DPH reports. The following are examples of the allowances for various activities: indoor and outdoor performance areas - 250 people or <or=50% of capacity; fitting rooms are now open; arcades, trampoline, roller skate, laser tag facilities <or= 50%; indoor gathering <or= 25, private gatherings <or= 50; outdoor gatherings <or= 100 (previously <or= 50). Note the distinction between and an outdoor gathering and a performance is that a gathering allows some mingling of people whereas a performance is an assigned seat activity. As a reminder all are REQUIRED to wear a mask at an indoor event, including

restaurants (except to eat), and any group >10 in a private yard must also wear a mask.

For restaurants, parties are still limited to 10 or less. Patrons can sit at the bar to be served meals and drinks by a server with the next party at least 6 feet away. There is NO traditional bar service for drinks. The distancing between parties must be 6 feet or more and plexiglass can not be used to shorten the distance. Menus that can be disinfected between each party can now be used. Typically, the disinfectant is the same as used for tables - bleach/water solution or quaternary ammonia.

In regards types of COVID tests, it is highly recommended when tested, to just have a PCR test done. As with the quantitative antigen test, if it is positive, a PCR test needs then to be done.

HALLOWEEN:

With Halloween approaching, all are concerned about a safe way to proceed. The state has put out some very generic guidelines. Andrew is working with other health officers of the Northshore to develop specific guidelines. The major objectives are to avoid costume parties or large gatherings and to promote a “touchless delivery” method for offering candy. As a consequence, there will be NO school parties; candy can NOT simply left outside; it suggested that the collected candy be “left” aside for 24 hours before eating. Many creative ideas have been offered for this touchless delivery: an 8-foot large PVC pipe that candy could be “sent” down, a “ghost on a string” lowered offering candy, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Fall Sports - as noted before a number of fall sports will be able to resume, but if a community has a case count putting it into the RED ZONE, they will not be able participate. New guidelines from the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) are being developed about how long they would be excluded from participating once they are no longer red.

School reopening committee: due to a number of holidays, etc. there have been no recent meetings. The next one is scheduled for 10/19/20.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 10/17/20 at 9am. (This will be held under a tent, and although it will be recorded, it will not be live streamed.) The warrant articles are now out, and Todd, chairperson of the BOH, wants the board to draft statements for discussion at the next meeting (10/6) regarding two of the warrants:

article 40 Leaf Blowers and article 44 Sustainable Marblehead - Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Miscellaneous:

Helaine noted a thank you letter from the workers at the Transfer Station for the coffee and muffins that the board members sent as an appreciation for their work.

Helaine also reported that at the Farmers Market one is able to handle pick and bag one's own produce - a result of changing guidelines.

The next meeting times were set: 10/6/20 and then 10/19/20 at 7:30PM via Zoom Teleconferencing. The meeting was then adjourned.