



# City of Nashua

Division of Public Health & Community Services  
18 Mulberry Street, Nashua, NH 03060

---

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 13, 2020

12:30 PM

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

**Board of Health:** Dr. Storace, Charles Capetta, Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum

**Board of Aldermen:** Elizabeth Lu, Ernest Jette, Jan Schmidt, Linda Harriet Gathright, Tom Lopez,

**City Employees:** Mayor Donchess, Steve Bolton, Bob Mack, Mark Munroe, Angela Consentino, Nicole Viau, Ren Beaudoin, Dydier Parisien, Flavia Martin, Kim Bernard, Heidi Peek, Bobbie D. Bagley. Justin Kates (OEM), and Michael Carignan (NPD)

**Guests:** Kim Houghton (Union Leader), Alex Granok, MD (DPHCS Medical Director)

#### Call to Order: By Board Chair – Dr. Storace

Announcement made of the meeting held via Zoom to be in compliance with the Governors Stay at Home 2.0 Order.

Announcement of those in attendance – Role call made by Director- Bobbie D Bagley

#### Director's Report.

1. Operational:
  - i. DPHCS continues to put out strong messaging in the community around mitigation measures and continues to monitor case contacts as they come in (Covid-19).
  - ii. DPHCS received support from CDC foundation and Tik-Tok to support the COVID-19 response with staffing of 4 positions. Two public health nurses, emergency management coordinator and a communications specialist.
  - iii. Ordinance Review: Director asked if the ordinance on the face covering could be discussed before proceeding with the rest of the reports of the Division staff. This request was approved by the Board chair and a description of the process was provided by the Director prior to the facilitated the discussion of the proposed ordinance to be adopted on face covering requirement. The ordinance was drafted by legal council and sent to the Mayor, the mayor's chief of staff, the Health Officer and Director for initial feedback. Some suggestions were provided to include language on sick individuals wearing mask when out in public by Director the draft was sent to the BOH for review prior to the meeting. One of the BOH members who is a pediatrician sent the draft out to his colleagues to review. There were questions sent to legal to

consider with his feedback. With these considerations taken, the proposed ordinance was then represented for discussion during the BOH where there was further discussion on the language of the ordinance and amendments were made to the ordinance to include an opening that include a rational for wearing mask and other prevention measures that should be included for effective protection that the Director drafted and was edited by the division's health promotion and communications specialist. The BOH approved the amendments. The final draft was written up by legal to be presented to the BOA for their vote at the next BOA meeting.

Also discussed the following points during the meeting:

- a. Governor order business/employee to wear mask.
- b. Economic concerns about mask.
- c. Businesses food serving are required to wear mask

There was a unanimous approval of ordinance by the BOH members with a request for introduction to be sent by Division Director with public health information.

## **Department Summaries**

### **2. Community Services**

- i. Pushing out information within the Nashua Community (Covid-19)
- ii. DPHCS continues to promote, protect, and preserve the health and wellbeing of the Greater Nashua Public Health Region.
- iii. Getting the greater Nashua NH tested for Covid-19.
- iv. DPHCS testing by appointments through COVID Hotline 603-589-3456 – press option 1 public health.

### **3. Community Health**

- i. Providing clinic testing to the greater Nashua Community.
- ii. Clinic testing being provided for the under-privilege Nashua NH community.
- iii. DPHCS Continues with ongoing testing within the Greater Nashua community.

### **4. Environmental Health**

- i. Safety Incident Team meeting about reopening DPHCS building to the public.
- ii. Contact monitor investigation.
- iii. Community outreach.
- iv. DPHCS is working diligently about reopening the building.
- v. DPHCS staffing working remotely and at work (building).

### **5. Welfare**

- i. Working with Division staff as part of the City's response to the Covid-19 event.
- ii. Supporting the Greater Nashua homeless population.
- iii. Staff being re-assigned in some instances to support other necessary functions within the Division.

- iv. Monitoring the potential impact of Covid-19 crisis on Greater Nashua homeless population.
- v. Staffs have maintained operations of the Welfare Department through electronic applications and telephone interviews and assessments, while working staggered schedules, in order to maintain social distancing and minimize any potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Suggestions

- i. Everyone should wear mask to help improve everyone safety.
- ii. Wearing mask should not be recommended for children under 2-10 years of age.
- iii. Mask will be reasonable to wear for everyone safety.
- iv. Wearing mask should be mandatory.
- v. Wearing mask will prevent the spread of viruses.
- vi. Goal of wearing mask is not to arrest people but to educate them about an effective way of minimizing Covid-19.
- vii. Should parents be involved in the process to have their underage kids wear a mask?

**Next Meeting: June 13, 2020**