



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

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

*DOUGLAS KRESS*  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
November 2, 2020  
Emergency Meeting  
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:** Several Call Ins

**Meeting Called to Order:**

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 6:01pm. It was seconded by Mr. Machado.

**Covid19 Updates:**

The Director, Mr. Kress gave an overview of the city's covid-19 weekly situation report, some of the data reviewed is highlighted below....

**Key Dates** – Oct 17 – Eviction moratorium ends

Oct 30 – Tufts/Somerville announce pool testing partnership

**Global Trends** – Total Cases as of 10/9 36,577,872 and as of 10/23 41,791,768 is an increase of 14.3%. Deaths since 10/9 was 1,062,677 and as of 10/23 1,138,671 up 7.2 %

**US Trends** – Total cases 8,312,667 up 10.4% since 10/8 and total deaths is 2221,438 as of 10/22 this is a 4.9% increase since 10/22.

**Daily New Cases by State:**

**Incident Rate per 100,000 as of 10/29.** – New cases by day/population averaged over 14 days put Somerville in the yellow zone at an increase of 7.5.

**MDPH State Data / Dashboard of Indicators through 11/1.** – Reported confirmed cases – 155,660 total deaths among confirmed cases 9,788, total individuals tested by molecular tests administered is 6,165,624..Hospitals admissions still continue to rise.

MDPH State Data Confirmed Cases a Daily Change through 11/01. On Sunday 11/1 total confirmed cases was 155,660 and 1,139 new confirmed cases reported in 1 day and 22 deaths among confirmed cases reported in 1 day.

**Somerville Case Data: Positive Cases Identified by PDPH through 10/22.** – 1,389 positive confirmed case (pcr tests) 110 positive probable cases (antigen or antibody) 1,290 recovered cases and 42 fatalities.

**Somerville's Heat Maps** – show that the increasing number of positive covid tests is clustered in the 02145 section of the city.

**Board of Health School Re-opening Order Guidance:**

Mr. Kress presented slides to the board members for review, some of the highlights were:

A – planning for a safe sustainable reopening – the city maintains that safety remains a top priority

B- Internal factors such as building ventilation – in person 6 foot distancing and other safety measure be in place

C – Covid testing of students and faculties and flu vaccine required before returning to school

D – External Factors – community transmission rates, positive percentages in school

E – Quarantine vs Isolation – Quarantine keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has covid19 away from others while Isolation keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for covid 19 without symptoms away from others in their own home.

F – Prior to opening for in person learning any k-12 educational institution in Somerville must submit to the city's Board of Health for review Covid19 transmissions prevention plan.

The order was open up for discussion, and a few people in attendance were concerned about funding, of the on-going testing, does it fall on the institution will the city help pay, etc. and board members wanted to have the schools have a staff constancy plan for absent staff due to covid related illnesses.

Dr. Green made a motion to vote and accept the draft with amendment of the staff constancy plan. All were in favor.

Accepted – 11/02/20

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Next meeting – Virtual**

November 19, 2020 @ 6pm

**Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

**List of Documents:**

Notice/Agenda, Covid19 Data Slides, School Re-Opening Order Guidance

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