

## EAST LONGMEADOW BOARD OF HEALTH

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:00pm

Location: East Longmeadow via 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, Health Director; Alix Roncarati, Health Inspector; Renée Suckau, Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/ACTION TAKEN/DECISION MADE
Call to Order and Chair Announcements	Meeting called to order by Chair, Christine Johnston at 6:00pm
Approval of minutes of previous meetings ( <b>VOTE</b> )	Ms. Johnston discusses the first item of approving the March 22, 2022 open meeting minutes. Ms. Johnston motions to approve the meeting minutes with the correction of the date to read March 22, 2022, but otherwise as written. Motion is seconded by Dr. Jobbins. <b>Motion passes 3-0</b>
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Business at Hand 1. Earth Day 2. Health Needs Assessment 3. COVID-19 update - including, but not limited to, latest numbers, vaccine data, vaccine clinics, etc.	<p>Responsibility of minutes and note-taking discussed, and transferred from Ms. Torcia to Ms. Suckau.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer encourages the Board to attend the MAHB conference, now in-person, in June.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer discusses the Earth Day event, as submitted by Elizabeth Bone, our Trash and Recycling Coordinator. She reports that the town clean up event, hosted by the Health Department with the assistance of the Parks and Recreation team along with Erin Chrusciel, will be taking place on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Over 140 volunteers have signed up and are asked to meet at the ELHS high school parking lot at 8:30am. They will disperse to their assigned clean up area after supplies are handed out. Trash and recycling totals will be reported at the conclusion of the event. Merchandise can be found in the Town Manager's office for purchase.</p> <p>Elizabeth Bone has been on ELCAT promoting our new hauler, Earth Day, as well as our new textile company.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer continues to say that, on May 7th from 9am to 1pm, there will be a Heartsprings truck collection in the Town Hall parking lot. We are having a competition with Longmeadow, and the winning team will receive a \$500 prize.</p> <p>May 9th food waste workshop to discuss the new food ban - all businesses and institutions are encouraged to attend</p> <p>Ms. Johnston adds that there will also be a shredding event at the Rotary on April 23rd.</p> <p>Ms. Roncarati reports that the new textile bin from CMRK has been dropped off behind the Fire Department.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer reported that 523 people have taken the Health Needs Assessment, 280 of them are from East Longmeadow. Early demographic results show that white, female 40-49 are the largest group who have taken the test, but age range distribution is spread out for the most part. The assessment will be available to take until the first week of May.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer continues to say that recruiting to create the focus groups is underway. Each group will be composed of 3-5 individuals to create 3 focus groups: seniors, families with school age children, and first responders. Interviews for a key informant are also underway.</p> <p>The results from the assessment can be shown as a powerpoint presentation, a one-page summary document, or as a narrative. The data that is collected will be a representation of the residents from both East Longmeadow as well as Longmeadow.</p>

	<p>Ms. Spencer reported that almost 30 individuals attended the COVID vaccine clinic at Fellowship Hall. The next clinic will be on Friday, May 20th at the Senior Center, in conjunction with Behavioral Health Network.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer also states that the vaccination rate for East Longmeadow is holding steady at 70%, and 40% have had their booster shots. Our highest vaccination rate is among the senior citizen population with 95% vaccinated, and our lowest is the 5-11-year-old age range at 41% fully vaccinated.</p> <p>Hampden County's positive test rate is 3.17%, and East Longmeadow is at 4.78% (48 total cases) during the last reporting period. Positive cases are trending in an upwards fashion - with the next reporting period already showing 60 confirmed cases, with only 4 being school age children.</p> <p>Ms. Johnston reminds that, since most people test at home, their results are not reported, which means that the percent positivity may be higher than what is reported.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer continues that there are second and third positive cases being reported as well, so multiple infections are possible even among the vaccinated.</p> <p>Dr. Jobbins reports that there is a rise of other respiratory infections, such as Flu A, and she encourages everyone to test at home and speak to their primary care provider in order to get accurate assessments done.</p> <p>Dr. Jobbins continues to say that there is not an approved booster for ages 5-11 yet, but may happen within the upcoming weeks to months.</p>
Other Business	<p>Ms. Spencer states that the COVID-19 grant money that has been awarded to East Longmeadow will be used to pay for the at home test kits. Other uses for the grant are being looked into.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer says that a new public health nurse, Cynthia Levillee, starts on Thursday, April 21st. Additional hours are being requested in order to keep up with the changes to MAVEN.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer reports that as of last week, we switched over to our new waste disposal site, F&amp;G (USA waste). This is a bridge contract for 2 and ½ months, while we look for a new waste disposal facility. Casella will be starting as our new hauler as of July 1st, and Ms. Bone is working with them to create and distribute promotional items for the residents.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer continues to say that the Health Department is busy with outdoor events, camps and pool inspections as we move into summer. Several departments, including the Health Department, are working together to amend and clarify the mobile food rules and procedures.</p>
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 17th at 6pm.
Call to Adjourn	Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Kathryn Jobbins and seconded by Christine Johnston. <b>Motion passed 3-0.</b>

*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 4/19/2022  
Rebecca Torcia, Secretary