



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
June 18, 2020
Open Conference Call

Present:

Douglas Kress, Director
Brian Green, MD (Chair)
Paula Machado, Board Member
Robert Ciccio, Board Member

Absent:

None

Guests: One (1) caller

Meeting Called to Order:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 6:04pm. It was seconded by Mr. Machado

Approval of May 28, 2020 Minutes: On a motion made by Dr. Green, the May 28, 2020 minutes were approved. It was seconded by Mr. Machado.

Covid19 Updates: Mr. Kress presented Covid19 data slides on all aspects of the virus pandemic from June 15 through June 22, 2020. Keys Dates – May 28th, City announces 1.5 million in rental assistance to tenants in need. May 29th – City announces that June 1st for re-opening date for hair salons, and barbershops with higher safety standards than the state's guidelines. City buildings will remain close to the public pass June 1st. The slides also show how the pandemic is trending globally in cases, positive and negative results, and deaths due to covid19. The CDC trends data as of 6/14 shows 945 resident tested positive, 826 recovered, 29 fatalities and 119 active cases. Food Security for families in need; the City has provided meals to appx 552 households and appx 209 individuals.

Fire and Police still get calls to assist in covid 19 related calls, but they have slowed down. Guidelines have been put in place for sports program, and public swimming pools. Face coverings modifications have been implemented for example when one is out in public the resident may walk jog, etc., but once they approach other people they must put on their masks. Massachusetts ranks 3rd. The City continues to work with CHA testing's sites and if residents would like to be tested, they can call 617-665-2928. The City still is able to get access to testing and ppe supplies from various vendors and the State. The State also encourages residents to get tested. The State is looking into antibodies testing and Somerville is also looking into antibodies testing with the partnership with Harvard, MGH, and MIT. The City is hoping to have a package put together in the next few days to offer to the city residents, free of charge. The City is testing between 120 and 150 up at Tower Street. We are also finishes up the senior buildings. The city continues to run their mobile testing site at various locations. Appointments are required. Both Dr. Green and Mr. Cicada thought the slides were a great respective view of the whole picture of covid19 for the City of Somerville. Constant communications to the public should still be engraved in the residents, so wearing of masks; washing hands etc. do not go buy the wayside.

Directors Updates: The Director of ISD, is overlooking the restaurants opening, make sure restaurants submit their safety plans; and inspectors to go out to respond to complaints to make sure the restaurants stores stay in compliant during the covid19 pandemic. The Somerville Board of Health supports the Mayors initiatives and orders and during this time. The city is looking to improve access to mental health services which has put a lot of stress on residents and how they are handling, depression, job, loss, domestic violence child care issues etc. Substance use is up as well. The city is revisiting the Core Program again; it originally started out in the Health Department then was transferred to the Police Dept. The Mayor has also declared that racism is a public health issue has been working to change police polices and other aspects The City Council put in a board order to have the Board of Health look into Indoor Air Quality with new constructions along highways that border Somerville. Constructions to improve the indoor air quality Mr. Kress was able to talk to the Council during the public health safety meeting last week, to let them know the Health Dept. has been looking into this working with the Planning Dept. Mr. Kress will work with the City Council to try to get dates to have a joint meeting. Re-opening does not mean we should let our guides down, wash your hands don't touch your face with your hands, and social distancing is a really strong factor that shows it slows down the virus. And wearing the face mask when you are out and about.

Dr. Green mad a motion to approve and adopt the mask mofications guidelines that if in public and no one is around you may remove your mask but once you are within 6' of other people, the mask must be put on immediately. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

A vote was taken. 3-0 All in Favor.

MOTION CARRIED UNAMIOUSLY

Dr. Green made a motion declaring racism as a health and safety emergency. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

A vote was taken, 3-0 All in Favor.

MOTION CARRIED UNAMIOUSLY

Next meeting – Virtually

Tuesday, July 16, 2020

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, May 28, 2020 Minutes, Covid19 Data Slides

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira
Board of Health Secretary
July 10, 2020