

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
September 13, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Mahwah was held via Zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Board of Health President, Adam Matysiak.

The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law and was followed by Roll Call:

PRESENT: Mrs. DeSilva (7:31)
Ms. Esty
Mr. Harris
Mr. Matysiak
Mrs. Varrato

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Angela Musella, Health Officer
Mrs. Donna Ruccione, Principal REHS
Mr. Jeffrey Mason, Board of Health Attorney
Mrs. Kathryn Hagan, Recording Secretary

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Mrs. Wendolowski was pleased to report that Covid cases have stabilized with 251 reported cases in July and 191 cases in August. During the summer, the State DOH began prioritizing cases of individuals under the age of 18 and over age 65. By prioritizing these individuals, outbreaks in the schools and in senior housing facilities can be adequately monitored. Students who test positive are required to stay home for five days; however, close contacts are no longer required to quarantine. Mr. Matysiak queried whether the 5-day quarantine was for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to which Mrs. Wendolowski replied affirmatively.

Clades, commonly known as Monkey Pox, has been reported in New Jersey with over 600 confirmed cases across the State. There have been no reported outbreaks in Mahwah at this time. Monkeypox is a reportable disease, and suspected cases must be reported immediately.

Currently, there is not a sufficient supply of vaccine to immunize the general population; therefore, individuals considered to be at high risk are prioritized. If a resident within our jurisdiction is a close contact to a confirmed Monkeypox case, the Local Health Department is responsible for administering the vaccine to the exposed individual. HARP currently monitors CDRSS multiple times daily for reported cases.

Other communicable diseases being monitored include Hepatitis B and C as well as tickborne illnesses. In general, communicable disease numbers have decreased substantially. This could be the result of individuals not keeping up with regular health screenings due to the pandemic.

Attendance at the monthly blood pressure screenings has been steady with approximately 20 - 30 individuals being screened each month and several referrals made for follow-up care with a primary care physician.

HARP offered a program entitled "Matter of Balance" earlier this year at the Mahwah Senior Center which was well attended. A similar program is planned for the Norfolk Village community in the near future.

On September 29th, HARP will offer the "Hands Only CPR" program at the Senior Center. This will be the third offering of the program this year to the Mahwah community.

CPR recertification of Mahwah's Public School nurses will take place on October 8th.

In late August a "Community Helpers" program was offered to Mahwah's incoming kindergarten students.

HARP offered a Stroke Awareness program at Norfolk Village during the month of July with approximately 13 individuals in attendance.

The annual flu clinic for Mahwah's senior population is scheduled to be held on October 14th, and HARP will provide nursing staff to administer the vaccine.

Mrs. Musella stated that NWRHC received 30 doses of the high-dose vaccine; however, the standard dose vaccine has been delayed. She will follow up with Mrs. Campbell on the status of Mahwah's vaccine shipment. She also indicated that Christine Dempsey, Health Educator at NWRHC, will conduct training on Monkeypox on September 16th. She will be happy to forward the presentation to HARP for sharing with the school nurses.

Mrs. Wendolowski noted the recent reports of polio virus being discovered in wastewater from Rockland County and the Hudson Valley area. There may be some residents who have not been vaccinated that may now wish to receive a vaccine, and HARP will be monitoring the status of reported cases. To date, no outbreaks have been reported within any of HARP's contracted municipalities.

Mr. Matysiak queried what protocols are in place for individuals with either low or non-existent polio titers. Mrs. Wendolowski noted that polio titers have never been considered to be entirely accurate; therefore, vaccination status is the metric used to indicate immunity.

APPROVAL OF JULY 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. Varrato and, seconded by Ms. Esty to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 2022.

There being no further questions or comments, the July 2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT JULY/AUGUST 2022

Moved by Mr. Harris and, seconded by Ms. Esty to approve the Health Activities Report for July/August 2022.

Mr. Matysiak queried the nature of a tobacco/CBD inspection to which Mrs. Ruccione replied that a convenience store was selling flavored vaping products which contained CBD oil believing it was legal; however, the sale of any flavored vaping product is currently illegal, and the product had to be removed from the shelves. Mrs. Ruccione believes this will pose a continual problem as the state laws are somewhat ambiguous, and she feels the sale of illegal vaping products is a police matter rather than a health department issue.

Mr. Matysiak requested feedback on the "MPX Monkeypox" webinar presented by Rutgers School of Public Health. Mrs. Ruccione stated that discussions centered on what is being done to educate the public and on treatment protocols. The stigma surrounding the virus was also discussed as was ways to help the community move beyond the bias and to get vaccinated if they are in a high risk group.

Mrs. DeSilva queried whether any actions were taken by the Health Department regarding the twenty-six recall/embargo notices. Mrs. Ruccione replied that none of the recalls required any action on the part of Health Department staff.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the status of the septic system at Bolla located at 131 Route 17 North. Mrs. Ruccione replied that the Engineer for this project has asked her to inquire with the State as to whether a special permit issued from the DEP is required. Mrs. Ruccione believes a special permit is necessary because it is a commercial establishment and is likely to increase its waste production if it grows or makes any changes to its menu offerings. In the meantime, the septic is being pumped regularly and no issues have been reported. She is hopeful that the new system can be approved and installed before the winter. Mrs. Ruccione will contact the State to see if the permit process can be moved along expeditiously.

Mrs. Varrato queried the number of dog-to-human bites on Page 4. Mrs. Ruccione stated that two of these bites occurred at Ramapo Reservation and were referred to the jurisdictions where the animals reside. None of the bites were considered serious, and no hospitalizations were necessary.

Mrs. Varrato queried whether the Sonesta Select was a new hotel coming to Mahwah. Mrs. Hagan stated this was formerly the Courtyard by Marriott but had a change of management. Sonesta Select is also a Marriott property.

There being no further questions or comment, the Health Activities Report for July/August 2022 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT JULY/AUGUST 2022

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Varrato to accept the Health Officer's Report for July/August 2022.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the nature of a homeless individual seeking assistance for housing services. The individual in question was camped outside the Municipal Building and despite repeated attempts to assist her with housing opportunities, she refused to cooperate. Eventually the police and Bergen County Social Services were notified, and the individual was voluntarily transported to Bergen Regional Medical Center for evaluation. Upon arrival at the hospital, she signed herself out and did not return to the premises.

Mrs. DeSilva informed the Board of a homeless male residing at Campgaw Reservation. A visitor to the park inquired about this individual and was told by park staff that as long as he was not creating a nuisance for anyone, he was free to stay there. The Health Department has not received any complaints about this individual and believes it will fall under the jurisdiction of the County Health Department. The Board requested the Health Department to apprise the Mayor and Administration of this issue as they may wish to reach out to their counterparts at the County level. Mrs. Ruccione will follow up.

Mr. Matysiak queried the status of the closure at the Doubletree Hotel. Mrs. Ruccione stated that an air quality assessment was conducted, and extensive mold was noted in several locations throughout the building. The establishment will remain closed until all remediation is completed.

Mrs. Ruccione stated that inspection of motels/hotels is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Community Affairs [DCA], and she will reach out to determine when Mahwah's hotel properties were last inspected by that agency.

There being no further questions or comment, the Health Officer's Report for July/August 2022 was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Varrato and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the bills for July/August 2022.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No Reports to Present.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

An inquiry was made to Mr. Mason regarding whether the Board of Health has jurisdiction to waive any fees to which he replied affirmatively. Since the Board of Health is an autonomous governing body, the Board does not need to seek approval from the Township Council prior to amending a Board of Health Ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Permanent Part-time REHS

The Board would like to appoint Mrs. Gladys Swanton as the new permanent part-time health inspector and has asked that a Resolution be prepared for presentation at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

b) Vacant Board of Health Seat

A potential candidate for the open Board seat has been received, and Mrs. Campbell will coordinate with the individual to schedule an interview with Board members.

c) Wonder Truck

A Tenant Application has been forwarded to the Health Department for a new business planning to open on McKee Drive in Mahwah. Wonder Truck prepares and partially cooks meals at its facility in Cranford, New Jersey. The meals are then flash frozen and would be delivered to a refrigerated warehouse in Mahwah. Customers order meals through an app which would then be loaded and cooked to a safe temperature on the truck for hot delivery to the customer's home.

The business expects to have upwards of 50 vehicles at the Mahwah location that will be dispatched throughout Northwest Bergen County. Each truck will serve a specific meal; and at the current time, there are 18 different types of cuisines that are offered.

Of concern to the Health Department is whether our staff would have to license and inspect the fleet of vehicles located at the Mahwah facility in addition to the warehouse facility on McKee Drive.

Mr. Harris asked that representatives of Wonder Truck be invited to a future Board of Health Meeting to provide clarity on the business and how it will impact the department.

Mrs. Ruccione will forward emails she received from the State Food Protection Manager to Mr. Mason regarding the licensing of these trucks. Mr. Mason informed the Board that as a local jurisdiction, they can impose stricter protocols than those which are mandated by the State.

d) Waiving of BOH Fees for Fire Department and MEMS Volunteers

Mr. Mason would like to receive more information on specifically what types of fees are waived in other departments. He will coordinate with Mrs. Musella and Mrs. Campbell to gather information for review and suggested moving this forward for discussion at the October meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

No public present.

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm was made by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Harris and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2022, and will be conducted via Zoom video conference beginning at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan
Recording Secretary