



Robert F. Sullivan
MAYOR

City of Brockton

Health Department

Dr. Eno Mondesir
EXECUTIVE HEALTH OFFICER

2023 JUL 31 P 4: 20

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
BROCKTON, MA.

CITY OF BROCKTON BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH) MEETING NOTICE THURSDAY, August 3, 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 June 1st Meeting.

III- Tobacco Permits Updates: The last two (2) requests presented to the Board for Tobacco permits are included here, which were denied. We plan to seek further guidance from the Law Department...

- 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...**)

IV-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 consider hiring a consultant on Biosafety or Environmental Health. The Board and I have spoken with Steven Lee, Managing Principal Consultant at Environmental & Health Engineering, Inc, in Newton. 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 whose discretion is to put his seal of approval. Both Steven Lee and Sam Lipson advise that Brockton adopts the existing Life science and Laboratory Biosafety regulations of Sister Cities instead of reinventing the wheel. After many meetings over many months, we bring the parties together: Mr. Rob May, Mr. John Fay, and the Board to bring up any other points for discussion...

"City of Champions"

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V- SANITARY/HEALTH INSPECTORS: The Health/Sanitary Inspectors are now part of the City ISD (Inspectional Services Department) within the Building 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 and New Hired: We have 1 vacancy at the BOH: 1 (one) Epidemiologist. Our 2 COVID-19 Case Investigators/Contact Tracers have transitioned to CHW (Community Health Workers), after having completed the requirements. Also, BOH has hired its Administrative Assistant I Position (start date: 7/17).

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.

Other COVID-19 Vaccination changes: CDC, and MDPH have announced the upcoming end of “free COVID-19 vaccine for all. A firm date has not given yet as to when this change will become effective. The Government (Federal and State) further indicates that free vaccine will continue for individuals 18 years old and younger, and for people who are economically challenged. As for the rest of the U.S. population, People can reach out to their PCP who may bill their health insurance.

VI-The latest Statistical Data on COVID-19 cases for Brockton, and on vaccination updates, including other related interventions:

VII-COVID-19 Dashboard (cases): CURRENT (as of 07/31/23): New Positive Cases, N=6, Active Cases, N=23, Cumulative, N=34,557, Deaths=536. The last date in which Brockton recorded any COVID-19-related death is March 26, 2023. **The dominant COVID-19 variant continues to be XBB.1.5, of the new cases.**

VIII- 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 the ongoing report updates.

IX- 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 on a reduced schedule (Tuesdays, 2:00 to 4:00 PM). For the Summer months, we are holding vaccine clinics every Friday at the Farmer’s Market by City Hall Plaza. Other vaccination clinic sites include the Housing Authority Facilities, and at special Community events.

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 (07/25/23), with the report date: (07/28/23), the Viral load was 504,847 of COVID-19 particles per 1L of sewer.

X- TRENDING UP INFECTIONS IN TB CASES: For several months, the State has observed a significant rise in New TB cases. That is also observed across the United States. At least, three main

factors account for that: the significant drop in COVID-19, giving rise to more mobility, more people travel now than during the pandemic. A second reason, we have a rise in the number of people migrating to the Country and the State. Last, people seem to be less concerned and go back to the Disease Prevention protocol to pre pandemic...

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.**

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

NEW THING: We continue to promote the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHA) for the Residents of Brockton. BOH has a QR Code on its website page that Brocktonians can easily download on their cell phone to complete the survey.

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 weekly updates from the hospital Administration show the progress with the repair, and medical services will be provided incrementally until all work is complete and BH will be fully operational again.

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” and at the State Level. Significant amount of resources are required.

XIV- Our Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 7, 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).