



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

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

Date: April 21, 2023

To: Board of Health

From: Kerry Stockwell, Principal Department Assistant – in person

Re: Board of Health Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, 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

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Micah Blondeau, Regional Environmental Health Coordinator (CMRPHA)

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held on **FRIDAY, April 21, 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 8:04 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.
- 2. Review and approval of Minutes from the March 17, 2023 Board of Health Meeting.**
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 March 17, 2023 Board of Health Meeting. Unanimously approved 3 - 0.
- 3. Review and Act on approving and distributing a reminder to the Shrewsbury Community of both the Plastic Bag Reduction By-law and Polystyrene Reduction By-Law.**
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 communication and distribution of a reminder to the Shrewsbury Community of both the Plastic Bag Reduction By-law and Polystyrene Reduction By-law. Unanimously approved 3 - 0.
- 4. Review and Discuss Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update.**
Amelia Houghton provided a quick update. The Monovalent vaccine is no longer available for ordering. If you haven't had a Monovalent vaccine, you will receive a Bivalent vaccine by making an appointment. There are rules and guidance on who should receive a Bivalent vaccine. She will forward under separate cover what that guidance consists of. It is quite a lengthy document. In terms of Shrewsbury COVID-19 cases: the current month's reported case count is eighteen (18) and the year-to-date reported case count is two hundred sixty two (262). The numbers are going down.

Dr. Abraham said that the wastewater echoes the numbers. It is consistently the same numbers week after week. There is lower transmission in the community. A new sub-variant of Omicron, called B.1.116, has emerged and was first detected in India, which is seeing a surge. There are some reported cases in the United States (U.S.), the current prevalence in MA is 2.4% and the national prevalence is about 7.2%. Within the next two (2) to three (3) weeks, it will become the dominant strain in the U.S. The vaccine is effective with this new variant. Children in India who have been infected with this strain also experienced conjunctivitis. That is a new symptom other than the usual Gastrointestinal (GI); however, this has not been corroborated elsewhere. India has the biggest surge of COVID-19. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) came out with recommendations for those who are sixty-five (65) years of age and over as well as those who are immunocompromised. Other than that, no major changes. Each

medical care facility will have to make their own recommendations regarding masking once the pandemic declaration ends on May 11th, but it is expected that the universal masking expectation will end on that date.

5. **Review and Discuss Updates from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).** On behalf of Micah Blondeau, Soloe Dennis provided the Board with an environmental health (EH) update since the last Board of Health meeting that was held on March 17, 2023. A document outlining the information had been previously distributed to the Board.

Question: The EH data mentioned Chipotle as having had a reported food-borne illness. There had been issues in the past with the Chipotle chain on a national level and had been cited for violations. Is there anything different about this particular location?

Answer: The Health Inspector who conducted an inspection as a follow-up to the complaint will provide the Board with an update when he returns to the office next week.

6. **Review meeting schedule.** The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on May 19, 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.

Question: Is there an update regarding an outbreak of Norovirus at the Shrewsbury Nursing and Rehabilitation facility?

Answer: The facility has been working with the state to keep that under control. The City of Worcester's Department of Public Health (WDPH) is standing by should they need assistance. Currently, they have a handle on the situation. This seems to be a facility where there will be a few cases, then a lull, and then a few more cases arise. WDPH is working with them to see if there is anything they need help with.

Question: What is the protocol when there are outbreaks?

Answer: Cleaning surfaces and ensuring good hygiene. It is difficult to control visitors (outside influences). The facility has stringent hygiene protocols in place.

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 8:15 a.m. Unanimously approved 3 - 0.

Correspondence:

- Shrewsbury Board of Health Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2023
- A communication to the Shrewsbury Community to serve as a reminder that there are By-laws in place for Plastic Bag Reduction and Polystyrene Reduction to include:
 - Plastic Bag Reduction Flier
 - Polystyrene Reduction Flier