



Observer Report

BOARD OF HEALTH: 3/9/21 LWVM Observer: Thomas Krueger
Members in Attendance: 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.

COVID UPDATE

Andrew read the most recent case report that is available on marblehead.org, "Information Alert/ Coronavirus Disease 2019... Briefly, the total case number = 1172 (an increase of 3 from the previous week); average daily incidence 19.1/100,000 (improving); percent test positive = 1.38% (improving). Information is included about capacity limits for venues (indoors and outdoors), private settings, industries, and restaurants. In addition, the vaccine distribution is available for those >65, 2 co-morbidities, and as of March 11th for educators, child care workers, and K-12 school staff. There will be designated specific days at the seven mass vaccination sites for educators to get their shots. There is also information about the newly approved Johnson and Johnson vaccine. A question-and-answer section address questions about side effects of vaccines, when and how long to expect protection, how 1 dose vs 2 dose vaccines compare, and if vaccinated, what travel orders, whether to quarantine if contact with someone with COVID, etc.

Andrew noted that there are now new TRAVEL GUIDELINES in particular travelers entering from lower-risk states, i.e. risk at or lower than MA (these travelers do not need to fill out the form or quarantine); no quarantine for COVID test negative within 72 hours; no quarantine in transitory travel, commuter for work, etc. Quarantine is also NOT necessary for: those who are arriving who had COVID and recovered and are asymptomatic 10-90 days ago; those who are completed vaccinated, without symptoms, and >14 days after vaccination.

In MHD 2,429 dose have been shipped, and 2,170 administered. 2,872 Marblehead residents have received two doses so far, and 2,614 have received one. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine can be administered to those 18 or older and is a single dose vaccine. The supply is limited and there won't be much available until the end of

March. The Health Department is putting efforts into vaccinated those in-home residents who are unable to leave their homes without significant help, as well as, those low income, in affordable housing seniors. This effort is in collaboration with the MHD Housing Authority and COA, especially identifying individuals and scheduling appointment. A clinic for these individuals will be held on 3/23.

During question period, the following was answered: 1) if one is fully vaccinated, and is to have contact with someone who is at high risk for COVID complications, full precautions are still necessary. 2) as recommended by the CDC, fully vaccinated people can visit other fully vaccinated ones without precautions AND can visit a single house with low-risk members. In public, however, all the precautions (masks, social distancing, etc.) should be followed. 3) even though more people are eligible, "moving thru" the phases will be slow because of limited doses of vaccine.

MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

A draft was presented to the Board to formally establish a mental health task force under the auspices of the Board of Health. The draft included the basis being the current detrimental impact that COVID has on the mental health of students, parents, as well as seniors, etc. It also acknowledged that the impact will be felt for a significant time after the pandemic is over.

The task force would include 1 member from the BOH, 1 Board of Selectman, 1 school administrator, 1 school guidance, 1 COA, 1 MHD Counseling Center, 1 health professional and 2 citizens from the community. For the latter, it was decided to solicit volunteers via a letter to be posting on Facebook, MHD web page, and in the MHD Report (although that would not happen until next week.) The process will be kept open until 3/22 with the candidates reviewed and discussed at the next meeting on 3/24. The intent is to convene the first meeting before 3/31. Michele Gottlieb of the BOH will chair the task force and it would done in an open meeting format. There was much discussion about goals, meetings, recommendations, many of which will be decided by the task force. Motions were proposed for the above and approved.