



## TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building  
100 Maple Avenue  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 05145

Date: February 24, 2023

To: Board of Health

From: Kerry Stockwell, Principal Department Assistant – in person

Re: Board of Health Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, and Dr. George Abraham – in person

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA):  
Soloe Dennis, Director of Public Health - remote participation  
Amelia Houghton, Chief of Public Health Nursing – remote participation  
Micah Blondeau, Regional Environmental Health Coordinator – in person

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held on **FRIDAY, February 24, 2023** at 8:00 a.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room located at the Richard D. Carney Municipal Building, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545, at which time and place the Board of Health will consider the following agenda:

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:11 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.
2. **Review and Discuss Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update. (taken out of order)**  
Soloe Dennis – Still encouraging residents to get vaccinated. Especially those who are immunocompromised or have underlying health conditions.

Amelia Houghton – A COVID-19 vaccination clinic was held on February 17, 2023 at the Shrewsbury Fire Station Headquarters. A total of fourteen (14) people were vaccinated. One (1) patient received a vaccination for the first time. A follow-up clinic has been scheduled for March 10, 2023 where a child can receive their second primary series dose. This clinic has been organized to accommodate thirty six (36) slots for registration. A flier including a registration link has been posted to various outlets. Thus far, twelve (12) individuals have signed up, which is a good response. She is hoping the state will still have the gift card incentive. There is not a great need for the COVID-19 vaccine in Shrewsbury but there is enough response to keep these clinics going. From January 1, 2023 to present, the number of PCR confirmed cases that we see through a virtual network in MAVEN is just under two hundred (200) confirmed cases.

Dr. Abraham – There is still community prevalence with COVID-19 and the waste water is reflective of that. Hospitalization is significantly lower. The severity is much milder most likely because there is access to medications like Paxlovid™ available to blunt the illness. The number of positive cases are relatively low for the season. Influenza (Flu) cases usually wind down by end of March for the most part. The number of cases for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Mpox (Monkey pox) are waning. Hoping COVID-19 will settle a bit more when the cold weather abates.

Question: Any updates on COVID-19 long haulers?

Answer: Still seeing sporadic cases of heart and muscle related illness.

3. **Review and approval of Minutes from the January 20, 2023 Board of Health Meeting. (taken out of order)**  
On a motion made by Dr. Abraham and seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote; Dr. Abraham, aye; Jennie Fishman, aye; and Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted to approve the Minutes from the January 20, 2023 Board of Health Meeting. Unanimously approved 3 – 0.

**4. Review and Act on Burial Agent Designation for Burial Permits. (taken out of order)**

Kerry Stockwell explained to the Board that the current process is for her to complete a spreadsheet and email it to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics each time there is a staff or role change within the Town Clerk's office as it pertains to burial agent designation. If the Board of Health is agreeable, the spreadsheet could be completed and submitted to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics authorizing the Town Clerk to act as agent for the Board of Health in issuing burial permits for the Town. This would streamline the current process.

On a motion made by Dr. Abraham and seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote; Dr. Abraham, aye; Jennie Fishman, aye; and Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted to approve sending a letter to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics authorizing the Town Clerk to act as an agent for the Town of Shrewsbury's Board of Health in issuing burial permits for the Town of Shrewsbury. Unanimously approved 3 – 0.

**5. Review and Discuss Updates from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).**

Micah Blondeau reported one (1) food-borne illness complaint whereby a family fell ill after a half an hour after eating at restaurant. The complaint was discussed with the manager and a full inspection was conducted. No violations were noted at time of inspection and no other illness reported. Symptoms were similar to the Norovirus. The Health Department will keep an eye out for that and especially in the restaurant business. All other complaints and inspection were fairly routine in nature.

Dr. Abraham - The Norovirus is fifteen (15%) percent prevalent across the country. Typically, Gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms and it spreads rapidly.

One long-term care facility in Shrewsbury has reported Norovirus. The facility reported this to the state. The Health Department also alerted the Public Health nurse team.

Amelia Houghton – If a long-term care facility informs us that there are residents affected by certain symptoms, we are always involved. We participate in the contact investigation, whether that be with the Clinical Director and/or the patients themselves.

Question: Is there any information regarding a new drug that was reported in the City of Worcester?

Answer: The Public Health Director will look into it and report back.

Question: There have been reports that Narcan<sup>®</sup> might become available over-the-counter. Is that true?

Answer: Yes, it has been recommended.

**6. Review meeting schedule.** The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on March 17, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room located at the Richard D. Carney Municipal Building, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

**7. Adjourn.** On a motion made by Dr. Abraham and seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote, Dr. Abraham, aye; Jennie Fishman, aye; and Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 a.m. Unanimously approved 3– 0.

Correspondence:

- Shrewsbury Board of Health Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2023
- Email from Town of Granby – February 17, 2023