

East Longmeadow Board of Health Agenda

Wednesday, January 12, 2022; 6:00p.m. at East Longmeadow - Zoom

Board of Health Members Present: Christine Johnston, MPH, Dr. Kathryn Jobbins, DO, MS, FACP, and Rebecca Torcia, RN,BSN

Health Department Staff Present: Tammy Spencer, MS, RS, & Alix Roncarati, MPH

Visitor: Cheri Brady

Topic	Discussion/Action Taken/Decision Made
Call to order and Chair Announcements	Meeting called to order by Chair, Christine Johnston at 6:00 p.m.
Public Comment	Cheri Brady, nurse practitioner, spoke in favor of indoor mask mandate.
Vote to declare a Public Health Emergency due to the Surge in Covid-19 Cases	<p>Tammy shares the current data with the board, stating this time last year in January 2021 there were 198 total positive tests. Last week, the 14 day total the town saw 424 positive tests with 401 positive cases at 16.31%. Currently, the town has a total of 692 positive tests with a positivity rate in town of 24.3%. This is consistent with community rate across Hampden County. Tammy states currently, 68% of East Longmeadow is fully vaccinated. Dr. Jobbins shares Baystate's hospital numbers and that in last 14 days, the hospitalization rate is up 96%. The average age per 100,000 is 39 years old. There are 25,000 positive cases daily across the state with Hampden County up 28%. There are 300 people hospitalized at Baystate with Covid in a 716-bed hospital. Hampden County has the highest positivity rate in the Commonwealth. At Baystate, 79% of patients admitted with Covid as their primary infection and 23% found to have Covid incidentally. Dr. Jobbins also states per DPH, there is no bed availability from an MD standpoint. More children are testing positive and having symptoms, but symptoms remain mild. The omicron variant is much more highly transmissible and spreading quickly throughout the community and in healthcare settings seeing. Facilities are seeing higher numbers of staff testing positive for Covid due to repeated exposure and working with patients testing positive. There is increase in individuals testing positive again after getting Covid due to increased surge and the new variant. Christine asked if vote to declare public health emergency if special language is needed. Tammy states the town is still operating under the original public health emergency put in place by Town Manager, Mary McNally.</p> <p>Motion to declare a public health emergency for the Town of East Longmeadow given the Covid-19 surge to crisis level made by Dr. Kathryn Jobbins and seconded by Rebecca Torcia. Motion passed 3-0.</p>
Vote to Enact an Emergency Indoor Mask Mandate for the Town of East Longmeadow Effective Immediately	Chris brought up second item vote to invoke emergency indoor mask mandate immediately for town as this mandate would cover next 8 days. Tammy states mandate can be immediate or next day and posted in paper. The second indoor mask mandate can replace the first one and will be more official as it will be

	<p>published in paper as well as having a start and end date. The first one will cover mandate if someone had an objection and would then go with the second one which is published in the paper. Chris discussed different mask types with cloth having least protection against virus, surgical mask better protection than cloth and the KN95 masks providing best amount of protection. Tammy states the department has 300 masks in stock, however, they are for public facing departments such as the library personnel and other personnel dealing directly with the public. Tammy stated that 24hour notice for mandate should be given as a date of 1/14/2022 12:01am giving time for information to be given to businesses to properly prepare as well as the community. Alix commented that last time business commented did not have enough time to prepare.</p> <p>Motion that effective January 14, 2022 at 12:01am, for the Town of East Longmeadow to have an indoor mask mandate for all public indoor spaces that will go into effect until February 28, 2022 and it could be rescinded early if our positivity rate drop below a certain range and we'll have an emergency meeting made by Dr. Kathryn Jobbins and seconded by Rebecca Torcia. Motion passed 3-0.</p>
<p>Vote to Enact an Indoor Mask Mandate for the Town of East Longmeadow Effective January 20, 2022</p>	<p>Christine brings up the third item on the agenda; to enact an indoor mask mandate effective January 20, 2022, which will be published in the paper and have the same end date of February 28, 2022 for all indoor public places.</p> <p>Motion that we enact an indoor mask mandate for indoor public spaces in the Town of East Longmeadow to go into effect January 20, 2022 to be published in our local newspaper with the end date of February 28, 2022 or sooner if our positivity rates drops and we can reassess at an emergency meeting made by Dr Kathryn Jobbins and seconded by Rebecca Torcia. Motion passed 3-0.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Dr. Jobbins asked about the trash pickup issues. Alix gives an update on the current schedule for pickups. The delays have occurred due to staff being out with Covid, the snow day on January 7, 2022, as well as issues with trucks not able to run due to needing parts. Trash pick up is about a day an half to 2 days behind and they have 6 trucks on Saturday. The East Longmeadow Health Department Facebook page has the most current and correct information regarding trash issues. The robo call notification system is no longer in effect and replaced by the new Code Red system. People previously enrolled in the robo call system need to resign up on the new code Code Red system to receive notifications on current information pertaining to the town. There is a link on website for new system. The Senior Center is helping seniors to navigate this sign up for new notification system. There was a suggestion to possibly have the sign up put on current census forms.</p> <p>Tammy states that test kits have been ordered and will be coming in within 7-10 days. Governor Baker announced the state is going to distribute 26 million test kits over coming weeks to communities. This round of test kits will go to students and families with close contacts, symptomatic and the older population.</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	

Schedule Next Meeting

Discussed next meeting date and agreed 2/9/2022 at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Kathryn Jobbins and seconded by Christine Johnston at 6:36 p.m. **Motion passed 3-0.**

This listing is reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Rebecca Torcia 2/10/2022
Rebecca Torcia, Secretary