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COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES

DATE: TUESDAY JANUARY 25, 2022
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Online Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present:

Michael Pollastri, PhD, Chairman
Lynn Doxey, MPH, Vice Chair
Robin Lawrence, DDS, MPH, Clerk

Recording Secretary:

Amy Davis

Public Health Director:

Pam Fahey, MPH, SE

Field Engineer

Jason Federico

Public Health Nurse:

Mary Goodwin, RN

6:30 P.M. **Meeting called to order.**

6:31 P.M. 172 South Main Street, Septic System Design Plan, I/A Technology HOOT H600A with a GEO-FLOW Drip System, Morse Engineering.

In attendance for this hearing: Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering

Material used for this agenda item:

- **Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 1/3/2022**
- **Septic System Design Plan, dated 12/26/2021, revised, 1/12/2022 & 1/25/2022**
- **Form 11 Soil Suitability Assessment for On-Site Sewage Disposal**
- **Percolation Test dated 11/16/21 & 12/21/2021**

Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering, reviewed the Septic Design Plan for 172 South Main Street with the Board. The property consists of a single-family home with 5 bedrooms. There are wetlands in the back left corner of the property. The 25-foot and 50-foot buffers are in red, and the 100-foot buffer is in green shown on the plans. There is a pipe that comes out the back of the house, to the tank, and flows by gravity to a leaching field, this system has failed. Mr. Hassett is proposing to pump/crush the septic tank and install a new septic tank. A HOOT H600A treatment tank will be installed, flow by gravity to a pump chamber, and to a GEOFLOW drip system leaching field. The leaching field is outside the 50-foot buffer zone required by Title 5. Due to the site constraints (ledge, wetland, and property size), Mr. Hassett is asking to use four I/A technology credits to accommodate the new system with no mounding.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Doxey moved to approve the use of a HOOT secondary treatment system and Geoflow leaching system that allows (1) the reduction in the separation to estimated high groundwater from required 4 feet to 2 feet (2) a 14% reduction in SAS size (3) a reduction from 20' to 6' from the building foundation to the SAS and (4) to allow a 2' minimum depth of naturally occurring material.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Doxey moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(b) to allow a setback reduction from 10' to 5.9' from the property line to the SAS.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

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MOTIONED BY: Ms. Doxey moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(i) to allow a minimum of 2” separation between estimated high groundwater and the tank inverts.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Doxey moved to approve the Septic System Design Plan for 172 South Main Street dated 12/28/21, revised 1/25/22.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

6:38 P.M. **Approve Minutes from December 14 & 22, 2021, Zoom Meeting**

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the meeting minutes from 12/14/21 & 12/22/21.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

6:39 P.M. **Set Next Zoom Meeting Date Tuesday March 1, 2022, at 6:30 P.M.**

6:41 P.M. **Public Health Director Report**

Ms. Fahey has been going back and forth with DPH to see if the Public Health Excellence Grant will cover the cost of contact tracers, test kits, and the test site in Hingham which, will keep running through February.

Ms. Fahey has been sending the Board the following weekly reports:

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending December 17, 2021

COVID-19:

- DPH – DPH gave instructions for a more streamlined process for contact tracing. The goal is to prioritize booster shot clinics over contact tracing. Although this may be helpful, cases are increasing at a significant rate.
- Held a booster clinic for approximately 90 residents on Monday December 13th. We have one more booster clinic scheduled for Monday December 13th. The clinic will be at Willcutt Commons from 1-4 pm. Approximately 85 people have signed up so far. Information is on the front of the town webpage and advertised on Facebook.
- We had a local Public Health Excellence Grant (PHE) meeting with Hingham, Hull and MAPC. We agree, even if we have not received the funds, that we will conduct a regional booster clinic with Hingham at the Baptist Church located on Route 228. The clinic is tentatively scheduled for January 4th. We are also looking into using grant funds to stand up a regional PCR testing site. I have also been contacting people to step in as contact tracers after Christmas. Still no signed contract from DPH.
- Attended a DPH PHE grant meeting. Asked if we could use the funds for a PCR testing site and they agreed it would be appropriate. My take-away from the meeting is that in the future DPH wants us to hire and train permanent staff and would like us to get away from hiring contractors. The contractor model, however, is highly effective for Cohasset as we have a food inspector and

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a Title 5 soil evaluator who collectively have over 80 years of experience. Both are retired from full time positions and are “experts” in their respective fields.

- Mary and I spoke with the HR Director at Hingham Lumber where they are experiencing a covid outbreak. As many as 24 employees are either isolating or quarantining. The HR director has instituted a robust testing plan and is strict with enforcing quarantine/isolation time periods. Mary reported the case to DPH, and they opened a cluster investigation.

NON-COVID-19

- Still waiting for the state to send us a signed PHE grant contract. Our local regional contact reported on Friday that it takes the state a couple of weeks to sign contracts.
- Sent out PHE grant letters of commitment to DPH from all four towns meeting the December 15th deadline.
- Tuesday attended an Emergency Management meeting to discuss the town’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) that must be updated for FEMA. Emergency management staff will send out a draft plan based on comments provided during the meetings for the group to review.
- Attended test pit excavations for 502 North Main Street. The septic plan was submitted for review, but the test pits were in the back yard and need to be in the front where the leaching field will be installed. Soils were different than those used for design so a revised plan will be required.
- Attended a de-clutter meeting on Thursday with Elder Affairs staff and police and fire representatives. Discussed the status of various at-risk residents.
- We continued to approve and issue 2022 permit. Permit Eyes has finally worked out the many problems associated with installer and hauler permits that we are instituting for the first time this year.
- Brian conducted food inspections on Tuesday at Fresh Feast, Stop & Shop, Hissho Sushi, and Curtis Liquors. On Wednesday he and I inspected all three schools and Feng Shui. We told Feng Shui that they needed to conduct a deep clean of the kitchen to start the new year. We will return to make sure it is completed.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending December 23, 2021

COVID-19:

- DPH – The Broad Institute has a new assay to distinguish between Delta and Omicron variants. From last Monday Omicron increased from 9% of cases to 65-75% in Massachusetts. It is outcompeting Delta and has more ability to evade immune systems. Those boosted are much better protected. Some monoclonal antibodies are not effective against Omicron so one out of 2 products is still effective which means it will be in shorter supply. Omicron appears milder – could be because so many cases are breakthrough. Hospitals are stretched very thin. Mass has distributed 1.8 million boosters. Omicron is peaking in Africa so it is possible that it could be short-lived in the U.S.
- Held a booster clinic for approximately eighty-five residents on Monday December 20th. Registration information for the next booster clinic at Willcutt Commons for Monday January 10th is on the town website. We will post registration details regarding the regional clinic in Hingham on January 4th when we have more information.

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- Worked with town HR rep to on board two women contract tracers. We sent them offers, they agreed to a four-month temporary employment scheduled to begin on January 3rd. Both are currently completing MAVEN training. Interviewed a third person and will interview a fourth next week. All have been working for the state CTC that is disbanding.
- Due to Omicron surge, drafted a letter to the Select Board to recommend town boards/committees return to remote meetings. Board of Public Health met on Wednesday evening and voted unanimously to approve the recommendation. It was subsequently sent to the town manager for distribution.
- For an annual report, prepared summary table documenting the number of Covid vaccination clinics we hosted this year. We held seventeen clinics at Willcutt Commons where 1,353 doses of Moderna were distributed and four clinics at 60 Elm Street where 150 doses were distributed. In addition, Cohasset Fire distributed forty-one doses to patients during four Home Visit clinics.
- Emergency Management meeting – group talked about possibly moving other activities back online or scaling back. Details for library and Senior Center will be discussed later. Nancy LaFauce agreed to let Public Health continue to use Willcutt for booster clinics on Mondays for the foreseeable future. The town may allow some employees to work some days at home, possibly stagger offices. Schools will be off next week but may meet with the Superintendent in January to discuss mask mandate.

NON-COVID-19

- Received the signed PHE grant contract this week. Although the money is supposed to be for hiring full- time, long-term staff, I told our DPH contact that we will be focusing on COVID activities for the next several months including: hiring contact tracers, purchasing home test kits, setting up regional booster clinics and testing sites.
- One of the at-risk residents that we check in on and discuss during our de-clutter meetings escaped from his house when it caught on fire. The house, located on Forest Avenue, was condemned by the building inspector. The resident will likely relocate overseas where he has family.
- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits. Permit Eyes has finally worked out the many problems associated with installer and hauler permits that we are instituting for the first time this year.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending December 30, 2021

COVID-19:

- DPH – No DPH call this week.
- No booster clinic this week. Registration information for the next booster clinic at Willcutt Commons for Monday January 10th is on the town website. Registration so far is light.
- Had a meeting today with Hingham Health Director, Public Health Nurse and Fire Lt. to discuss upcoming regional COVID activities. We planned a regional drive-through clinic at the Baptist Church on Thursday January 13th in place of the originally proposed January 4th date from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Cohasset will assist and provide check-in and vaccinators. In addition, Hingham will host a regional PCR testing site located at 338 Lincoln Street (Rt. 3A, across from Stop & Shop). The testing site will be paid through the PHE Grant.

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- Interviewed Dan White for a contact tracing position. Continued to work with HR to get a total of four contact tracers on board. It is challenging with people out of the office during the holiday week.
- Met with our PHE regional partners from Hingham, Hull, Scituate and MAPC. Discussed regional clinic in Hingham, agreed that the testing site is a huge priority. Hingham is negotiating costs for 4 days per week and at least two months (vendor wants three-month commitment). We agreed that we will purchase home test kits and prioritize giving them out to businesses, particularly grocery stores/restaurants to keep them open. DPH/DESE is taking care of schools.
- Worked on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for vax vs. unvax data for COVID cases in Cohasset.

NON-COVID-19

- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits. Emailed food establishments that have either renewed and not paid or not responded at all.
- Drafted text for Health Department section of the town annual report.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending January 7, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – Went over new isolation/quarantine guidance information. New EEC guidance will be sent out next week for pre-schools/nursery schools.
- Met with BoPH Chair, School Committee Chair, Superintendent, School Nurse Leader, Public Health Nurse, and assistant nurse to discuss covid situation in town. Due to the surge in cases from the Omicron variant, Public Health urged Schools to consider re-instituting a mask requirement at the High School at least for the next two weeks or the month of January during the Omicron surge. Schools listened to the reasons given but decided that high school students would be better off without masks because “they interfere with learning.” This was not supported with studies, but the opinion of the School Chair. They will continue to follow DESE guidance allowing for no masks with 80% vaccination rate. Respecting their decision, BoPH informed them that Health believes in the public health protection provided by masks and crafted a Press Release posted on town website and FB reminding the general public that health strongly recommends wearing masks in indoor public spaces.
- Attended Select Board meeting to give public health updates. Presented upcoming booster clinics, testing site, test kits and contact tracers. Agreed to explore options for vaccinating 5–11-year-olds. If we secure a mobile clinic through the state, the Superintendent agreed to allow the use of Deer Hill school as a potential site.
- In-person booster clinic at Willcutt Commons on Monday January 10th is on the town website. Registration so far is light. Cohasset will be providing support for regional drive-through clinic in Hingham on Thursday next week.
- It is confirmed that Hingham will host a regional PCR testing site located at 338 Lincoln Street (Rt. 3A, across from Stop & Shop). The testing site will be paid through the PHE Grant.
- Received the first round of home test kits and distributed to three other grant partners. Unfortunately, the supply chain was difficult and the test kits that were procured came with

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twenty-five tests per box (rather than 2 tests per kit like Binax Now). Therefore, if they are to be distributed to individual residents then they need to be separated into zip lock bags. Cohasset Fire Department is pulling together 2-test bags over the weekend.

- Submitted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for vax vs. unvax data for COVID cases in Cohasset for period of time from mid-October to end of December.
- Met with contact tracing candidates and discussed process for distributing caseloads. One tracer began this week after completing MAVEN training.

NON-COVID-19

- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits.
- Attended Sewer Commission meeting for Cook Estate update. Provided official bedroom count to Lisa McGonigle that was recently updated by Assessors. Agreed that I would reach out to Amy Kwessell to confirm that Cook does not require town meeting approval.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending January 14, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – COVID is considered endemic now. Progress is being made in that we have discontinued all individual contact tracing and instead focusing on vulnerable populations and settings. Right now, in the middle of Omicron staffing levels in many sectors are reduced because so many people are out due to sickness. Need to continue our efforts to preserve health care capacity and increase vax and booster percentages. Although it is endemic, we still have to respond in emergency mode.
- Met with Rachael Cain, DPH, along with our regional town partners. She said that we cannot use our entire PHE grant fund for COVID response even though the currently available money must be used by June 30th. I negotiated \$160,000 comprised of \$100,000 from the PHE grant, plus \$60,000 from a supplemental COVID grant that we have not received yet. This money will pay for a small number of test kits that will be held for municipal services (police, fire, DPW, etc.), contract tracers and the testing site that opened this week in Hingham. I explained that we are in a public health crisis right now in the midst of a surge and the testing site is necessary to keep schools and businesses open. She agreed to the compromise.
- She also questioned how the testing site was operating. Hingham contracted with the same testing company that they used last year for the testing site on Cushing Street. They offer a free PCR test that sent to the Broad Institute for analysis, and they offer a rapid antigen test for a cost. DPH is making sure this is allowable. On Friday Susan Sarni informed DPH that they stopped the rapid tests on Thursday and asked if the company could reapply to DPH for certification. Waiting for a response.
- Hingham opened the regional PCR testing site on Wednesday located at 338 Lincoln Street (Rt. 3A, across from Stop & Shop). The site is opened 4 days per week. Appointments are getting book a week out in advance.
- Hingham conducted the regional drive through booster clinic on Thursday and served ninety people. We had another booster clinic at Willcutt on Monday from 1-4 pm. We only had forty-five people. We have scheduled one more booster clinic in the evening at Willcutt to see if we can capture people who are working and out of town during the day. It will be Wednesday January 26th from 4 – 7:00 pm.

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- Mary secured the services of a mobile testing company through DPH. They will conduct a vaccination clinic at Deer Hill school for 5–11-year-old children on Saturday January 22, 2022, from 1- 3:00 pm. An outside vendor was necessary since we need specialty pediatric vaccinators and children are only approved for the Pfizer vaccine (as local health we only receive Moderna vaccine).
- Three of the four contact tracers are up and running. Currently they are each assigned to a town, with the exception of Hull. Hope to get the fourth up and running next week, but I am having difficulty reaching him.
- Responded to parents concerned about lack of masks in high school and parents asking if we would vaccinate children.
- Assisted Hingham with Color issues/questions.

NON-COVID-19

- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits.
- Cook Estate – sent an email to town counsel to confirm that Cook does not have to have town meeting approval to expand the sewer district. She is looking into it. Still not clear if Title 5 regs supersede local sewer bylaws. In the meantime, I drafted a warrant article for town meeting to have as a place holder in case it is needed.
- A resident came in looking for approval to construct a kitchen, bathroom, and great room above an existing barn. I have been telling him that he cannot do that with his existing septic system that was designed for five bedrooms and the existing homes is 5 bedrooms. John Hallin explained his option are to either expand the existing system or expand the doorway to an existing bedroom in the home and remove the door so that it is no longer a bedroom.
- Responded to another resident with a similar question. His home is on a shared system, and he wants to redevelop a barn and asked if he could add a second system on his property. I told him that it was not prohibited under Title 5.
- John Hallin and I cosigned a letter that was sent to the property owner at 790 CJC (Curtis Plaza). Another release of sewage occurred in Shoe Market Kids that has a long history of floods going back to 2016. Apparently, the property owner had an order to replace sagged sewer pipes beneath the building in 2017 that were causing flooding. They were not replaced, and the property changed hands and the Health Director left so it was never followed up properly. This time the building inspector let them know that they will not receive a building permit to expand Curtis Liquors until the problem is finally fixed. They were given 30 days to present a plan for remediation.
- For an ongoing tenant/landlord dispute at 660 Jerusalem Road, I called the building manager to request that he forward the results of mold testing and indoor testing that was completed recently. In addition, let me know of any other activities that have been completed to date to address mold that was found in a bedroom closet. He agreed and will send.

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Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending January 21, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – Access to vaccination records is now live at MY VAX RECORDS on the DPH website. Everyone in the US can order free test kits (4 tests). Number of COVID cases is trending downward and not an artifact of people switching to a different type of testing. Number of hospital staff out due to isolation or quarantine is also dropping.
- We are getting mixed messages from DPH regarding what the PHE grant will pay for in terms of COVID expenses. Early in the week they would not pay for a testing site if it asked for insurance cards then later in the week they would. I spoke with Mike Hugo from MAHB today who is one of the decision makers and is in charge of putting together the regional relationships. I expressed my concerns/frustrations so far. We will talk next week, and I will pull in Mary and Susan Sarni to discuss realistically what our real needs are going forward and help us with pulling together a realistic budget.
- A vaccination clinic will be held at Deer Hill school for 5–11-year-old children on Saturday January 22, 2022, from 1- 3:00 pm. So far registration has been slow for this clinic.
- All four of the temporary contact tracers are up and running. Each has been assigned to a town in our regional group.
- Responded to a parent with a firm anti-vaccination stance for children.

NON-COVID-19

- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits.
- Attended a perc test for 317 North Main Street. Our Soil Evaluator (SE) contractor was out sick with COVID, so I attended as the official SE in his place.
- Cook Estate – Drafted a warrant article for town meeting to increase borrowing authority under Old Colony Title 5 loan program.
- Attended PHE grant meetings hosted by DPH for state-wide stakeholders and then we had a local PHE grant meeting with our local partners and MAPC. We will have another local meeting next week and will invite someone from an established program to share their experience and we will have a new DPH coordinator assigned to the southeast region join us.
- The property management company at 790 CJC (Curtis Plaza) responded to the letter from me and John Hallin to address the chronic problem of sewage releases into tenant businesses. They replaced the large national property management company headquartered in CA and are a local company located in Norwell. Paul Davis called me and John to express that the company plans to be responsive but will need a timeline greater than 30 days to complete the work. Paul will jet the lines, do a camera survey, determine which pipes need to be replaced beneath the building, arrange for one business tenant at a time to shut down so that they can remove the floor and replace sections of pipe. John and I requested that he submit a narrative with an accompanying timeline authorized by the property management company.
- 660 Jerusalem Road- The property manager sent me mold testing results that were completed at Unit #5. Two different contractors speculated that the mold in a bedroom closet was caused by the tenant leaving the slider open rather than building flaws. Manager claims that they tried to set up date/time to remediate mold in closet but were rebuffed by tenant. Sent a list of questions to the building manager via email before I call tenant.

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6:45 P.M. Public Health Nurse Report

There was a clinic last Saturday to vaccinate 5–11-year-old at Deer Hill School. Cohasset was approved by DPH to vaccinate kids but then it was turned over to a private company. The private company creates the link for residents. Unfortunately, there was a problem with the link and only thirteen kids received vaccinations. The Town could have done 150. There was going to be a booster clinic tomorrow night but only two people signed up so, the clinic was canceled. There needs to be at least twenty people to open a vile. The Towns numbers are around 111 confirmed cases down from last week.

Ms. Goodwin has been sending the Board the following reports:

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 12/17/21

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 619

Total number of Probable cases: 105

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 54

The Town's two-week positive test rate is: 6.49% (848 total tests)

The Town's current infection rate: No change

Home tests involving students - 1

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

12/13/21

Held a booster dose clinic at Willcutt Commons – vaccinated 84 people. Plan to hold another clinic on 12/20/21. So far 60 people have made appointments.

We will not hold a clinic on 12/27/21. We plan to participate in a regional clinic with Hingham, Hull, and Scituate on 1/4/21. Clinic will be held at the Baptist Church in Hingham.

12/15/21

Worked with Nancy Roach, HR Director at Hingham Lumber. Holiday party was held on 12/4/21. Now have 24 confirmed cases of Covid. Consulted with Mass DPH – was advised to create a cluster in Maven. Advised Nancy on preventative measures, sanitizing, mask wearing etc.

12/16/21

Attended the Declutter Meeting with Elder Affairs, Police and Fire Depts. Discussed at risk residents in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 12/23/21

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 688

Total number of Probable cases: 108

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 43

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results not yet released (total tests)

The Town's current infection rate:

Home tests involving students - many

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

Home Test Kits – DPH is planning to offer towns the “state rate “when purchasing home test kits. This is still being negotiated with the manufacturers of the kits. Should be available to towns by early January.

Governor Baker announced a mask advisory recommending masks be worn in all indoor public spaces whether vaccinated or not. Masks are still required in medical facilities and on public transportation.

Omicron – now seems to be circulating widely. About 30% of the specimens are sent for sequencing but it takes about 2 weeks for results. Booster doses seem to offer protection. So far illness in vaccinated people seems to be mild.

12/20/21

Had a booster dose clinic at Willcutt Commons – vaccinated 96 people.

Will continue to hold booster dose clinics on Mondays at Willcutt Commons through the end of January.

12/23/21

Participated in a Zoom call with the Emergency Management Team, Cohasset Elder Affairs, Library and Recreation to discuss Covid policies and procedures. Each department is working to determine how to safely run their programs, staff are strongly encouraged to stay home if not feeling well and some departments may stagger work schedules.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 12/30/21

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 753

Total number of Probable cases: 114

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 92

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 10.51% (875total tests)

The Town's current infection rate:

Home tests involving students - many

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

No DPH or Maven call this week

CDC has released new isolation and quarantine guidance which Mass DPH officially adopted on 12/28/21. The guidance shortens the isolation period from 10 days to 5 days. On day 5 if symptoms are resolving, and the person is fever free they can exit isolation but for the next 5 days they must continue to wear a mask while around others.

For people who are exposed to someone with Covid 19 but are fully vaccinated and boosted, they do not have to quarantine but should wear a mask while around others. Test on day 5 if possible. If unvaccinated, are over 6 months from their last dose of Pfizer or Moderna or more than 2 months from Johnson & Johnson and not boosted, they need to stay home for 5 days and continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days. Test on day 5 if possible.

12/28/21

Participated in a Zoom call with all town hall staff to explain the new guidance from CDC.

12/30/21

Attended a Zoom meeting with the 4 towns participating PHE Grant. Plans finalized for a regional booster dose clinic to be held on 1/13/22 at the Hingham Baptist Church from 9:00 – 1:00. Cohasset and Hingham will provide vaccinators.

Hingham is working with a company that will hopefully operate a regional test site on 3A in Hingham. The site will offer PCR testing 3 – 4 days/week for 2 months. Details being worked out.

We have a booster dose clinic scheduled for 1/10/22 at Willcutt Commons. Signups have been slow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 1/7/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 868

Total number of Probable cases: 125

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 140

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 16.42% (868 total tests)

Home tests involving students - many

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

The Omicron variant seems to be circulating widely. The Broad Institute is reporting about 80% of all specimens sequenced are Omicron. The rapid increase in cases supports this.

Some things learned about Omicron:

-it appears to cause milder disease

-there does appear to be reinfection after previous with Delta within 90 days

-incubation period is slightly shorter

There is some concern that antigen testing is best at detecting the virus when symptomatic. Not as reliable with early or end stage of disease. If someone test negative with antigen test but is symptomatic the recommendation is for a PCR test.

Both the CDC and the FDA support a shortened interval with the Pfizer booster dose. The new recommendation is for 5 months after the second dose in the primary series.

1/3/22 – 1/7/22

This week has been extremely busy with case investigation and contact tracing. I have worked daily with the school nurses to identify and follow cases. Have received calls from Brown Bear Daycare, Sunrise assisted Living Center, the South Shore Community Center, the Carriage House Nursery School and Hingham Lumber all reporting an uptick in cases. Reviewed the latest isolation and quarantine guidance with them.

1/5/22

Met with Marcia Lewis, and Nicole Reilly our newest contact tracers, to demonstrate a case investigation in Maven. Marcia is now following cases daily. Originally started with 3 cases per day, now up to 6 per day. Nicole's primary focus is Hingham at this point. Also, in the process of getting Charlotte Carneiro and Dan White trained on Maven. Once trained they will be able to do case investigations.

1/6/22

Home visit to a homebound senior citizen to administer Vitamin B12.

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1/6/22

Advised the Vedanta Center on how to care for a Covid positive case with dementia who needs 24-hour care. PPD delivered.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 1/14/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 950

Total number of Probable cases: 142

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 186

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 21.24% (890 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

FDA has expanded the EUA for Pfizer booster doses in the 12 – 15-year-old group. They can be boosted 5 months after completion of the primary series. Moderna has also shortened the time from primary series to booster dose to 5 months. CDC is using new language when determining someone's vaccination status. The new wording is "up to date" on vaccination.

DESE is actively looking at contact tracing in the school setting and may make changes to the current protocols.

MAVEN call:

Maven has made it possible to run reports by age category to prioritize cases due to the volume caused by the recent surge. Priority groups are LTC Facilities, Daycares, schools, congregate housing.

1/10/22

Booster dose clinic held at Willcutt Commons – vaccinated 28 people.

We are planning to hold an evening clinic on 1/26/22 from 4:00 – 7:00 at Willcutt Commons. Our goal is to capture the 20 – 40-year-old demographic.

1/10/22

Was approved by Mass DPH to offer Covid 19 vaccinations to children 5 – 11 years old. The clinic will be held on 1/22/22 at the Deer Hill School from 1:00 – 3:00. The Board of Health is sponsoring the clinic, but it will be run by East Coast Clinical Health. Pfizer vaccine will be offered.

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1/10/22

Answered questions from the Director at Carriage House Nursery School. Had 2 confirmed cases, classroom closed through the weekend.

1/12/22

Worked with Lenny's Hideaway reviewing the new isolation/quarantine guidance. Stephanie Burke – the owner, with many questions about her protocols.

1/13/22

Brown Bear Daycare has a cluster in the PreK room. Also has 2 positives in the infant room. Reviewed EEC guidance with Jess Bradshaw.

1/13/22

Spoke with Leah Goddard from Sunrise Assisted Living Center. They have 3 residents who have tested positive and 4 staff members. The cases are contained to the 3rd floor. They are doing surveillance testing of all residents and staff. Will continue until they have 2 weeks with no cases. All cases are mildly ill.

We have successfully onboarded Marcia Lewis as a contact tracer. She is now performing disease investigation and contact tracing.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 1/21/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1004

Total number of Probable cases: 152

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 184

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 20.34% (934 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

The number of confirmed Covid cases are dropping steadily. Hospitalization numbers are also dropping as well as the number of staff out due to illness. Surveillance from wastewater also shows a decrease. 95% of specimens that sequenced are Omicron. Right now, the high priority is to continue vaccinating.

4 Home test kits will be made available through the Federal Government. Kits will be distributed to zip codes that have high rates of illness. The website is <https://covidtests.gov>

DRAFT

Maven Call:

DESE will be providing home test kits to schools that “opt in” to distribute to families. This will replace test and stay and contact tracing. Each student will receive 1 kit with 2 tests in it, every 2 weeks. Cohasset schools plan to participate.

1/19/22

Met with Dan White via Zoom. He is a contact tracer who will be working with the Hull Health Department. Walked him through an actual case in Maven.

1/19/22

Attended a webinar sponsored by DESE. A panel presented the new home testing program being introduced by DESE.

1/20/22

Participated in a Zoom call with MAPC, Scituate, Hingham, and Hull Health Departments. Update on the PHE grant was given by Pam Fahey.

1/21/22

Worked with Glenn Pratt, CERT team, Alexander Sullivan, Principle at the Deer Hill School, to finalize plans for the vaccination clinic on 1/22/22 for 5 – 11-year-olds. The clinic will be run by East Coast Clinical Health from 1:00 – 3:00. Walk ins are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

6:49 P.M. Chairperson’s Report

Dr. Pollastri checked in on the Mask Mandated. Both Norfolk and Plymouth counties transmission case load is 184 well over the 15 we would need to be under to remove the mandate. The mandate will stay in effect. The School Department has been sending the number of cases to the Board. There are currently 15 cases at the High School + 3 staff members and 2 cases at the middle school + 3 staff members. These cases are all self-reported cases.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Doxey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED