



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
*HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

*DOUGLAS KRESS*  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
July 16, 2020  
Virtual Meeting

**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 6:08pm. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

**Approval of June 18, 2020 Minutes:** On a motion made by Dr. Green, the June 18, 2020 minutes were approved. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

**Covid19 Updates:** Mr. Kress gave an overview of the City of Somerville's Covid19 Weekly Situation Update for the week of July 6, 2020 showing Global, US, State and Local Data trends. Key dates – July 3<sup>rd</sup> Somerville announces Phase 3 reopening schedule. June 30<sup>th</sup> – Eviction moratorium remains in effect within Somerville. Additional shared streets opened up on June 19<sup>th</sup> in West Somerville. Face covering order was altered for summer months. Pool, playgrounds and other recreation areas reopening scheduled announced. What's open what's closed – open phase 1 & 2 construction, healthcare for ex. emergency care, routine preventive care, telehealth, and businesses open, grocery stores, general retail, childcare facilities, car washes, hotels, (no events) and many others. Still closed gyms bars, and theaters. Total cases globally 11, 465,636; total deaths 534,784. In the US total cases are 2,841,906; total deaths 129,576. Covid19 cases by state – Massachusetts ranks 4<sup>th</sup> with total cases - with New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island coming in 1, 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Somerville is doing well with their testing. As of 7/1 Somerville had 1,264.7 cases per 100,000. Chelsea continues to see the highest case rates followed by Brockton, Lawrence and Everett. Regional Testing as of 7/1; Somerville had 17,965 tests per 100,000. Chilmark has the highest testing rates followed by Bedford, Shirley and Ayer. Somerville positive test results have been going down. Somerville continues to do testing, appointments are necessary.

**Directors Updates:** City Council adopted the FY21 budget on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Due to cuts to the Police Dept.; funds have been reallocated to other departments. The HHS Dept. will be able to hire another youth specialist, a case manager and another social worker. The city is looking into how to reopen the schools.

**Tobacco Control:** Ms. Carroll received a request, from a retailer, asking for guidance about selling glass pipes. Ms Carroll requested asked for clarification. The board affirmed the retailer, should apply for a 21+ Tobacco license to meet current regulations.

The safe injections sites have been suspended for now.

**Next meeting – Virtually**

Thursday, August 20, 2020

**Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

**List of Documents:**

Notice/Agenda, June 18, 2020 Minutes, Covid19 Data Slides

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Teixeira-Henkle  
Board of Health Secretary  
July 21, 2020