

**CITY OF BROCKTON BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH) MEETING NOTICE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AT 4:30 PM. This public hearing will be held as a virtual meeting over ZOOM.**

***Join Zoom Meeting***

***This meeting is being held in accordance with Governor Charlie Baker's signed Open Meeting Law dated March 12, 2020, which relieves a public body from the requirement of Section 20 of Chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.***

Here is the YouTube link that you can post on the website permanently and it will never change:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBrocktonChannels>

**AGENDA**

I-Welcome/Introduction of Dr. Mary Brophy, Board Chairperson

II-Board's approval of the Minutes of the August's Meeting...

III-SPECIAL ITEM TO BE HEARD BY THE BOARD: Life science, Bio Ready Community, Adoption of NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA (rDNA), Brought by Mr. Rob May, City Commissioner for Planning and Economic Development (Resubmission, due to Government's protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order).

IV-SPECIAL ITEM TO BE HEARD BY THE BOARD (1<sup>ST</sup> Submission): Attorney John McCluskey's Law Firm has submitted a request for a hearing with Board to represent a client seeking a Tobacco Permit to sale tobacco at a store located on Belmont Street.

V-The latest Statistical Data on COVID-19 cases for Brockton, and on vaccination updates, the percent of the population being vaccinated.

VI-COVID-19 Dashboard (cases):

CURRENT (as of 8/30/22): New Positive Cases, N=9, Active Cases, N=166, Cumulative Cases, N=32,034, Death, N=502 (death cases decreased due redefinition in case pathology).

VII- Dashboard on COVID-19: the current statistics on the pandemic in Brockton is showing a slight decrease! In Brockton currently, our 7-Days COVID-19 Prevalence is as follows (as of 8/25/22): 108.9 per 100,000. Positive rate: 6.8% (ONLY on the PCR tests reported to MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Networks). We continue to emphasize the fact that our current positive rate is understated, given that people who self-test from Antigen Home Test kits are not included in this report.

VIII- Vaccination and Testing modality: In recent weeks, vaccination demand has been on a declining slope. Public Health Nurses (PHN) continue to offer COVID-19 at the Shaw's Center as before. Tuesdays, 2:00 to 7:00 PM. On Saturdays, Brewster's Ambulance provides the vaccine at the same location, from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. First and second doses, first & second boosters are also available for ALL three (3) vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna (1 for J&J). BOH continues to vaccinate at the Cape Verdean

Association (575 N. Montello St.) every other Thursday, from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. PHN also do the High Rises, Low Rises around the City. We've added few other vax sites, which are "Occasional" and they include: Massasoit Community College, Council on Aging (COA), Farmers' Market (City Hall), Haitian Adult Day Care Center(one vax clinic is scheduled there for August 31).

**COVID-19 Testing Site:** With the Mayor input and help from the Law Department, BOH has retained an Agency, namely "Curative", which will do PCR Testing at the Shaw's Center at the end of August. I am glad to say that all is in place and testing will start on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**VIRAL LOAD (Concentration):** Brockton now has access to COVID-19 data from sewer wastewater samples that shows the concentration or the viral load in the City. Last samples collected that we have data for (8/25/22), with the report date: (7/29/22), the Viral load was 1.02 million of COVID-19 particles per 1L of sewer.

IX- BOH redeploying staff for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing: We are expanding these resources to address other Public Health needs that exist in the City of Brockton. The \$1 million grant (\$500,000 per year) for 2 years, BOH is using it to focus on a more holistic approach to seek after better health and wellbeing of the residents of Brockton. We hired one Epidemiologist and three (3) Community Health Workers/Contact Tracers. We are hiring 2 other Epidemiologists or 1.5FTE to complete our surveillance staff.

X- A- Health Promotion & Public Health Education: MDPH has provided tremendous support throughout the pandemic. We continue to partner with various stakeholders around the City: BNHC, community organization like Cape Verdean Organization, the School Department, Clergy groups, BAMS, Brockton Housing Authority, and with different media outlets, etc.

XI- Mental Health needs have increased among the residents of Brockton. We have reached out to State and local Partners in order to identify resources to help meet the need. Part of our goal is the integration of the Mental Health aspect of needs with the Public Health Standards of Care in the City of Brockton.

XII- **A SYMPOSIUM:** Our plan is underway to hold "A Symposium" the City to Discuss COVID-19 and Develop a Framework from the Lessons Learned for the past two (2) years in order to help Build a Healthier Community...

XIII-Miscellaneous: Governor Baker has signed an order to extend remote meeting (3/23). To date, we have one confirmed Monkeypox case in Brockton! We had 1 case that was redirected to another Municipality.

XIV- Our Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Eno Mondesir, Executive Health Officer BOH, City of Brockton