



Robert F. Sullivan
MAYOR

City of Brockton

Health Department

Dr. Eno Mondesir
EXECUTIVE HEALTH OFFICER

CITY OF BROCKTON BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH) MEETING NOTICE THURSDAY, JANUARY 04, 2024 AT 4:30 PM. This public hearing will be held as a via zoom with strict accommodation for State Partners to join in and anyone who calls the BOH beforehand, to request zoom access!

Join Zoom Meeting

This meeting is being held in accordance with Governor Maura Healey'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. Craig Andrade, Chairperson.

II-Board's approval of the Minutes for the October 5 Meeting.

III- REQUEST FOR HEARING AT THIS MEETING. The following business, d/b/a/: Saisha, Inc., has received notice to CEASE AND DESIST ORDER for "selling a tobacco product to a person under the MINIMUM Legal Sales Age":

- Saisha Inc., Located at 443 Crescent St. Brockton, MA 02302. This particular owner has been on the agenda for the December meeting but requested to have the hearing moved January due to schedule conflict.
- Also, attorney Philip Nessralla, Jr., representing Cigar and More located at 530 Forest Avenue, has requested a hearing on behalf of his client for the purpose of asking the Board to permit the transfer of their current smoke and tobacco license to a different location, namely: 423 Belmont Street. Brockton,

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

"City of Champions"

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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. At the present time, we wait to hear from the City Officials, and how they wish to move!

V-Vacancies and Hiring: We have successfully interview candidates for 1 Epidemiology and 1 CHW positions that we posted. Since our interview process, we retained 1 applicant for each position and extended a job offer to them. As for the CHW candidate, she has accepted our offer but needs to give 2-weeks-notice to her current employer. We will keep the Directors informed of the latest information as soon as it becomes available.

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 updated COVID-19 vaccine. The Government (Federal and State) 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. We do have Vaccine supplies, both: Flu & COVID-19.

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 01/02/24) New Positive Cases, N=5 Active Cases, N=133, Cumulative, N=35,010, Deaths, N=539.

PRIOR MONTH→ per comparative analysis: as of 12/29/23, when we ran the last report for the year, the stats were as follows: New positive cases, N=15, Active cases, N=131, Cumulative, N=35,001, Deaths, N=539; as of 12/01/23) New Positive Cases, N=19 Active Cases, N=69, Cumulative, N=34,855, Deaths, N=539. November New Positive cases, N=17; Active Cases, N=55; Cumulative, N=34,706, Deaths, N=539. NO new deaths since September 2023!

VIII- Dashboard on COVID-19: As of May 11, 2023, **NO regular COVID-19 dashboard is supported by DPH.** COVID-19 Prevalence has dropped during prior months but in August, Brockton did experience an uptake; nevertheless PCR/molecular tests remain the confirmed data recorded on MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Networks). NO Antigen Home Test results are not included in the ongoing report updates.

IX- Vaccination Initiative to date: Our PH Nurses continue to set up vaccination clinics for our residents as we see fit. Also, we concurrently continue to offer seasonal flu vaccines to the residents. The Shaw's Center remains a preferred site for such clinics as well as Through the Fall season, we are holding vaccine clinics every Friday at the Farmer's Market by City Hall Plaza. Other vaccination clinic sites include, City Hall employees, BPD, the Housing Authority Facilities, and at special Community events.

N.B.: Public Health Nurses have already scheduled Flu and COVID-19 clinics for the City Residents.

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VIRAL LOAD (Concentration): Brockton has access to COVID-19 data from sewer wastewater samples that show the concentration or the viral load in the City. DPH has retained Biobot analytics to continue to provide stats from the wastewater sample for COVID-19

X- TRENDING UP INFECTIONS IN TB CASES: For several months, the State has observed a significant rise in New TB (10) cases. 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.

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, IFSI (Immigrant Family Services Institute), and with different media outlets, etc.

XII- Mental Health: 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 through 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 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. MDPH continues to significantly support our work in this regards.

XIV- Our Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Eno Mondesir, Executive Health Officer BOH, City of Brockton

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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).