

## ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH

**Board Meeting Date:** May 4, 2020

**Location:** Webex Meeting

**Members in Attendance:** Anthony L. Schlaff, MD, MPH, Chair  
David Hemenway, PhD  
Pat Maher, APRN, MA MS  
Peter Moyer, MD MPH  
Gretchen Stoddard, DrPH, MPH

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Update on COVID-19</li><li>2. Update data from Transportation Board on public ways implementation</li></ol>
<b>Call to Order</b>	
<b>1. Welcome</b>	
<b>2. Action Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>COVID-19 Update from Dr. Jett (as of Friday, 5/1):</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ State actions: the state order will continue through 5/18</li><li>○ EOC calls: 537, emails: 259</li><li>○ Health Dept. calls: 518</li><li>○ Working on a plan for antibody testing and PCR testing</li><li>○ Continuing to work on face covering, distribution w/Health Dept.</li><li>○ Additional volunteer onboarding for MRC (Medical Reserve Corps)</li><li>○ COVID Cases: Global (3,529,408 cases/248,025 deaths), USA (1,198,970 cases/69,077 deaths), MA (68,087 cases/4,004 deaths), cases doubling every 21 days</li><li>○ Dr. Jett drove through several cities and towns to observe compliance with wearing face coverings, noticed people not wearing masks or social distancing. Brookline has more signage, messaging and compliance with face covering policy. Pat concurred that Brookline had better mask wearing compliance in comparison to Chelsea and Everett.</li><li>○ Global death rate chart shared showing number of deaths increasing, cases beginning downward curve.</li><li>○ Brookline data: 305 cases, 262 in quarantine, 164 released from quarantine, 123 released from isolation, 35 suspect, 27 deaths</li><li>○ Cases by housing status show 27% of cases in long-term care facilities</li></ul></li></ul>

- Most of the reported deaths from three nursing homes. Data collection from nursing home managers challenging because many are on the floors working with rest of the staff. In the future, Dr. Jett would like to have more oversight and data collection from Health Dept. in nursing homes. Nursing home (cases): Wingate (33), Goddard (93), Care One (not reported since 4/28)
- Testing: 200 essential staff being tested (first responders and Health Dept. staff) for antibodies, followed by 400 randomized population of residents with MGH and Fallon. Dr. Jett would like to test 5-10% of Brookline's population.
- Dr. Schlaff asked given current numbers, how close are we to being in place to do all testing, contact tracing, quarantining and isolation to imagine going back (without getting rid of social distancing) to comfortable say we know the epidemiology of this disease to the level we need to do best containment?
- Dr. Jett shared we currently have 15 in house staff conducting contact tracing (PH nurse, environmental staff, school nurses, Dr. Moyer and Pat Maher) through July. Once school starts, we will no longer have school nurses and once stores reopen, we will lose some of the environmental staff.
- Dr. Schlaff mentioned the importance of contact tracing once stores and other places reopen which could result in a second wave.
- Pat Maher mentioned the possibility of using the CTC (Community Tracing Collaborative) for tracking. Dr. Jett would like to keep things within the department because it is more effective and he has access to data immediately from MAVEN, especially when tracking trends.
- Dr. Jett will probably continue to have some staff working on contact tracing. He would like to have additional contact tracing team members.
- Dr. Schlaff offered to help Dr. Jett find a network of volunteers or temporary workers to help with contact tracing. He asked Dr. Jett to provide a list of qualifications necessary for contact tracing for ACPH members to identify people who could work with the Health Dept. over the summer and later in the year.

- Dr. Moyer suggested onboarding additional contact tracers early, training them on MAVEN before needed in the fall.
- Both Pat Maher and Dr. Moyer suggested recruiting people who have good communication and people skills like clinicians. Dr. Schlaff suggested some of his students with clinical background (MD, MPH students).
- Dr. Jett would like epidemiologists to work through the summer for contact tracing, data analysis preparation for final report published on COVID-19.
- Dr. Schlaff inquired about the antibody test. The test is 99% accuracy with results available in 15 minutes. Test conducted with finger stick. Everyone will receive results. Employee tests will be a trial run to get better understanding of how tests for the broader public will run.
- **Update data from Transportation Board on public ways implementation**
  - Dr. Schlaff provided an update from an email sent from Chris Dempsey of Transportation Board. There was no data to report because they have not been monitoring. In a forwarded message, Todd Kirrane added they are half-staffed and they do not have the capacity to monitor.
  - They still hope to revisit issue of expand the walkways and closing streets to allow people to exercise more easily, not formally before the Select Board or Transportation Board.
  - Pat Maher mentioned the City of Oakland opened 74 miles of street, but it is unknown if they have any data. Sidewalks were crowded and they wanted to create more space.
  - Dr. Jett spoke with Trader Joe's employee, asked how often people are using public ways and he/she said they do not. He noticed more safety issues on the road. Dr. Jett suggested they suspend public ways while they are doing roadwork because it is creating a hazard.

**3. Other Business**

- **Governor requiring masks for everyone**, but different requirements than Brookline. People can take off their masks with 20 ft. distance from other and \$300 penalty. Brookline

could have stricter policies, but Dr. Jett would like to continue with messaging. COVID can be aerosolized and stay in the air for up to 3 hours, another reason we want people to wear masks while outside.

- **Spread in nursing home.** It is possible the healthcare workers are spreading it or aerosolized in confined space. Dr. Moyer mentioned some people are working multiple locations also.
- **Signage for masks in town.** Pat Maher and Dr. Stoddard mentioned they have not seen many signs in Coolidge Corner. Pat suggested using the kiosks to post signs. She will send information to Darlene to have signs put up in kiosks around town with “wear a mask” signs.
- **Parameters for reopening.** Next meeting think about parameters for reopening and discussion on appropriate number to test in population so people feel safe to reopen.

**Meeting Adjourned**