



Board of Health

January 19, 2022
 18 Mulberry Street, Nashua, NH
 & Via Zoom
 12:00 PM

Our **mission** is to promote, protect, and preserve the health and wellbeing of the Greater Nashua Region through leadership and community collaboration. Our **vision** is to have an informed, safe, healthy, and resilient community where all people can thrive and prosper. We subscribe to the following **values**: integrity, leadership, adaptability, and respect.

Board Chair: Dr. Tony Storage

Scribe: Bobbie D Bagley

Minutes

- Board of Health Attendees** *Chair, Dr. Storage, Dr. Charles Cappetta (on site) and, Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum (via Zoom)*
- Board of Aldermen Attendees** *Aldermen: Patricia Klee, Tom Lopez, Melbourne Moran, Tyler Gouvei and Legal Counsel: Attorney Steve Bolton*
- Division Staff** *Bob Mack, Lyndsey Bond, Kim Bernard, Ren Beaudoin, Pat Henry, Heidi Peek, Jane Goodman, Bobbie D Bagley and Mike McGuinness*
- Guest Speakers** *Dr. Tim Scherer, CMO of Southern Medical Center; Dr. Alison Madden, CMO of St. Joseph Hospital.*

Public Meeting – Not Open to Public Comment

Meeting held on site at 18 Mulberry Street with two public guest from the community. As well as via Zoom: Meeting ID: 882-1399-1371, Passcode: 170985, Meeting also accessible via telephone: 1-646-876-9923. Instructions provided if there were audio problems to dial 603-821-2049.

Meeting Called to Order

Chair, Dr. Storage called the meeting to order at 12: 07 PM. Meeting opened with reading of meeting location and meeting access by Director Bagley.

Situational Update

Situational update provided by Epidemiologist:

NH COVID-19 Numbers as of 1/18

- 250, 581 total cumulative cases
 - 10.8% increase since 1/11
- 20,045 Active Cases
- WMUR: 12,997 new cases over the weekend. Saturday alone had 5,511 new cases, which is a record high in NH for a single day.
- 3X the number of cases compare to last winter

- 21.9% positivity rate for the past 7 days
 - On average, there are 13,120 test given daily
- There are 409 current hospitalizations
- 2,085 cumulative deaths
- 56.1 % of NH residents are fully vaccinated, and 62.7% have received at least one dose

Nashua COVID-19 Numbers as of 1/18

- 18,221 total cumulative cases
 - 11.7% increase since 1/11
- 1,487 active cases
- 29.5% positivity rate for the last 7 days
- 127 cumulative deaths
 - 5 new deaths since 1/11
- 27 active cases are being reported in Nashua Schools
 - There are 4 clusters within schools being reported
 - 3,696 new cases per 100,00 within the last 14 days
- 53.6% of Nashua residents are fully vaccinated, and 60.3% have at least 1 dose.

Director's Update:

Omicron the predominate variant

- 334.7 million cases reported world-wide with 5.6 M deaths
- 67.6 million cases reported in the US with 867 thousands deaths

**Presentation by
Hospital Chief
Medical Officers**

Please listen to the video recording of the presentation of the hospital chief medical officers.

**Full video recording of the meeting:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSLhZNFBIIO>

Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum: Consider to recommend to the aldermen that the mask mandate due to expire on January 31st should be extended based on several factors.

- Local data about the status of the hospitals has been presented
- Length of stay of COVID-19 patients is longer in the ICU (weeks and not days)
- CDC just doubled down on masks. Recommendations on which masks are most effective, but any masks is helpful
- The concept of extending the mask mandate is If people wear masks and we can decrease the number of cases that can give relief to the hospitals
- We can appeal to people of their own safety of of the safety of those around them to continue to wear them.
- Masks work and we are still in a situation of risk and dangers to the community due to the lack of resources at the hospital to not only COVID but other things.
- Make a motion to extend the mask mandate for an additional period of time and recommend that it be extended for the month of February and be revisited at the February BOH meeting. Continue to look at the data to make updated recommendations to the BOH.
- Not to make it indefinite but to extend the mandate.

Dr Cappetta: Discussed the influx and eflux of patients out of the hospital is just as worrisome, because people cannot get post-primary care and stroke care due being held up in the ICU is a major strain on all partners working together to keep their patients healthy

- Pediatric data is just as bad – an alert went out from the American Pediatrics

**Board Member
Discussion points
on reinstating the
mask mandate**

Association with over a million cases in the last week alone, is a 70% increase cases in the week before

- Children's Hospitals all around the country are being inundated with patient care cases that are sick and ventilated and staying longer in the ICU
- Should extend the mandate – there are two more weeks before this mandate to be fair to the process. Have another meeting to review before the end of the month to see where we are at and if the information is any different.
- Reasonable approach to keep talking about, keep showing we are at.
- To prematurely say that it is time to end it would be tragic, to prematurely say it that automatically extend it is probably what we have to do, but there are still two more weeks to see where the peak might be and an opportunity to be fair to the process of public awareness.

Director: We see the transition before we will see the impact on our hospitals.

- Depending on how severely ill people become then we see the increase of individuals that need more acute care or more emergent care at the hospitals
- The idea of face coverings reduces the amount of virus in the community and across the state we are at substantial spread
- If we can continue to cover for those who have not been exposed and minimize the amount of virus people are exposed to
- For as many as we can protect from that exposure we need continue with the face covering, with vaccinations, boosters and social distance
- We should not take away one part from our armament of in order to be successful

Dr. Cappetta: Reminder for pediatrics that we are in the flu season and cold season and it is too early to stop all the measures we are doing now.

There is a misapprehension that we have two weeks to make a recommendation for the BOA.

- There is an ordinance in effect that will expire unless the BOA takes action. That ordinance expires January 31. The BOA have one more regular meeting before that date - next Tuesday, January 25th
- The agenda for that meeting closes today. If an ordinance to extend the current requirement is to be considered at that meeting, it has to be written and have a sponsored by the Mayor or an alderman and submitted by the Aldermanic office by 5:00 PM this evening
- There is the possibility of having special meetings and waiving the rules. In December the rules were waived – run the risk for wearing out their patience
- It is an imposition to call a special meeting to bring 15 Aldermen, the Mayor, City Clerk, Aldermanic Assistant and Corporation Council to a meeting on short notice
- If something is to be done, in fairness it should be done today.
- If you're thinking of extending for one month, you should consider when that would be revisited in February and allow time for it to be addressed by the Aldermen
- The Aldermen may want to invite people to come in and provide the latest numbers. A consideration of their own to based upon information provided to them.

**Comments by
Attorney Bolton**

**Board of health
Recommendation**

Recommendation made by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum to submit a recommendation for the BOA for the meeting next Tuesday that they should extend the mask mandate for one month period and we will revisit at the BOH meeting in February. Motion seconded by Dr. Cappetta. No discussion on the motion. The vote was called and unanimously approved.

Additional Items

- Alderman Melbourne Moran was asked to sponsor the legislation. Alderman Melbourne agreed to endorse the mandate.
 - Legal will write up the legislation to submit to the Aldermanic office today.
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Meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace. Moved by Dr. Cappetta and second by Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum

Please join us for our Next Meeting:

February, 9, 2022 at 12:30 PM