



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
October 15, 2020
Open Conference / Virtual Meeting

Present:

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

Absent: Kathy Teixeira, Recording Secretary

Guests: None

Meeting Called to Order:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 6:13pm. It was seconded by Mr. Machado.

Approval of September 17, 2020 Minutes: On a motion made by Dr. Green, the September 17, 2020 minutes were approved. It was seconded by Mr. Machado. A vote was taken to approve the minutes. All in Favor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Plumbing Variance – was granted to Tufts University for installation of propane water heaters in there pre-manufactured housing trailers used for isolation of students who test positive for Covid19. Dr. Green made a motion to grant a variance dated Sept 21, 2020 to Tufts University. Ms. Machado seconded it. All in Favor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Covid19 Updates:

The Director, Mr. Kress gave an overview of the city's covid-19 weekly situation report.

Key Dates – Oct 1st – Somerville extends outdoor restaurants dining accommodations through 2021.

Oct 5th – Somerville phase 3 step 3 reopening remains on hold.

Global Trends – Total Cases as of 9/25 32,266,914 and as of 10/9 36,577,872 is an increase of 13.3%. Deaths since 9/25 was 983,720 and as of 10/25 1,062,677 and increase of 8%.

US Trends – Total cases 7,528,313 and total deaths is 211,132 as of 10/8 this is an 8.8% increase since 9/24 and +4.8% respectively.

Incident Rate per 100,000 as of 10/7. – New cases by day/population averaged over 14 days put Somerville in the yellow zone at an increase of 6.1.

MDPH State Data / Dashboard of Indicators through 10/8. – Reported confirmed cases – 134,277 total deaths among confirmed cases 9,350, total individuals tested by molecular tests administered is 4,541,516. Hospitals admissions are slowly climbing up again.

Somerville Case Data: Positive Cases Identified by PDPH through 10/12. – 1,340 positive confirmed case (pcr tests) 104 positive probable cases (antigen or antibody) 1,242 recovered cases and 42 fatalities.



Somerville's Heat Maps shows clusters of confirmed positive cases are high in the 02145 zip code area of the city.

Directors Updates: Mr. Kress will talk about wastewater data and covid19 at the next Board of Health meeting. The city is working with their attorneys about testing students and school staff. The city has done environmental assessment of all their school buildings to make sure when students and staff return to school that they are in a healthy and safe environment. Contact tracing improvements are still ongoing, Nurses are being utilized for these services and trainings are on-going and other support services are going into place for food assessments, ppe equipment, etc. The city sent out Information to residents on how to have a safe Halloween and the city recommended that trick or treating is not safe. The city offered families ideas for safe Halloween activities to do with their families and to keep everyone safe. Mr. Ciccia is also asking Mr. Kress and the city to put in guidelines for the upcoming holidays for Thanksgiving and Christmas; this is in order to protect everyone and to slow the spread of the virus during this upcoming Holiday Season. The city is also working with Tufts to keep their students and staff safe and Tufts have been doing a really good job working along with Somerville. Tufts website has information on covid19 and how they are keeping one everyone safe for both their students and neighboring Somerville residents.

Next meeting – Virtual

November 19, 2020 @ 6pm

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, September 17, 2020 Minutes, Covid19 Data Slides

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira
Board of Health Secretary
November 12, 2020