



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

Date: June 24, 2022

To: Board of Health

From: Kerry Stockwell, Principal Department Assistant – in person

Re: Board of Health Meeting Minutes

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA):
Karyn Clark, Director – in person
Micah Blondeau, Regional Environmental Health Specialist – via phone
Cherry Tangri, Public Health Prevention Specialist (Tobacco) – in person

Jeff Loven – 30 Fruit Street, Shrewsbury
Nice Guy – 5122 Avalon Way, Shrewsbury

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA):
Julie VanArsdalen, Regional Environmental Health Coordinator
Jennifer Nakijoba, Behavioral Health Coordinator

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held on **FRIDAY, June 24, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room at the Richard D. Carney Municipal Building located at 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 8:05 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.
- 2. Review and approval of Minutes from the May 20, 2022 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 May 20, 2022 Board of Health meeting. Unanimously approved 3 – 0.
- 3. Review and Discuss Guidance – 1st Offense Permit Suspension (Sale of Tobacco/Vape to a minor).**
Cherry Tangri, Public Health Prevention Specialist (Tobacco) explained that the state has mandated a license suspension between one (1) and thirty (30) days for the sale of tobacco/vape products to a minor after a first offense. The decision on the number of suspension days must be approved at a Board of Health meeting. There is no need to publish a legal ad and that whatever the decision is; it can be incorporated into the local tobacco regulations the next time they are updated. She referenced the handouts and said that most municipalities are adopting three (3) days for a first offense.

Question: What is the status of the Alliance communities?

Answer: The City of Worcester is still deciding; the Town Grafton choose three (3) days; the Town of West Boylston would like to decide on a case by case basis; and the Town of Millbury is still having conversations about it.

Stephen Vigeant asked what the Board’s thoughts were. He felt that thirty (30) days would be too harsh. Dr. Abraham and Jennie Fishman were in agreement with that and that three (3) days for the first offense would be sufficient.

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 have a three (3) day suspension following the first offense of selling tobacco/vape products to a minor. Unanimously approved 3 – 0.

4. Review and Discuss the Emergency Regulation Requiring Employers to Report Positive COVID-19 Cases in the Workplace in the Town of Shrewsbury.

Stephen Vigeant asked Karyn Clark if she had a recommendation. She commented that the City of Worcester is still requiring it. She was a little on the fence as the cases are low which and will be discussed today. She felt that we should continue to educate and support the businesses and that tracking the data is still important. COVID-19 is still around and we are not out of the woods yet. Even though we are much lower in terms of risk, it still feels like we would want to keep it in place.

Dr. Abraham said that the numbers were low but not zero. New variants are gaining ground. Having the businesses report positive cases is our only means of data, as home testing is not being reported.

Question: Is reporting positive COVID-19 a burden to the businesses?

Answer: No. The businesses have been fantastic about reporting. They also often seek guidance and get assistance from the public health nurse team.

Karyn Clark referenced the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) tracker tool. It is clear and easy to use, reflecting data by county. Dr. Hirsh, Medical Director for the City of Worcester feels strongly for Worcester and the Alliance communities that until the data is very low, that the mask advisory stay in place.

The consensus of the Board of Health was that it was wise to retain the reporting requirement by the businesses and have it stay in place until further notice.

5. Review and Discuss the Shrewsbury Board of Health Mask Advisory.

Karyn Clark addressed the Board and said that this advisory was fashioned from the City of Worcester's mask advisory. This advisory is the same message that has been communicated all along by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and by the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH). Her suggestion was to continue to educate residents on masking. It is not a mandate but a personal preference. This is a reminder to remain vigilant when attending large gatherings and for those who are immunocompromised. There is still a chance that you could contract COVID-19.

Jennie Fishman noted that masks are still mandatory in healthcare settings and that businesses can institute their own mandate.

Stephen Vigeant said it is a good reminder to consider wearing a mask when indoors.

Dr. Abraham said that there is still risk with the disease. From a prevalence standpoint, it is not low prevalence. He thought it was best to keep consistent messaging rather than having an advisory, removing it, putting out a new message. This would only confuse the public. Masking is a personal choice.

The Board of Health will leave the Mask Advisory alone at this time.

6. Review and Discuss Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update.

Karyn Clark said that vaccinating the pediatric population is now a priority. A contractor with MDPH is coming out to Worcester's YMCA to host clinics. The focus is on vaccine equity clinics. Encouraging folks to take their really young children to their pediatricians to get vaccinated. The Worcester Department of Public Health (WDPH) has a vaccine hub in our office. The office orders vaccine for pediatricians and has it available for them. They usually do not want large quantities, so we can distribute here and there. The recommendation is whoever is eligible, to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Stephen Vigeant said that this is a major development since the last Board of Health meeting and hopes that it will aid in reducing the spread.

Dr. Abraham said that Pfizer is a three (3) dose series and Moderna is a two (2) set series. Both vaccines are available.

7. Review and Discuss the Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) Updates.

Micah Blondeau updated the Board that a couple of new restaurants are in the works and should be opening soon. Waiting on a final date when Market Basket will be up and running. Everything else has been status quo.

Question: No special occurrences to report?

Answer: No.

Micah Blondeau relayed that there have not been many food-borne illness complaints. That is a good indicator that food establishments are doing a good job overall with temperature control and things like that. All of the mobile food vendors are inspected and we continue to stay on top of that. With the on-set of summer, we are starting to see more pests in businesses and we are staying on top of that as well.

Karyn Clark mentioned that there are Food Safety tips available on the website and a subsequent communication can be pushed out to the community as a reminder to keep food covered, temperature control, etc.

Mosquito Control

The Central MA Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) has posted their July spray dates. All dates are tentative and subject to change due to weather conditions. Karyn Clark said that if residents have concerns of what is in the spray to please visit the CMMCP's website. It is full of information on what they use and the Director is amazing. They are doing a lot of education in the community and even have a seasonal tire collection program in an effort to get rid of standing water. It is a great resource. If folks want to opt out of spray, they can do so on their website.

8. Review meeting schedule.

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on July 29, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Room at the Richard D. Carney Municipal Building, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

9. 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 8:30 a.m. Unanimously approved 3–0.

Correspondence:

- Board of Health Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2022
- Citation for First Sale Guidance – April 11, 2022
- Municipal List Suspension Duration First Offense – April 27, 2022
- Correction / Cease and Desist Order – Not Dated
- Emergency Regulation Requiring Employers to Report Positive COVID-19 Cases in the Workplace in the Town of Shrewsbury – October 5, 2021
- Shrewsbury Board of Health Mask Advisory – May 20, 2022