

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**On-Line Zoom Teleconference Meeting**  
**Meeting ID: 959 6134 1576**  
**DRAFT January 21, 2021 Minutes DRAFT**

**BOH Members Present:** Joanne Levin; Suzanne Smith; Cynthia Suopis; and Laurent Levy

**BOH Members Absent:**

**Staff:** Merridith O’Leary, Director and Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

**Staff Absent:**

**Public Comment Session:** No Public Comments

**I. Meeting opened at 5:32 pm** by Dr. Levin. Dr. Levin announced that the meeting was being recorded.

**II. Department Updates:**

Director O’Leary updated the Board on the weekly COVID-19 numbers. Director O’Leary indicated there have been large clusters happening, mostly from gathering with families from different households. Northampton is seeing workplace transmissions. The Health Department is offering weekly testing to restaurants and their staff as well as the public school’s faculty.

Director O’Leary said the schools have been in hybrid mode and that she sits on an advisory panel that looks at the positivity rates, cases and transmission in school. At this time they have made the decision to pause as they have seen an increase of cases due to children participating in close contact activities. Director O’Leary suggested that the school department hire a contact tracer to assist with the school case load. Smith College students are moving back in over the next week.

Director O’Leary said that vaccination clinics were stood up for first responders in 13 communities to support the states vaccination efforts. They were also able to vaccinate some shelter residents and health care workers. Director O’Leary has asked Annie Lesko in the Mayor’s office to design a webpage to assist with vaccination information for the public. There was concern raised that if you are a provider not affiliated with an institution, that it has been difficult to find a location to receive vaccine.

If there is anyone that wishes to volunteer for the clinics, they can contact Loren Davine at [lorendavine@gmail.com](mailto:lorendavine@gmail.com) and she will direct them on how to register with the Medical Reserve Corps.

Cynthia Suopis and Laurent Levy indicated that they would look at revising the Board of Health open position description and discuss it at the February meeting.

**Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting:** Motion made to close the Board of Health meeting by Cynthia Suopis, seconded by Suzanne Smith, all in favor (4-0).

**Meeting closed at 6:10 PM.**

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: February 18, 2021  
Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

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**Meeting Document List**

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting.

These documents are available for review at the:

**Northampton Health Department, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060**

- Meeting Agenda