



# City of Brockton

## Health Department

Robert F. Sullivan  
MAYOR

Dr. Eno Mondesir  
EXECUTIVE HEALTH OFFICER

**CITY OF BROCKTON BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH) MEETING NOTICE THURSDAY, June 1, 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.**

**II-Board's approval of the Minutes for the May 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting.**

**III-Agenda Item reintroduced to the Board:** Due to non-compliance, the BOH is obligated to call for a hearing with the Local Store and District Level Managements of Family Dollar Stores. Inspector Doucette is seeking additional help from the Board so as to take further actions! The 2 (two) particular Stores are:

- **The one located at: 725 Center St, Brockton, and**
- **The other located at 880 N. Montello St. Brockton.**

**IV- Attorney Philip Nessralla has solicited a hearing with the Board to present a request for Tobacco Permits for separate Stores and Clients, namely:**

- 711 Convenience Store, located at 716 Belmont Street, (toward restoring a previously granted Tobacco License), and
- East Ashland Street Realty Trust, Located at 446 East Ashland Street (**also toward restoring a previously granted Tobacco License, d/b/a/ a Convenience Store...**)

**V-Moving forward with Life science, Bio Ready Community, Adoption of NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA (rDNA): In our recent conversation with Sam Lipson, Senior Director of Environmental Health for the City of Cambridge, one important suggestion for us in Brockton is to**

*"City of Champions"*

consider hiring a consultant on Biosafety or Environmental Health. Dr. Brophy and I had a productive meeting with Sam over a month ago. The consultant aspect of it will require some level of conversation with the elected Officials within the Municipal of Brockton, or at least with the Mayor. He further advised that Brockton adopts the existing Life science and Laboratory Biosafety regulations of Sister Cities instead of reinventing the wheel. I have since briefed the Mayor on that, and gave a heads up to Mr. Rob May.

**VI- SANITARY/HEALTH INSPECTORS:** The Health Inspectors continue to have a presence at City Hall, within the Building Department. As time progresses, they are supposed to fall under the purview of Inspectional Services Department or transition with the Board of Health as it becomes a Health Department. The Brockton City Council recently deliberated on and then voted in favor of the plan to develop a Health Department in Brockton.

**NOTE:** Vacancies: We have 3 vacancies at the BOH: 1 (one) Sanitary Inspector, 1 (one) Administrative Assistant, which we hope to fill by June 5, and 1 (one) Code Enforcement officer position.

NOTE: As of May 11, CDC and MDPH have decided to remove the Public Health Emergency Authorization for COVID-19. Consequently, few changes have been made in COVID-19 protocol, including mask mandate...

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

**VIII-COVID-19 Dashboard (cases):** CURRENT (as of 05/26/23): New Positive Cases, N=3, Active Cases, N=14, Cumulative, N=34,501, Deaths=536. **The dominant COVID-19 variant continues to be XBB.1.5, of the new cases.**

Stats at the end of May 1, 2023: New Positive Cases, N=1, Active Cases, N=15, Cumulative, N=34,480, Deaths=536.

**XI-** Dashboard on COVID-19: As of May 11, 2023, **NO regular COVID-19 dashboard is supported by DPH.** COVID-19 Prevalence has dropped, and the fewer positive cases that we observe are (ONLY) the PCR/molecular tests reported to MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Networks). NB: Antigen Home Test results are not included in this report.

**X-** Vaccination Initiative to date: From this point forward, the Brockton Board of Health has in its inventory BIVALENT COVID-19 Vaccine (Primary, Secondary Doses, and Booster) available for all eligible individuals, particularly for special populations such as: 65+, the Immuno-compromised individuals, and anyone who did not complete their vaccine series. Public Health Nurses (PHN) continue to offer COVID-19 at the Shaw's Center as before. Tuesdays, 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Due to very low need for vaccine, we have discontinued vaccination at the Cape Verdean Association, hoping that these individuals who a vaccine can go the Shaw's.

**LIMITED DPH/CDC INCENTIVES:** The CDC continues to support vaccination clinic with its \$25.00 gift cards. They are available to each individual who receives a vaccine dose.

**VIRAL LOAD (Concentration):** Brockton 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 (05/21/23), with the report date: (05/24/23), the Viral load was 180,410 of COVID-19 particles per 1L of sewer.



**XI- 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, BAMSI, Brockton Housing Authority, and with different media outlets, etc.

**XII- 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. DMH and its allies are exploring innovative interventions in order to help solve the Mental Health challenges. We have ongoing contact with DMH Southeastern Region Office. **With New Administration, Gov. Healey and Lt. Gov. Driscoll at the Corner Office, much remains to be determined. Also, the New National Mental Health Emergency Hotline is in service: 988.** May is the Mental Health and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, DMH, the Southeastern Regional Office located at 165 Quincy Street, Brockton held an event to showcase Mental Health Needs, that was well attended.

**XIII-Miscellaneous:** Governor Healey has reauthorized the order that was previously signed by former Administration to extend remote meeting (3/31/25).

**NEW THING:** I am so glad to announce that we have 2 staff in training to become Community Health Workers (CHW). These 2 individuals were hired previously to do COVID-19 case Investigation/Contact tracing. Also, we are promoting the Community Health Needs Assessment for the Residents of Brockton.

Brockton Hospital remains closed, due to a fire in its electrical room. The efforts continue by the Signature Healthcare and all the stakeholders to make sure that the required work is done in the hope to reopen. The extent of the damage is such that more resources are required, and a reopening date is further down the road than previously anticipated.

Medical Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (MACET): As an active member of this Statewide Committee, I continue to be a voice at the “Local Municipality”. There has been an update in active TB cases both in the Massachusetts, and nationwide. There seems to be an inverse correlation between COVID-19 incidence rate and positive TB incidence rate. Another factor that seems to contribute to the increase in TB cases is travel.

**XIV- Our Next Board Meeting: Thursday, July 4, 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).**