

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, December 15, 2020

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Michelle Gottlieb, Helaine Hazlett, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters)

Web-based video conferencing meeting of Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Andrew spoke about Governor Baker's decision on the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is scheduled to arrive on December 14th with four hospitals getting 5580 doses and this will be continuing with seventeen more hospitals receiving 53000 doses. Massachusetts is expecting to get 180,000 of the Pfizer and 120,000 of the Moderna vaccine by the end of December. As doses are administered, the hospitals will report to the DPH which will be added to a public dashboard on mass.gov to track the immunizations given weekly. CVS and Walgreens will be assisting in providing vaccinations in nursing homes and long term care facilities.

The guidance from the MA Department of Public Health for celebrating the holidays safely are as follows:

- Limit in-person celebrations to household members
- Postpone or cancel holiday travel.
- Virtually attend holiday gatherings.
- Prepare food for neighbors and friends and deliver in a touchless way.
- View holiday lights from your car.
- Do not share food or drinks.

Andrew told the Board there were 73 active cases of COVID-19, 2806 tests were taken and a positive rate of 3.85%, 503 cumulative cases and 31 confirmed deaths in Marblehead since the week of December 10th. The age breakdown is as follows:

15 – (0-19 yrs. of age)
21 – (20-29 yrs. of age)
7 – (30-39 yrs. of age)
15 – (40-49 yrs. of age)
21 – (50-59 yrs. of age)
17 – (60-69 yrs. of age)
9 – (70-79 yrs. of age)
5 – (>80 yrs. of age)

Andrew discussed how the recent COVID testing went at Temple Emanu-El. On December 11th, 400 residents signed up to be tested. Only 300 were tested due to a staff shortage from Cataldo. The 100 that were not tested will be tested at a later date. Today there were 384 residents tested and 300 are scheduled for December 18th. The testing on December 21st will be held at the high school with 700+ already signed up. There are other testing sites available by visiting mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread.

Helaine met with the Reopening Committee on December 11th and 14th. The topic at both meetings focused on how schools would meet before and after the holiday break. All students will be remote from 12/21-23 with the exception of special needs students who can continue to attend school if their parents wish. Teachers have been offered additional PPE. It is unclear as to how the students will be learning after the break it depends on the number of cases.

Helaine thanked Jodi Smith for all her help and input during the pandemic.

MOTION to close meeting. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk