

Office of the
Board of Health
City Hall
166 Boulder Drive - Suite 108
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420
978-829-1870

A Virtual Meeting was held on February 4, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Present: Stephen Curry, Director; Sandra Knipe, R.N.B.S.N.; John Bogdasarian, M.D., Chairman; Ian Murray, Sam Squailia, City Councilor .

Dr. Bogdasarian opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.

COVID-19 Update/Discussion:

Mr. Curry stated currently there are 241 active cases, up from the last few days. It was heading in the right direction for a while but there is now somewhat of a spike due to a couple of clusters, one being a gym that spiked 20 cases. Total cases since March 1, 2020 is 3,783. The total of recovered cases are 3,408. There has been 134 deaths since March 1 and 8 deaths in the last 2 weeks. Statewide the cases are estimated about 64,431. That number is down significantly. The bulk of the cases are between 0-19 years old, the second age group is 20-29 years old.

Mr. Curry stated the week of January 11 there were 4 clinics with 800 vaccines for the first responders in Phase 1. There has been tremendous help from the school nurses as well as volunteer nurses. The vaccine is coming in at 100 doses a week since the 800 doses in January. We conducted a clinic last Friday at Wallace towers for all residents and staff that wanted it. There were several cases there in the last few months so it was good use of the vaccine.

We got receiving 100 doses yesterday and have 5 clinics scheduled next week of which are for the second round of the vaccine for first responders. The 5th clinic will be on February 16th at the Fitchburg Senior Center and they are hoping to open it up for the 75+ residents but that will depend on how many vaccines we receive.

Mr. Curry stated we are still in Phase 1 which includes congregate housing such as Our Father's House. We put an order in for 3000 and teamed up with the 13 other towns that are part of the Montachusett Public Health Network to order 1300 vaccines but DPH tells us for a few weeks we are likely to receive 100 vaccine doses per week.

All the vaccines we get are Moderna. We will have access and we are purchasing a freezer next week so we could order Pfizer vaccines and hopefully we can get more vaccine doses. The freezer can store thousands of doses if we can get them.

We are trying to schedule more clinics for 75+ and beyond but the vaccine supply is just not there. We are trying to secure more vaccines now and will announce when we can schedule these clinics. There are 2,333 residents that are 75+ in the City. We will try to contact these seniors with mailers as well as the CodeRED notification system when we have the vaccines available.

We have issued over 1000 vaccine doses and have had 2 incidents of reaction, one being a minor rash and one related to anxiety. We are hearing word that the second doses causes some more increased flu like symptoms for approximately 24 hours in some people.

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2020.

Ms. Knipe made a motion to adjourn. Motion was 2nd by Ian Murray. All were in favor. Motion carries.

Adjourned at 5:45 PM