

Minutes

Board of Health Minutes

October 26, 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq., Chairman; Anne Fountain; Dr. Danielle Goodwin, DDS; Dr. Sarah Gamble; Joel Muhlbaum, Esq.; Lauren O'Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC; Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus

Staff: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health; Kristin Donlin, Interim Operations Administrator/Environmental Health Supervisor; Deborah Travers, Director of Family Health

Presenters: Michael Long, Director of Environmental Service; Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno, DNP, MS, RN, NHA, CPH, CCM, CDP, Public Health Promotion Specialist

The ZOOM Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Robert Carangelo, Esq. at 6:30 pm

Minutes

The minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting were presented. No edits were requested. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted were approved and accepted. **(Motion: O'Keefe / Second: Muhlbaum / Vote: 6 in favor, 1 not present at the time – 0 opposed)**

Appointment of Board Members to the 2022/2023 Budget Oversight Committee: Robert Carangelo, Esq., Board Chairman

- Joel Muhlbaum and Maryann Ramos have agreed to serve on the committee

Discussion on Food Service Establishments During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Michael Long, Director of Environmental Services

- Food Service Inspections resumed in June of 2020
- Executive Orders have required masking, social distancing and other mitigation measures. Most of those Orders are no longer in place and the Division is pretty much back to regular food safety focused inspections. Some establishments have not yet re-opened and others still have decided to keep mitigation measures in place, although no longer a requirement. Some establishments have gone back to pre-pandemic operations, others have not allowed customers

back inside. Each facility can operate how they see fit. Some establishments, such as schools are asking Division Staff whether they have symptoms and vaccination status prior to allowing entry

- The Division has around 250 (two hundred and fifty) Class IV Food Service Establishments, which are the full-scale food operations. The goal is to perform 4 inspections per calendar year. The Division is not fully staffed as one inspector is still in training. An establishment will fail an inspection with any 4 (four) point violation or a score below an 80 (eighty). The inspection is gone over with the food manager and a time frame is given to make the correction(s) for a reinspection
- Greenwich Time comes and collects inspection information after each quarter and writes articles, which has helped some establishments clean up their act

Question:

- The Chairman asked if grades were required to be posted. Michael replied that they are not
- Dr. Sarah Gamble stated that she is a huge believer in masking and asked if there would be any training provided for front of the house staff to show that masks should be worn indoors to prevent indoor transmission. Caroline Baisley replied that Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno has been charged with developing training for COVID-19 mitigation measures for industries through a grant. She is putting together a short document with recommendations and best practices that will be handed out by Division Staff during inspections. Each establishment has been receiving COVID-19 information and posters during this relicensing phase. It is hard to provide in house training to establishments during convenient hours for them to reach all their staff
- Lauren O'Keefe spoke about the condition of Stop & Shop in Glenville. She is a Representative Town Meeting (RTM) Member and has heard from many as well as seen for herself that the condition of the establishment is deteriorating and people have possibly gotten sick. Michael responded that the Division does have an active complaint, but he did not have the most current status regarding it. He did speak that the focus of inspections is on food safety and not the floor tiles. Maryann said that she had been in the facility today and the refrigeration had been covered with plastic due to a partial power outage

Presentation on COVID-19 Booster Vaccinations: Stephanie Paulmeno, DNP, MS, RN, NHA, CPH, CCM, CDP, Public Health Promotion Specialist

- An unvaccinated person has an 11.3% greater risk of dying from COVID-19 than a vaccinated person and a 6.1% higher risk of testing positive for COVID-19
- Vaccination rates in Town by age groups as reported by the Office of the First Selectman as of 10/21/21: 12 (twelve) to 17 (seventeen), 86.57% vaccinated equaling 5,449 (five thousand four hundred forty-nine) residents; 18 (eighteen) to 24 (twenty-four), 80.7% vaccinated equaling 4,037 (four thousand thirty-seven) residents; 25 (twenty-five) to 44 (forty-four), 66.61% vaccinated equaling 13,580 (thirteen thousand five hundred eighty) residents; 45 (forty-five) to 64 (sixty-four), 81.27% vaccinated equaling 18,950 (eighteen thousand nine hundred fifty) residents; 65+ (sixty-five), 90.39% equaling 10,466 residents

- Five thousand eight hundred twenty-four (5824) residents have contracted COVID-19, 95 (ninety-five) have died and there are 3 (three) patients being treated at Greenwich Hospital (all of which are unvaccinated)
- Fairfield County is classified as Substantial Community Spread by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Pfizer is the only vaccine that has received full approval by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) are approved for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). All three vaccines have received approval for booster shots. All three vaccines have been approved to mix and match. Efficacy rates are 93% for Moderna, 88% for Pfizer and 71% for J&J. Mixing of vaccines has also been approved and individual can choose to get another vaccine from his/her original series. Mixing may spur a stronger immune response, is safe and effective and increases the number of circulating antibodies
- Third doses are intended for those who may not have been able to develop a robust immune response to the initial vaccine series and to give added protection to those with compromised immune systems. Individuals are given identical dosages to the 1st dose
- Boosters are given at least 6 (six) months after the second dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines or 2 (two) months after receiving the J&J vaccine. Individuals currently eligible are 65 (sixty-five) and older, those who are 18 (eighteen) and older that reside in long-term care settings, have underlying health conditions or live/work in high risk settings. Moderna is a half dose. Pfizer and J&J are full doses

Questions:

- Lauren asked if her daughter was vaccinated in Storrs, would her vaccination be recorded under the Town of Greenwich. Stephanie replied that it would, since that is her legal address.
- Joel stated that he has an office in Stamford and that masks are required there. Does Greenwich have a requirement in place? Caroline responded that the Governor's Executive Order provides the local governments the ability to make their own determination and restrictions on mask wearing. That falls to the mayor and in the Town's case, the Office of the First Selectman. Currently, masking is only required in Town owned and operated buildings. It had previously been in place indoors through Town, but the First Selectman lifted the requirement last month leaving it up to private businesses to decide how they want to operate. Facilities that must continue to wear masks per the Executive Order, regardless of vaccination status, are schools, healthcare and prisons
- Maryann brought up that the risks of blood clots are the same for those who are vaccinated for COVID-19 and are no different than any other vaccine or medication. Sarah agreed and said that contraceptives carry a higher risk than the vaccine does.
- Sarah stated that New Jersey has now considered dorms to be a high-risk setting and wondered if that was also being applied to Connecticut. Stephanie did not know whether that was the case
- Joel asked whether someone could receive a traditional flu shot and COVID-19 booster shot on the same day. Stephanie replied that yes, it can be done. The person would get one shot in each arm.
- Sarah and Maryann agreed with the mixing of vaccines for booster doses. Joel stated that he had gotten Pfizer for his initial series, but when he attempted to get a Moderna booster at a CVS location and he was turned away. Deborah Travers responded that it should not have been the

case as mixing has been approved, but it is a possibility that establishment was not aware of the recent approval

COVID-19 Update: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health:

- Stephanie has been given a lifetime achievement award and continues to work hard at educating this community. She is very precise and stays on top of the most up to the minute COVID-19 information
- As of today, the Town has reported 5,587 (five thousand five hundred eighty-seven) cases of COVID-19. There has been a jump in cases over the last week. Over the winter, there is an expected surge in cases or possibly a fifth wave
- Boosters have been approved for certain priority groups
- Children ages 5 (five) to 11 (eleven) are expected to be approved to receive a COVID-19 vaccine shortly and the Department is looking into the community to have the local pediatricians and other partners provide vaccinations to this population
- The Alpha variant is from the United Kingdom. Delta plus is a sub-linkage of the Delta variant moving throughout the United States. Viruses mutate to survive and COVID-19 is no different
- The unvaccinated continue to keep this pandemic going. According to the CDC, 80% of COVID-19 deaths are unvaccinated
- Disinformation continues to spread regarding vaccination. As of 10/23/21, 53% of the United States population is fully vaccinated
- The Department is moving forward with booster shot clinics with the Moderna vaccine. It will be a half dose. Clinics will begin the second week of November for those meeting the current eligibility. The Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) will be used to schedule appointments and manage the clinic operations. Department staff, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members and Greenwich Emergency Medical Services (GEMS) staff will be present
- Contact tracing is ongoing
- The last flu shot clinic for the Department will be held tomorrow in the lower level of Town Hall from 11 am – 2 pm.
- The Department continues to support Family Centers and assist them at facilities like Hill House Senior Residence. Staff rendered support previously at that facility and there continues to be a good working relationship between the Department and Family Centers

Questions:

- Maryann asked if there had been any dialogue with the group known as the Patriots. Caroline responded that there has not. Stephanie has had conversations with similar individuals on Next Door and been able to clear up misconceptions or disinformation through that route

Business: Reported by Robert Carangelo, Esq., Board Chairman:

The Board will look forward and meet in person for the November meeting

Motion to adjourn requested at 7:48 pm by Robert Carangelo, Esq. (Motion: Ramos / Second: O'Keefe)

Minutes prepared by, Kristin Donlin, Interim Operations Administrator/Environmental Health Supervisor
10/28/21

Respectfully submitted by, Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus, Secretary 10/30/21