



## Meeting Minutes #0811.20

### MEDFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting dated August 11, 2020

**Members Present:** Carol Read, Stephen Resch, Holly Rand, and Melissa Coughlin, members,

**Also Present:** Nancy Bennotti, Administrative Assistant; Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator; Jeffrey Marsden, Kathy Thompson, RN, Cluster Leader / School Nurse; Alyssa Kaiser, RN, Natick Walpole VNA; and Bridget Sweet, Health Agent

#### **Meeting was through Zoom teleconferencing.**

Mrs Read recited authority by which this board is allowed to meet virtually and asked the board's members to introduce themselves. Meeting agenda: COVID-19 update, operations and regulations/orders, Review and discussion of school re-opening plan- public health consideration documents written by Dr. Steve Resch, Board of Health liaison member Medfield Public Schools District Advisory Committee and Review and discussion of draft mask guidance memo written by Melissa Coughlin, RN Board of Health member.

Dr Resch opened the discussion by giving the board an overview of the public health-related issues related to school reopening that he had provided as a written document. He focused on 3 main areas of concern that he feels are not fully addressed in the written school reopening plan: (1) school nursing resources and protocols related to COVID-19 positive cases and suspects, including managing the volume of patients meeting COVID symptom criteria who need to be sequestered in the medical tent, and coordination/information sharing with the BOH and VNA regarding COVID probable or confirmed cases, and contact tracing activities. (2) rules around types and use of face coverings and details of mask break protocols; and (3) data collection: monitoring of engagement in COVID-19 public health/safety related protocols by school building to identify and track compliance levels of: mask wearing, 6 ft distance, hand washing and other health and safety protocols outlined by DESE and included in the Medfield reopening plan approved by the School Committee.

On #1, he specifically asked if the Board/Health Department would have case reporting information broken down by whether the confirmed/probable case was a member of school community (staff/student), and if so, breakdown by school building, and would there potentially also be information available about the number of persons who are out-of-school due to potential COVID or due to being contacts.

On #3, he indicated he felt that it was in the school system and BOH interest to monitor levels of compliance and gather appropriate data regarding the implementation of safety protocols, drawing an analogy to the process used in monitoring of food retail and service establishments. He indicated that routinely collecting quantitative data would not only help school system identify aspects of the reopening plan that were working well and those that need adjustments, and would be good information to report to school community and BOH to assure that the implementation is going as planned, but also this data would be valuable, in conjunction with data about in-school cases and community spread, if and when decisions need to be made about adjusting from the hybrid plan to either open up more (full in person) or to tighten up (go full remote). As an example, he suggested that it would be useful to know with some quantitative rigor the level of compliance with mask wearing/social distancing rules, in the event a building is experiencing a cluster of cases. It would help to know if the potential in-school spread was occurring because of compliance problems or in spite of high compliance. As we plan, we don't know with precision how effective the mix of safety measures will be or what level of compliance is needed to achieve good outcomes. But we have potential to learn a lot in the first couple months of school year.

Alyssa Kaiser stated that there was one active case in Medfield. MDPH just issued new guidance on COVID-19 testing. She noted that there may be additional probable cases based on this new guidance with regard to antigen positive testing. It will take some time for individual healthcare providers to catch up to new guidance. Mrs Kaiser also stated that the Natick Walpole VNA will be working together with the school nurses to do contact tracing for suspect cases.

Regarding topic #1, Mrs. Thompson discussed information/guidance which will be provided to parents and should prove helpful in assisting with suspect cases. Brief discussion regarding processes being used for student attestation re: symptoms; if there is a case, what guidelines will be used regarding return to school, DESE and CDC have different guidance 10 days vs 14 days, whether a doctor note will be required. Mrs. Kaiser will share with Mrs. Thompson processes being used in neighboring towns which may be used to collaborate. Mrs. Thompson will report back to the BOH with the process that will be used to collaborate with Alyssa Kaiser, on COVID-19 positive cases and guidance for students and family members related to isolation and with quarantine in regard to contact with a COVID-19 positive case in accordance with MDPH guidance.

Regarding topic #2, Mrs. Thompson discussed additional nurse staff being added and scheduling will provide for sufficient coverage. She noted that there was a high level of uncertainty about how much extra work for nursing staff will be created due to the COVID-19 protocols. She noted that there will be kids without COVID-19 that get sent home and kept out of school due to these protocols. Dr. Resch noted that this is an unavoidable reality of any plan to safely return to school, because of a lack of rapid testing. He said the school community will have to recognize that any plan that has an in-person component may have a fair amount of kids having to be kept out of school or needing to get tested due to the non-specificity of Covid symptoms. Mrs Thompson noted a program proposed in Wellesley to use the Abbott rapid test within the school system to routinely test staff and do surveillance testing of students, as well as to test any persons in the school displaying Covid symptoms. It was noted that the ability to have rapid testing available within the schools or under auspices of BOH, administered by school nurses, could be very helpful in terms of reducing the

number of kids and number of days kids are out of school. Someone noted a similar proposal in Framingham. BOH was enthusiastic to learn more about such a possibility in Medfield. Mrs Read shared a document announcing the Wellesley plan. Wellesley plan noted an effort to engage surrounding communities as well. Clear next steps were not identified regarding how to pursue this possibility.

Mrs. Coughlin has prepared a memo re: mask recommendation. Concerns over the construction of masks as well as the recent finding (Duke study) that “gaiter” face-coverings proving ineffective. Mrs. Thompson did state that containers will be available for transporting masks to/from school or to use during mask breaks. Mrs. Read summarized discussion details that a BOH-issued mask advisory will be produced by Mrs. Coughlin and will be available for use by any town department or resident. BOH mask advisory will indicate the inferiority of gaiters and bandanas. Dr. Resch noted that BOH may also want to separately recommend that the school system prohibits gaiters and bandanas from the types of allowed face coverings for students and staff. Mrs. Coughlin will finalize and send to Mrs. Thompson for presentation to the school leadership team for consideration to share the advisory as written from the BOH with school parents for consistency. Mrs. Coughlin also suggested that a student-led video on how to put on/take off a mask might be helpful. She is available to assist with this project.

Carol Read noted that Dr Marsden has indicated that he has received the list of health-related concerns from BOH for school reopening and was preparing responses, so further discussion of other issues (e.g. topic #3 above) could wait until next meeting, when BOH will have more details from School Department.

Mrs. Trierweiler provided information regarding EEE/WNV. As of this date, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts considers Medfield a low risk state. The town continues to be part of the spraying program through Norfolk County Mosquito Control. This program applied larvicide in April and confirmed that they will be putting pellets in the catch basins in the coming weeks. The town website does contain a hyperlink directly to the state website and does provide real time information.

An inquiry was made by the Lions Club regarding planning for Christmas tree sales, and Mrs Trierweiler responded that they could get in touch with her to discuss.

### **Miscellaneous**

Mrs. Read asked members to confirm next meeting date and time. It was determined that Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm will be next meeting date. (Note that this meeting time has since been revised to August 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm)

Mrs Rand made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dr Resch provided second and vote was by roll call, 4-0 unanimous, motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Also attending:

Mark Geraigery  
Brittany Hardiman  
Chris McCue Potts  
Colleen Sullivan  
Jessica Reilly  
Terry  
Aimie K  
Kevin Ryder  
Russ Hallissey  
Annette Gallagher  
Meghan Carlson  
Tony