

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2021**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Donna S. David.

In keeping with Chapter 20, of the Acts of 2021, the extension of the remote participation portion of Governor Baker's Executive Order from March 12, 2020; - "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" – The Board of Health Meeting of August 16, 2021 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those present were Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair; Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Vice Chair; Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent

The Meeting was recorded.

There was no public participation.

The agenda item concerning face covering mandates in Belmont was discussed:

- Donna David said the main focus of this agenda item will be to clarify the face covering mandate for the Town of Belmont, and the face covering recommendation for Belmont Public Schools.
- Wesley Chin said as a result of feedback from members of the public it was determined there were some gaps in the indoor face covering mandate adopted on August 9th.
- The mandate should include language that indoor common spaces in multi-unit residences are required to wear a face covering; mandate face coverings for members, visitors and employees of private membership clubs; mandate face coverings for performers/performance venues. Also, strengthen the language concerning signage displayed by Belmont businesses.
- The Board also discussed a face covering mandate in all Belmont schools, public and private. The Board will re-evaluate the mandate at monthly meetings. Decisions will be based on scientific data, not public opinion. The goal of the mandate is to help students and staff return to class as safely as possible.

The Board of Health voted 3-0 to include the revisions herein discussed for the Town of Belmont Face Covering Mandate adopted by the Belmont Board of Health and the Belmont Select Board on August 9, 2021.

The Board of Health voted 3-0 to adopt a Face Covering Mandate for all private and public schools in Belmont.

The Hearing for 18 Davis Street was discussed:

- Diana Ekman provided an overview of the case which began upon receiving a housing complaint from the tenant, Ms. Jackie Lee, in October 2019. Health Department staff inspected the premises, and issued a letter for correction to the property owner, Mr. Jeff Pallotta. Staff conducted a re-inspection of the property in November, noting 5 out of 15 violations were corrected. As a result of COVID-19, re-inspection of the property scheduled in March 2020 had to be cancelled. Health Department staff received a complaint from Ms. Lee in July 2021, indicating some of the items ordered for correction remain outstanding. Staff re-inspected the property, and noted of the 15 violations in the order letter, 4 were corrected, 2 were partially corrected, and 4 new violations were found. Health Department staff mailed a letter for correction to the property owner on July 21, 2021.

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- Mr. Pallotta said he cannot gain access to the property to complete repairs. Ms. Lee often cancels an appointment at the last moment.
- Ms. Lee said she requires more advance notice than what Mr. Pallotta gives her. She also said she has felt intimidated by text messages and phone calls from Mr. Pallotta, and is not comfortable in his presence.
- Donna David asked Diana Ekman what can be done to resolve this matter. Diana suggested the property owner provide a choice of scheduled times for access to the property, by email, and copy Health Department staff. Diana also said the Health Department has the authority to order the tenant to provide access to the property owner and/or their agent(s), with proper notice, to complete scheduled repairs to the property.
- The Hearing concluded with both parties agreeing to the above suggestions.

The Director/Assistant Director/Public Health Nurse/Environmental Health Agent report was reviewed with the following discussed:

- Lindsey Sharp reports a slight increase in rodent sightings, but not a significant increase from last year. The rodent sightings are dispersed throughout Town.
- Wes said he has received a lot of feedback from the public concerning the face covering mandate. He also said surrounding Towns have reached out to him and indicated they may adopt a face covering mandate similar to Belmont's.
- Julie Lemay asked about Middlesex County's substantial risk category, and Belmont's 51 new cases this week.
- Adrienne Allen asked if the online dashboard color coding can be changed. Wes told Dr. Allen staff have been discussing this. Lindsey Sharp is the data dashboard expert working on this change.
- Adrienne Allen asked if the topic of a vaccine mandate can be added to next month's meeting agenda.
- Donna David and Julie Lemay thanked Adrienne Allen for attending the School Committee meeting last week as the Board of Health's liaison. Dr. Allen will continue to attend the School Committee meetings.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. David, Chair