

Meeting of the Board of Health

March 16, 2022

Regular Meeting:

Upon roll call Mr. Bob Dorsi, Mr. Ed Sorge, Dr. Komal Naik, Mrs. Ellen Guritzky, Mr. Jeff Varnerin along with Ms. Andrea Alvare and Ms. Angelica Velazquez from Union County. Carolyn Sayre was absent.

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Sorge to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022 Board of Health Meeting and seconded by Mrs. Ellen Guritzky. By unanimous vote all members were in favor.

Presidents Report: no report

Health Officer's Report:

Since our first patient in March 2020, we have had a total of 2,666 positive COVID-19 cases and 79 deaths.

There were 430 cases reported in the month of January. We saw a decline in cases in February with 105 cases. Thus far, we have had 16 cases reported this month.

*Mortality data I provided periodically. The New Jersey Department of Health, Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance system gets updated as physicians, hospitals, and other responsible entities enter information

Overall, 95% of the adult population in Berkeley Heights have completed their vaccination course (94% last time the Board met) and 107% of vaccinated adults have completed at least one dose (106% last time the Board met).

Similarly, 64% of individuals ages 12 through 17 have completed at least one dose while 60% have completed their vaccination course.

50% (43% last time the Board met) of individuals ages 5 through 11 have completed at least one dose.

68% of residents who are eligible for a booster dose have received one.

Booster rates

AGE	PERCENT
12-15	38%
16-17	58%
18-29	56%
30-49	68%
50-64	71%

AGE	PERCENT
65-79	79%
80+	83%

Vaccine Clinics:

Moderna, J&J and Pfizer (12 and older) vaccines continue to be provided at Kean University/Downs Hall on Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Pfizer (5 and older) vaccines continue to be provided at Warinanco Ice Skating Center on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All vaccines, including pediatric Pfizer are provided at Plainfield High School on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

For an up-to-date list of upcoming clinics and to make an appointment please visit our website at UCNJ.org.

To date the County has provided over 136,397 vaccines to over 69,000 people. Vaccines are currently very abundant. To make an appointment please call 908-613-7829 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Testing:

The Testing Center at Kean University is still open to all Union County residents on Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to Noon and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to noon and 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Registration and general information are available on the county's www.ucnj.org homepage.

Public Health Nursing:

- As of March 7, 2022 masking is no longer mandatory in schools. No outbreaks have been reported
- All School & Daycare Immunization Audits have been conducted and all establishment comply.
- At this time, Runnels, Autumn Lake and Cornerstone have concluded their outbreaks. Last positive case in these long-term care facilities occurred more than 30 days ago.

Food Inspections:

2 Satisfactory inspections

- Marino's Italian Seafood initial inspection 2/9/22. Satisfactory.
- Aramark- Nokia initial inspection 2/22/22. Satisfactory.

Nuisance complaint:

395 Springfield Avenue- Final court date 2/3/22. The dumpster was cleaned up with two bait boxes for rodents. Problem was abated. Owner was issued a \$100 penalty and pleaded guilty. Case closed.

Potentially Dangerous Dog Case:

Case is scheduled for pre-trial conference on 4/7/22.

We are requesting the following:

- Must display a “beware of dog” sign visible and legible from 50 feet
- Maintain liability insurance to cover any damage or injury caused by the potentially dangerous dog
- Apply for a potentially dangerous dog registration number and red identification tag along with a potentially dangerous dog license in the amount of \$150
- Maintain an enclosure (dog run) for the potentially dangerous dog on the property where the dog will be kept which has sound sides, top and bottom to prevent the dog from escaping by climbing, jumping or digging and within a fence of at least six feet in height separated by at least three feet from the confined area.
- The animal control officer has the right to inspect the enclosure and the owner’s property at least monthly to determine compliance

New Business:

- The plastic bag ban is effective May 4, 2022 so Linda will email the businesses in town with the following link [NJDEP | Plastic Ban Law](#)
- A discussion about the Wonder Trucks which is takeout food prepared at a license facility and then each truck has a different variety of food such as sushi, Italian, etc from US popular restaurants. When you order, they come to your house and heat up the food so the goal is to have a dining like experience. The Health Officer recommends licensing the company for a certain amount of trucks since we don’t have the manpower to license every truck. Cranford already inspected these trucks. We also discussed the idling of these trucks (Wonder Trucks plan to go electric next year), food borne illness and refrigeration adequacy. The Scream Truck was mentioned since it’s similar, but they are licensed with BH and their employees passed the background check. The state will categorize the Wonder Trucks (since they don’t fall into the restaurants nor food truck category) hopefully in the next month and then we will discuss from there.
- BOH will meet in person at Town Hall for the May 18th meeting with the option of Zoom too.

Old Business: no report

Citizens Hearing: no report

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Bob Dorsi asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:04pm. A motion was made by Mr. Ed Sorge; seconded by Mrs. Ellen Guritzky to adjourn to May 18, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Submitted by Linda Palumbo