

LONGMEADOW BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH) TELECONFERENCE MEETING

BOH Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 30, 2020, 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Dr. Robert Rappaport, Chair, and BOH members present were Dr. Robert Baevsky, Dr. Richard Steingart and Maripat Toye, MS, RN. Beverly Hirschhorn, CHO, was also in attendance. Dr. Barry Izenstein was excused. Rebecca Townsend, Longmeadow Town Moderator for Town meetings, also joined this call.

This was a meeting of the Longmeadow Board of Health (BOH) via Teleconference in response to the current global COVID 19 Health Crisis pandemic and the frequent updates to guidelines offered by the CDC, USPHS and the MA DPH. The BOH called this meeting in regards to establishing further orders for Longmeadow in follow up to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declaring the state of emergency due to the Coronavirus 2019 (“COVI-19”) These are guidelines and establish regulations in accordance with the USFDA and CDC recommendations.

1. Public Comment Period

Dr. Joanne Burcher joined the meeting call and spoke in support of the BOH requiring that facial masks during this COVID 19 pandemic be “required” and not just a “suggestion” for all employees and “all customers” in all stores and all places of business in Longmeadow. The BOH chair thanked Dr. Boucher for her letter to the BOH and for joining the call.

2. The BOH reviewed and accepted the BOH minutes from the BOH meeting December 17, 2019 and the BOH Emergency Meeting on April 13, 2020. There were three minor typos corrected in the minutes. Motion to approve: Dr. R. Rappaport. Second for motion approval: Dr. R. Baevsky. A Yes vote to approve: Dr. R. Steingart and M.Toye, MS, RN. A No vote: None.

3. The BOH CHO gave an update to the current cases of COVOD-19 in Longmeadow. Previous data had errors as the updated MA. data entry system had delays and errors in reporting mechanisms and lab testing reporting issues. This has been corrected and the Longmeadow transmission numbers are lower than previously reported particularly in non-elder cases. Each case is being followed remotely by the town nurse.

4. The BOH reviewed the current status of the Massachusetts Regulations regarding the Governor’s Orders relative to protecting the public from COVID-19. The Governor has made no changes in his guidance for facial coverings in that it is strongly encouraged as an “advisory” and “not a regulation or mandated” at this time. Several communities have created stricter mandates and regulations regarding “facial coverings” and “facial masks.” The BOH reviewed and discussed several of these other cities and towns Regulations. The BOH is in agreement that a mandate/regulation is needed in Longmeadow for all persons entering any indoor business’ and public places to wear facial coverings or a mask to enter and be within these places. Considerations in this regulation will be that it will be for anyone over the age of two years (within reason) and that business’ may need to post signage regarding the requirement to wear masks within their business. The BOH voted a motion to have the CHO draft a regulation applicable to employees (currently in place) and add customers, and business invitees for

essential business' of indoor places to require facial covering at all times enforceable by local business' and mandated by the Longmeadow BOH. The motion to approve: Dr. R. Rappaport. Second for the motion approval: Dr. R. Steingart. A Yes vote to approve: Dr. R. Baevsky and M. Toye, MS, RN. A No vote: None.

5. In regards to any outdoor Ice Cream Trucks or outdoor Farmers Markets that were previously in areas in Longmeadow the BOH will not issue any permits at this time. Until further notice these types of permits will not be issued until further guidance is researched for these types of outdoor activities and business. There is no Golf permitted in Town at this time.
6. Rebecca Townsend, the Longmeadow Town Moderator for town meetings, inquired about guidance for the conduct of future Town Meetings. The CHO will further investigate this issue and informed all that there is a MA. Gubernatorial Committee looking at the issue of Town meetings and similar meeting concerns for the municipalities.

The Longmeadow BOH will continue to review and update any further emergency orders from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts establishing any new COVID-19 related emergency orders for the Massachusetts communities.

The teleconference meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM. The motion to approve meeting to adjourn: M. Toye, MS, RN. A second for motion approval: Dr. R. Baevsky. A Yes vote to approve: Dr. R. Rappaport and Dr. R. Steingart. A No vote. None.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary P. Toye, MS, RN

Longmeadow Board of Health