

Board of Health Draft Minutes for 1/25/22

Longmeadow Board of Health

Draft Minutes of meeting held 1/25/22

Attendees confirmed by roll call:

Dr. Robert Baevsky, Chair

Dr. Richard Steingart, Vice Chair

Dr. Anastasios Angelides, Clerk

Dr. Gregory Valania

Dr. Michele Keane-Moore

Finn McCool, Director

Dr. Baevsky convened the meeting at 7 PM.

1. The Governor's Open Town Meeting Protocol defining the guidelines for all town meetings conducted by remote means was read aloud. Details regarding the guidelines are posted on the Longmeadow Town website.

2. The minutes of the 1/4/22 meeting were accepted unanimously: Motion by Dr. Baevsky, Second by Dr. Steingart

3. Public Comments:

a. . Jessica Kelly ,37 South Ave: Remains concerned about masking mandates – feels they should be stopped

b. Jim Moran (address not given)- Applauds the Longmeadow immunization status. Notes that the Senior Center remains busy and questions whether contact tracing is performed for individuals who may have been in the senior Center

c. Katy Hastings (no address given)- Does not agree that vaccines for children are needed. Feels that individual accountability should be the standard. Does not feel that children should bear the burden of "taking care" of adults. Notes that in adjacent towns such as Enfield there is no mandatory masking.

4. Covid update by Finn McCool:

Notes there are 30 active cases among the six schools in town

Number	Vaccinated	Not Vax	Part Vax	Positivity Rate	Test date
262	77	96	83	17%	1-11-22 12 Children + 26 Adults
					1.12.22 15 Children + 26 Adults
					1.13.22 15 Children + 23 Adults
					1.14.22 7 Children + 28 Adults
					1.15.22 3 Children + 10 Adults
					1.16.22 3 Children + 14 Adults
					1.17.22 4 Children + 13 Adults
					1.18.22 10 Children + 23 Adults
					1.19.22 2 Children + 14 Adults
					1.20.22 4 Children + 10 Adults

Booster administration clinic planned for 1/27/22 8 am-12 pm
2/17/22 8 am -12 pm

To be held at the Greenwood Center

5. Discussion:

a. Dr. Baevsky notes that we are still in pandemic circumstances. Notes that recent studies again confirm that vaccination and prior infection are protective. Recommends that KN95 or N95 masks be used. Does not feel that fines are needed for transgressions in masking

b. Dr. Valania notes that at Baystate 70% of patients with COVID-19 are unvaccinated and only 4% who are both vaccinated and boosted. Also notes that nationally there are still 2,500 deaths per day from COVID. Not yet down to the lethality rate of Flu and RSV. Worst case for flu would be in the range of 52,000/year mortality.

c. Dr. Angelides notes that COVID co-morbidity may be a significant factor even when identified as an incidental finding during hospitalizations for other acute illness.

d. No proposals for any new initiatives were made.

6. Dr. Baevsky announced the resignation of Christine Beaumont from the Board of Health

a. Dr. Valania notes that **there is a blood shortage** and encourages blood donations. Would like to arrange a blood donation drive.

b. Next meeting tentatively in one month (2/28 TO 3/4) – date to be determined.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm