



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
September 17, 2020
Open Conference / 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 6:05pm. It was seconded by Mr. Machado.

Approval of July and August, 2020 Minutes: On a motion made by Dr. Green, the July and August minutes were approved. It was seconded by Mr. Machado. A vote was taken to approve the minutes. 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 – 9/3 – Somerville to monitor wastewater for evidence of covid-19 and city is allowing limited Phase 3 step 1 business reopening's on 9/8. Theatres are remaining close for now.

Global Trends – Since 8/28 to 9/11 there were additional 3,711,671 new cases which is up +15.1% and total deaths there were 77,721 brings to a +9.3%. Increase.

US Trends – 6,343,562 total cases and 190,262 total deaths which is +9.4% (cases) and +6.3% (deaths)

Covid-19 Cases by State – Massachusetts ranks 15 in cases per 100,000 with a total of 131,292 and confirmed cases 121,396.

MDPH State Data/Average Daily Incidence – Somerville has had 4 – 8 cases per 100k average since 9/9. The data shows Somerville is in the yellow zone.

MDPH State Data/Dashboard of Indicators – 363 newly reported confirmed cases and 17,889 new individuals tested by molecular test through 9/10 and 20 deaths among confirmed cases reported in 1 day.

Regional Testing by Tests as of 9/9 Somerville conducted a total of 48,133 tests and from 8/26 to 9/9, there were 12,477 tests conducted.

Regional Percent Positivity, Somerville has been seeing a decline in residents testing positive for covid19.

Somerville Case Data/Positive Cases Identified by MDPH – as of Monday, 9/14 1,213 positive confirmed cases

(Pcr test); 94 positive probable cases (antigen or antibody) 1,157 recovered cases and 40 fatalities.

Police/Fire Calls – Police – Past 2 week's average 68 calls per day compared to 70 calls in 2019 and 64 calls in 2018.

Fire – Week of 9/6-9/12 Fire saw 5 covid19 related medical calls which I fewer that ht prior week

Directors Updates:

Contract tracing is being done in-house by our public health nurse with the help of school nurses and the city is also being help by outside sources as well to get a better understanding where a how individuals are getting infected. We want to make sure we get the right personnel to do the contract tracing. The city anticipates a surge when residents stay indoors more. The city is also working with restaurants to keep them open longer for outdoor seating weather permitted.

School are planning to re-open Friday the 18th and moving into the hybrid system. The city is working closely with the school department to make sure teachers and students are safe. The city hired consultants to check the school buildings for safe measures, air quality, layouts of the buildings, social distancing, etc. If a student gets sick, the teacher will contact the school nurses. They will be directed to a certain triage to be evaluated/assessed; then if needed will go to the nurses office for further evaluation.

The state is requiring that all returning students get a flu vaccine. The city is already receiving their state allotment of flu vaccines and implementing mobile sites for flu shots. The HHS Department will be conducting a drill and it will be by appointment only. Residents will be able to register online and by phone though an app. All information on this year's flu vaccines procedures can be found on the city's website by going to www.somervillema.gov. Flu vaccines will also be available at the schools given by the school nurses and a community vaccine will be done at Trum field for walk-ins, bicyclists and drive through for automobiles. The city is hoping everyone can be vaccinated by December 1, 2020.

Next meeting – Virtual

October 15, 2020 @ 6pm

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, July and August, 2020 Minutes, Covid19 Data Slides

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira
Board of Health Secretary
October 13, 2020