

## BOARD OF HEALTH

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86944201366?pwd=bGFPQThVd29adEVFaVRzNVVPWGVNdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 4420 1366 Passcode: 812872

### March 23, 2023 Minutes

**BOH Members Present:** Dr. Joanne Levin; Dr. Suzanne Smith; Dr. Cynthia Suopis; and Janet Grant

**BOH Members Absent:** Dallas Ducar, NP

**Staff:** Merridith O’Leary, Commissioner; Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk; Amy Hutchins, Director Environmental Health; Elliot Ezcurra and Kelly Hughes, Public Health Nurses

**Public Forum:** Due to technical difficulties, there was no public forum. The forum will be rescheduled to April 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM. A link will be posted on the City website and sent in a letter to the merchants

**I. Meeting opened March 23, 2023** at 5:37 pm by Dr. Levin, who announced the meeting was being recorded.

**II. PHN Updates – Kelly Hughes, LPN and Elliot Ezcurra, RN:**

- a. Respiratory Illness Update (COVID, RSV, Influenza) - The current COVID case rates in Hampshire County and Northampton have plateaued.
- b. Childhood Vaccination Gap – The Northampton DPH has initiated a program where they administer the initial round of childhood vaccinations to children who need them to enroll in school and who do not have other access to them. Seven children were referred to the program and two have been vaccinated since the program was rolled out to the region. Connections were made with Transhealth, Amherst and Hilltown Community Health Centers to help facilitate services.
- c. Reportable Disease Report 2022 - Elliot presented the reportable disease report for 2022. There were increases in Lyme disease, TB and gastrointestinal disease.

**III. Discussion:**

- Review draft “Regulation of the City of Northampton Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products” – Reviewed current draft and will include suggestions from Janet Grant to Sections A and D.
  - Section E.9
    - Reduce through attrition
    - Reduce cap from 29 to 24, number of currently permitted licenses plus one
  - Section G1,G2 – increase price based on the Consumer Pricing Index
  - Section Q
    - Paragraph 1 to include all violations post June 2020 to fall under this unified fining structure
    - First violation - \$1000 fine, 3 day suspension
- Propose date for the Hearing for proposed “Regulation of the City of Northampton Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products” – Commissioner O’Leary recommends having the hearing after the public forum at the April meeting
- Announcement; May 11, 2023 The COVID-19 Emergency Ends in the US – What does this mean for Public Health – The US Department of Health and Human Services, as well as Governor Healy, announced that the Federal Public Health Emergency COVID-19 will end May 11, 2023.

All public health and executive orders will cease to exist. Commissioner O'Leary could only find two MA orders that remain.

- 1: Masks in healthcare settings will no longer be mandated.
- 2. The mandate that was set by Governor Baker to require a COVID vaccine to work on the executive level will be lifted.

**IV. Department Updates:**

- Kristen Rhodes, Director of Community Cares has been hired and started March 13th
- A new organizational chart was shared with the current open positions

**V. Review Minutes**

**A. Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2023.**

**Motion: Approved as amended:** Motion made by Dr. Smith to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Dr. Suopis. All were in favor (4-0).

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

**Meeting closed at 7:15 PM.**

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: April 20, 2023  
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
- February 16, 2023\_Minutes
- 2022 Reportable Disease Report (Elliot will send the report in a follow up email or have a slide prepared to view at the time of the meeting)
- Draft Regulation of the City of Northampton Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products
- Draft DHHS Org Chart
- Budget Book Narrative FY23 Accomplishments and FY24 Goals