



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
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William White
Chairman

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

BOARD OF HEALTH
January 26, 2021 – MINUTES

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Garrett Albiston, Lorna Welch

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **December 1, 2020** - Approved

AGENTS UPDATE:

- **COVID testing and vaccination planning**

Ms. Lancaster presented data from November to January. There has been some softening in caseloads. They are seeing a much larger number of household conversions (one family member spreading it to others in the household) which isn't surprising given that it is winter and people are in enclosed spaces more often than not.

Schools are implementing a stricter quarantine policy. We have the original 14 day quarantine from the CDC, there is a 10 day quarantine which doesn't require testing and the 7 day quarantine includes testing on day 5 for close contacts because of the incubation period.

The new variants have been detected in the State but we haven't been specifically notified by DPH that any of our pools have tested positive. The State is doing surveillance testing for this. Moderna is working on a booster to cover these variants.

By the end of this week they will up to about 1200 students and staff that have been testing through the school testing program. It is a self-administered spit test. There has only been one person who tested positive so far out of that pool testing. The method of reporting if a person tests positive is to identify the barcode, contact the school nurse directly and then they will contact the BOH to start the contact tracing for the student or staff member that is positive. Each school has its own allocated amount of tests based on population. Some groups are being testing weekly such as student athletes, the minnesingers and they are going to start doing forward facing physical, occupational therapists and Special Ed teachers who may be in

classrooms with special needs children that may not be able to wear masks or do not have the ability to self-administer the test. There have been about ten families or staff members who have refused to test. If it's a student they get moved to full online learning and if it's a staff member they can face disciplinary action.

Testing at the high school has declined slightly but they will remain open because we could possibly use that site for overflow of vaccinations. There is a concern that people are not getting testing if they are not feeling well which would mean our numbers are not really accurate.

The hospital feels very confident in being able to capture a large portion of the population based on who they already have in EPIC. They can then search their database for the criteria for the different tiers of vaccinations. They will be able to prioritize and reach out to those patients directly as their phase comes up to be eligible for vaccination. If you are not a patient and you have not had interaction with the hospital they have a mechanism for getting you registered in EPIC and then basically being a hospital patient. Due to the concerns about vaccine handling and storage the hospital is the best facility to facilitate this endeavor. We are relieved from the public health perspective that they have taken this on and in a really thoughtful manner and we believe they are going to be able to execute this.

There is a State website where you will find the COVID 19 Massachusetts Vaccination Attestation Form that you would fill out and it goes directly to the State. You will get an email from DPH confirming you eligibility and then the email confirmation goes to Partners. Partners will schedule the appointment for the vaccination. As of Monday they had vaccinated 418 hospital employees (139 have completed two) and 298 first responders and community providers. The next group they will move into is non-Covid healthcare related workers (dentist, chiropractors, PT's). They had about 300 people identified for that group and Phase 2 is also for public facing workers possibly to start February 8th but not confirmed as of yet. They think once they get going with 25 chairs they can do approximately 500 vaccinations per day. The hospital is also actively working on a robust patient communication plan. The State is working with Mass General/Brigham for the distribution and then they will distribute to their partner hospitals. They believe the whole vaccination clinic will take four months to get through.

There was discussion about having a joint meeting with Tisbury to discuss their draft septic regulations for Lagoon Pond District.

Mr. Butterick made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant