

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, January 19, 2021

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

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

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

MOTION to approve executive session meeting minutes of December 8th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Andrew told the Board the case count from January 15th was 863. The active cases at this time are 89 and there are 31 confirmed deaths of COVID-19. The age group of 0-19 is the largest number of positive cases and the 20-29 age groups also has a large amount of cases. This is a direct result of attending social gatherings over the holiday season. He reminded everyone to continue to wear a mask, socially distance and wash hands often.

A discussion about mental health issues was brought up. There are many resources for an individual to seek help. Mass.gov provides a lot of information and dialing 211.

Last week there were 5 days of regional first responders' vaccine clinics for the towns of Marblehead, Swampscott, Salem, Danvers and Beverly. A total number of 700 vaccines were administered.

The reopening committee continues to meet weekly on Mondays and meeting minutes will be sent to the Board of Health to discuss at their meetings.

A discussion about pool testing was initiated. The type of pool testing that would be funded for 6 weeks by DESE would be as follows: a nasal swab of 10-25 children would be pooled and test via PCR; if the pool is positive, all of that pool is to quarantine and each is to return for an individual antigen test. If the antigen test is positive, then, a PCR test is done. The test results of the PCR often take 72 hours. This entire process would require a lot of data management and entry into the MAVEN system. The procedure could take 375 minutes of time for 25 children. There are 6 schools in Marblehead. In addition, the process requires specific training which if started now would further delay implementation. "Currently Marblehead does not have the capacity or funds for this program" according to Deanna McMahon, Nurse Leader for Marblehead Public Schools.

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 8:53pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk