

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Members Presents: Frederick Mansfield, MD
Steven Kanner, MD
Patricia Miller

Others Present: Trish McGean, Town Nurse; Abigail Butt, COA/HR Director; Elaine Carroll, Adm. Asst.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is on February 16, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Update on COVID-19 Cases and Vaccine Clinics:

Trish said in the last 7 days Lincoln had 57 total lab confirmed positive cases. This does not include the home tests, which means she would almost say double that number. Of the 57 cases 19 have been under the age of 18 and 38 have been over the age of 18. By comparison Carlisle had 75 last week and Concord had 143. A lot of these cases are multiples in one household. As we have seen in households, one case turns into three within 12 hours or so. It is in fact 23 households but with several cases within that household. She is doing her best to reach out to people, but people are very savvy and either reaching out to their primary care doctor or looking for guidance from [Mass.gov/isolate](https://www.mass.gov/isolate), which will tell you everything to do. Another data point is that Concord public school had 217 cases in one week. This is really putting a strain on the school staff to keep on top of all these cases.

We have had five testing clinics over at the Pierce House thanks to Brian Young and his public health team, and they are planning three more. We had one on Saturday, January 15 with 100 people and we found 10 positives out of that group, and she followed up with those people. Abby Butt said the funds would have come from either ARPA, FEMA or the grant from Ogden Codman. Trish said the people are very appreciative and are either close contact or symptomatic. There are not a lot of people going just to get tested. The antigen tests we got from the State have been given to economically disadvantaged households primarily. When someone tests positive, the household is eligible for as many test kits as there are in the household at the Fire Station. This way we can catch as many people as possible. Abby has been doing a great job at the COA/HS. When someone calls to say they have been in close contact but cannot find a test she leaves the test kits outside for them to pick up. She also gave them to anyone on the Meals on Wheels program, anyone she is aware of as being economically disadvantaged by identifying anyone in the last two years who has needed financial assistance. We are at about 350 right now. Patricia said some were given to Becky McFall so if any child tested positive she could send some home for family members. The public health team did a great job of deciding who would get the tests. We have another test clinic on Saturday, and no one is turned away.

There is no data being collected as to whether people are vaccinated and booster because we have no way to keep that data. Abby said we are most like boots on the ground. We do not have the staff for that type of program. Patricia said that Mass General/Brigham finds that most positives are doubly vaccinated. The question is are they going to the hospital for COVID or something else and then testing positive but with no symptoms. Most people in the ICU are unvaccinated but some vaccinated people are also hospitalized. Patricia said we have no plans to do anything with the data. Our priority is getting people tested and making sure that data is correct. Trish said she gets the data from DPH so she would know who was vaccinated and who was not. She wants to put something on the website to say that most people who are fully vaccinated had mild to moderate illness, so people are not so frightened that they are going to go to the hospital. She does not know of any deaths in the last six weeks. The members said they owe Trish McGean a vote of thanks and appreciation because this is a lot of work. Trish said we have a lot of people vaccinated and she is hoping for a positive change in the next couple of months.

Update on 28 Lexington Road:

Abby Butt said the basement problem has been totally resolved. The landlord's responsibilities have been completed. The tenant has been given a 30-day notice to vacate that ended on January 6, 2022. There is still many items belonging to the tenant that have not been removed except for the risky things that the biohazard company removed. The biohazard company is completely done. The Concord Board of Health would like the remaining items removed so they can do an inspection of the wiring and plumbing. At this point the tenant has lost all rights to the items, but the landlords are being very reasonable. They have done a virtual tour with the tenant to mark what is the tenants and what belongs to the owners. The tenant has rented a storage unit and has many friends to help with the move. The landlord has said they would not be renting the house again.

Discussion and response from concerned citizens:

Patricia said she did not think we could find common ground in their belief and our believe regarding vaccinations. We respectfully appreciate their opinions however we do not agree and will continue to recommend that people get vaccinated. If they choose not to get vaccinated that is their right. We are not going to change their minds and they are not going to change our minds.

Steve asked if the Board should put out a notice that the mask mandate will continue until it is appropriate to remove it. Patricia said the Town has put a pause on all non-essential services. The Town Offices, Bemis Hall and Library will be closed for the next two weeks or more because the numbers exploded last week. This is because of a concern about the employees getting infected and then having to shut down completely due to a lack of staffing. Random testing is being done and that is how it is being discovered. Mass General/Brigham is mandating boosters for all employees.

Minutes:

Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2021 as written. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Steve Kanner-aye; Patricia Miller-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

At 8:25 p.m. Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Steve Kanner-aye; Patricia Miller-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

Submitted by Elaine Carroll

Approved: February 16, 2022