



City of Brockton

Health Department

Robert F. Sullivan
MAYOR

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
BROCKTON, MA.

Dr. Eno Mondesir
EXECUTIVE HEALTH OFFICER

CITY OF BROCKTON BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH) MEETING NOTICE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023 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. Also in attendance today, we have Andrea Terry, a Nursing student at UMass who joins us as an observer to fulfill one of her course requirements!

II-Board's approval of the Minutes for the December 1st Meeting...

III- Moving forward with Life science, Bio Ready Community, Adoption of NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA (rDNA): the conversation being held with other Municipalities for this type of project...

IV-THE BOARD VOTED TO DENY A REQUEST FOR NEW TOBACCO LICENSE IN THE CITY: BOH received a request for a "New Tobacco Permit submitted by a Law Firm representing the business d/b/a/:→7/11-CONVENIENCE STORE, located at 716 Belmont Street, Brockton. There multiple requests by the attorney for the business, asking the BOH for all documents relating to Tobacco Permits during COVID-19 (within the past 3 years). Lastly, BOH was notified that the business owner requested a meeting with the Mayor, and that is the last piece of information that I was made aware of.

V- SANITARY/HEALTH INSPECTORS: The Health Inspectors have been physically relocated to City Hall, within the Building Department. This is supposed to be a step of a larger plan, which is the "transition from a Board of Health to a Health Department".

NOTE: BOH lost one of its Inspectors who accepted a position with the Brockton DPW, creating 2 (two) vacancies on the Sanitary Inspection side of the BOH...

"City of Champions"

BROCKTON CITY HALL • 45 SCHOOL STREET • BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02301

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

VII-COVID-19 Dashboard (cases): CURRENT (as of 01/27/23): New Positive Cases, N=24, Active Cases, N=159, Cumulative, N=34,057, Deaths=525. Since December, we have recorded a total of 16 more COVID-19 related deaths. The dominant COVID-19 variant presently is: XBB.1.5, which accounts for 84% of the new cases, followed by BQ.1.1=8.1%, BQ.1=4.1%; BA.5=0.6%...

Stats at the end of December 2022: New Positive Cases, N=13, Active Cases, N=72, Cumulative, N=33,067, Deaths=509. We have recorded 3 more deaths in the month of November.

VIII- Dashboard on COVID-19: In Brockton currently, in the last 7-Days (through 01/27/23), COVID-19 Prevalence is as follows: 12.4 per 100,000. Positive rate: 10.8% (ONLY) the PCR tests are reported to MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Networks). NB: Antigen Home Test results are not included in this report.

IX- “MONOVALENT & BIVALENT” COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing modality: We have seen an uptake with vaccination demand as Federal and MDPH have authorized “Bivalent” vaccines. FDA & CDC have authorized both Pfizer and Moderna bivalent doses almost for all eligible ages. 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. Also, 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 still provide COVID-19 clinics for COA (Council On Aging), Massasoit Community College, and other institutions upon request.

DPH/CDC INCENTIVES: In partnership with DPH & CDC, various amounts of Gift Card Incentives have been provided at our Vaccination clinics. Consequently, the number of people who are getting vaccinated has improved significantly. Overall the response level fluctuates from time to time.

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 (01/24/23), with the report date: (01/27/23), the Viral load was 1,580,555 of COVID-19 particles per 1L of sewer. “The City of Brockton sample has a higher concentration levels than 88% of all quantifiable samples collected within the past 2 weeks.”

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, BAMSII, Brockton Housing Authority, and with different media outlets, etc.

XI- Mental Health needs continue to raise concerns among Health Care providers, DMH, Mental Health professionals in the State, including those in Brockton. 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. Our “Very First DMH Statewide meeting for 2023” was encouraging, given the commitment of the Mental Health Commissioner Brooke Doyle for the Commonwealth. An ongoing concern has to do with mental health challenges and its impact on homelessness. DMH and its allies are exploring innovative interventions in order to help solve the Mental Health challenges. With New Administration, Healey/Driscoll at the Corner Office, much remains to be determined. Also, the New National Mental Health Emergency Hotline is in service: 988.

XII-Miscellaneous: Governor Baker has signed an order to extend remote meeting (3/23). I will update the Directors as more information becomes available from the Healey/Driscoll Administration.

RSV-Increase Respiratory Infection among children in Brockton...

Medical Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (MACET): I am an active member of this Statewide Committee.

XIII- Our Next Board Meeting: Thursday, March 2, 2023
(TBD).....

Respectfully submitted,

Eno Mondesir, Executive Health Officer BOH, City of Brockton

P.S.: ANYONE WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING BEYOND JUST WATCHING VIA YOUTUBE, NEEDS TO CALL THE BOARD OF HEALTH IN ADVANCE TO REQUEST THE ZOOM LINK. THEY WILL BE ASKED FOR THEIR NAME BEFORE THEIR REQUEST IS GRANTED (the phone: 508-580-7175).