



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 MEETING
April 14, 2020 – MINUTES**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Aaron Wilson, Dick Cohen, Tim Sweet

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

APPOINTMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 25, 2020 - Approved

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- Masks – guidance from CDC and consideration of local requirement for face coverings in food establishments and grocery stores

Ms. Lancaster stated that the idea is that a mask or face covering can help prevent transmission because any droplets that an asymptomatic person might be producing would be contained and not going out into the environment especially in an enclosed space. The Board discussed and agreed with this preventative measure and voted to implement the requirement of wearing a mask or face covering in any essential service establishments that are open to the public.

AGENT / ADMINISTRATION UPDATES:

- Update on COVID-19 response activities

The meetings with the Dept. of Public Health, the hospital and Health Agents continue and they have some good plans in place. Island Healthcare providers will follow up with confirmed cases and do contact tracing. Two of the IHC nurses are doing this currently. Because our numbers are low we haven't had to activate the second tier with the school nurses. The nurses are continuing their training on MAVEN on how to input cases. The third tier is yet to be identified. The staff at MV Community Services might be able to aid in that if needed.

Health Agent is in communication with restaurant and business owners and getting information to them as needed.

Following up with the Steamship Authority because there was document that had information about the local orders and contact information for the Boards of Health. It is not clear if that document was ever distributed to travelers. They want to make sure everyone coming over to the island is aware of our local requirements.

Ms. Lancaster believes that everything we have done by being more conservative is paying off because we are holding steady in our number of positive cases. Boston is entering their surge phase right now. Barnstable was at 500 cases yesterday. They had a spike and then a flattening. Nantucket is still at 9 and we are holding steady at 12. We need to consider that if Boston is experiencing their surge what would we do if we don't have Boston as a back-up if we had the same surge at the same time. Everything we have done is working.

- Seasonal Opening plans

The food establishments are subject to the orders until May 4th. That week we will be doing pre-opening inspections. We will need to have distancing and sanitation in place. We need to open things up in a thoughtful manner so we don't have a boomerang effect. We still don't know what this will look like for retail. We are working on guidance for these businesses.

- Outreach to Brazilian Community – efforts undertaken

Everything has been translated into Portuguese during this time. We have been talking with Elio Silva and Fernando Lana and they have been working primarily through the Brazilian Facebook groups to help communicate some of the information. They felt as though while the information was available in Portuguese and available on a variety of different platforms that some of the Facebook groups were a quicker way to reach the community. We have also been taking some of the documents that are lengthy and just making condensed bulleted points so it's very direct and to the point. They have also been working with the churches and individual outreach because they felt that some people in the Brazilian community were not taking this seriously and are trying to change that socially. They are also reaching out to Leah Palmer who is an English Language specialist for the school system and talked to her about doing some outreach through the families of the students.

Mr. White stated that he received a call from someone who lives in the Campgrounds that had a complaint about several tour vans going through and letting more than five people out to walk around. They didn't know who the tour company was so he wasn't sure who to reach out to. Ms. Lancaster will get in touch with the tour companies.

Mr. Butterick stated that Jim Glavin, Chairman of Aquinnah Board of Health, contacted Dr. Yukevich at Vineyard Medical Care and is looking for large scale testing on the island and antibody testing. Mr. Butterick stated that he and Mr. Loberg will initiate a conversation with him. Mr. Zinno would like to be on that call as well. Mr. Butterick stated that there is antibody testing available but it is not a sure thing and the FDA is not approving them very rapidly. Also the specificity and sensitivity are not what you would like to see. Even though you may show antibodies in your blood you may still be infectious so we don't want to take the presence of antibodies as evidence that a person doesn't have to be careful. We are learning new information every day about his virus. Mr. White requested an update after they have their conversation.

Mr. Wilson asked if they could read the exact wording on the motion about masks and where you have to wear one. Ms. Lancaster replied that it would be required when entering a public, enclosed space (the essential services that are open and you are entering the building).

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant.