

# City of Nashua

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

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## SPECIAL BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

August 05, 2021  
7:00 PM

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

**Board of Health (BOH):** Dr. Storace, Dr. Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum

**Board of Aldermen (BOA):** Tom Lopez, Patricia Klee, Elizabeth Lu

**City Employees:** Bobbie Bagley, Kim Bernard, Flavia Martin, Jane Goodman, Foqia Ijaz, Bob Mack, Heidi Peek, Ren Beaudoin, Nicole Chute, Patricia Glastetter.

**Call to Order:** By Board Member – Dr. Storace

#### **Substantial Case Report Status by the Director Bobbie Bagley:**

There were 232 cases in NH today. Average of 142 cases per day in the 7-day period of July 30 to August 05. This is a 101% increase compared to previous 7-day period. There are 101,505 thousand total cases in NH out of which 1,061 are active. 53.7% fully vaccinated and 58.5% have received at least one dose. Test percent rate is 4.1% and 3,663 tests are being conducted on average every day. 35 people are currently hospitalized. There have been 1,389 deaths in total in Nashua.

Nashua is at 100.4 per 100,000 cases. 90 new cases in the last 14 days. 60 active cases. Nashua has had 8,273 cases, 184 hospitalizations and 96 deaths. About 51% of Nashua residents are fully vaccinated.

There have been 35,392,660 million cases in United States and 615,144 deaths. Followed by India and Brazil. There have been 200,670,720 million cases and 4,263,828 million deaths globally.

About 83% of the new cases globally are of Delta variant. About 45% of the tests conducted in NH are of the Delta variant. There has been a steady increase in cases over the past two months.

#### **Remarks by BOH:**

Board of Health recommends to the public to go back to the mitigating measures of masking and social distancing and hand washing to stop the spread of COVID-19 virus. There is a substantial uptick in cases. Vaccination rates do not provide the herd immunity yet. Delta

variant spreads very fast and people infected with it have a very heavy load of virus. It is also very important that people be vaccinated. Board of Health wants to provide reliable information to the community so that they can make informed choices. Board of Health wants to hear from the community.

**Public Comments:**

*Please listen to the full audio recording below for public comments.*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8V1FNv4B6g&ab\\_channel=NashuaBOAMeetings](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8V1FNv4B6g&ab_channel=NashuaBOAMeetings)

**Q:** What should we expect from BOH in regards to mask mandate?

**A:** BOH is not looking for mask mandate. BOH wants to educate the community to get vaccinated and to not put their guard down and keep on following the mitigating measures.

**BOA:** We believe that it is the role of BOH to make recommendations based on the circumstances. BOA will support those recommendations. It is the duty of public to focus on harm reduction for their own safety.

**Response from BOH:**

- We are appointed not elected. We are in an advisory role.
- We do not make mandates or legislations.
- Data is available for everyone.
- We had to set up field hospitals and cancel elective surgeries. Many people suffered because they could go to the doctors for regular treatments and checkups.
- The capacity of hospitals is checked daily.
- There are many misconceptions about masks and COVID-19. There are medical articles out there that did not go through the usual vetting process.
- It is very important that children get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is approved for their age groups.
- Delta variant is highly transmissible. We have not done our best yet. We need 70-80% vaccination rate in order to develop herd immunity.
- In regards to the concern that the vaccine was developed fast, FDA is about to approve the vaccine fully.<sup>1</sup>
- Masks prevent transmission. Scientific studies show that even while exercising the level of CO2 is not of concern. Wearing a mask is better than better than losing someone in the family or being unable to work or take care of your family.
- We are here to help the community understand the levels of risk.
- We encourage the Nashua residents to wear masks.

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<sup>1</sup> Pfizer did receive full FDA approval on August 23, 2021 and the others are expected to receive full approval shortly.

**Statement by BOH:**

BOH recommends to the Department of Public Health to increase their messaging to the citizens of Nashua to practice preventive measures including vaccination and wearing of masks in crowded places. People have to make that decision; no one can dictate them. We are trying to understand how long the immunity lasts from having vaccine. There is data from several areas that show that immunity appears to get lower over time. Studies show that even if you had COVID-19 the vaccine gives you a significant boost in immunity. BOH recommends that individuals, businesses and families have a plan. Do not assume that you do not have COVID-19 if you are symptomatic. Plan what you will do if you are exposed and how you will prevent it from spreading to your family and community.

Department of Public Health is a great resource. They have plenty of information on their website. Please call them if you have a question.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Storace. Moved by Dr. Storace and second by Dr. Rosenblum.

Next Meeting: August 11, 2020