

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

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

Others Present: Trish McGean, Town Nurse, Becky McFall, Superintendent of Lincoln Elementary School
Stan Sosnicki, retired Health Inspector; Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on October 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Farewell to Stan:

Stan Sosnicki, our retired Assistant Public Health Director from the Concord Board of Health, tuned in so that the members could say their goodbyes. Stan has been the health inspector for Lincoln for over 20 years and the members wanted to let him know how much they have appreciated all his help over the years and to wish him well in his retirement. The members told Stan that it has been a pleasure to work with him and how much we will all miss him.

Update on COVID-19 cases and flu vaccine clinics:

Trish McGean said that August was not great, but 4 positive tests in the last week which was not so bad. There are presently 4 active cases with the ages being 17, 24, 50 and 80+. All of these people were vaccinated with generally milder symptoms like chills, headache, body aches, runny nose and nasal congestion. The total since July is 33 cases and of those cases 26 were fully vaccinated breakthroughs. There will be a clinic for the second vaccine dose at the school on Sept. 21 between 2:00 and 5:00. On Oct. 20 from 12:30-4:00 there will be a flu clinic for teachers and staff and on October 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 there will be a flu clinic open to the public for all ages run by Walgreen's which will have the high dose and regular dose shots. They expect a maximum of 150 to 200 people. There will not be a clinic for the booster vaccine.

Fred Mansfield said the Town received notification that there were two cases in Middlesex County of people contracting West Nile virus. There was also a mosquito that tested positive to West Nile Virus in the Southeast quadrant of Lincoln. Both reports have been posted on the Town website.

Update on Vaccination Mandate for School Staff:

Becky McFall reported the first positive case of COVID-19 in Hanscom, which has not been in session for two days. Also a couple of parents at Hanscom were identified as close contact and those students are quarantined at home with their parents. We identified close contacts for the positive student and in that class we have received consent for testing for all but 2 students. All close contacts were tested with the rapid antigen test and will be for 7 consecutive days to make sure they stay negative. Consent for testing in pre-school in Lincoln and Hanscom is 47%, Hanscom primary is 76% and 79% for secondary. Consent for testing in Lincoln for K-4 is 98% and 5-8 is 97%. The school has not received beginning of school forms from 100 parents and will be getting back to those parents. Today was the first day of weekly testing in Lincoln and she is anxiously waiting for those results on Thursday or Friday. The weekly testing is a PCR test, which consists of 2 swabs, one for the pool and an individual one. If someone in the pool tests positive then the individual swabs are tested to identify any positive people. The pool has no more than 10 people in it. The testing is done through the Department of Education who has contracted with CIC Health, which is doing all the testing in Massachusetts as well as other states. She has learned that no one else has started testing yet. Lincoln's tech person was very aggressive in getting testing started. The Department of Education considers close contact as being within 6 feet for 15 minutes in a 24 hour period. Even if you are vaccinated, people need to go through the protocol and get tested because of breakthrough cases. The Board supports that decision. The school has not yet created some sort of spread sheet for who is vaccinated. They will be verifying each person's vaccination. This will be kept in their information system. There is a deadline of October 15 for everyone to be vaccinated or in the process of being vaccinated. No one has

said made any comments about wearing masks or vaccinations. Some people have serious health concerns and may have medical reasons for not getting vaccinated. The school may get some waiver forms in the future. They are going through steps with families who will not wear a mask and giving them options of what the school can and cannot do. The August 31 vaccine clinic was not well received with only 13 people and the second shot will be on Sept. 21. Becky said she wants to thank all the unions. The school has a very strong collaboration with the unions. The members congratulated Becky for all her support and help in putting these policies in place.

Steve Kanner made a motion consistent with what was discussed in our prior meeting that the policy of the School Department is that every teacher and staff be vaccinated and participate in the district testing. Patricia Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steve Miller-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

Minutes:

Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from August 11, 2021 as amended. Steve. Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steve Kanner-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye

At 8:15 p.m. Steve Kanner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patricia Mille seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steve Kanner-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

Submitted by Elaine Carroll