The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Michael LaFever, Chairman; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Kelly Lamas, Member and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present. Minutes are being recorded by LCTV video and are being transcribed from the video. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. LaFever.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, Public Health Nurse.

Ms. Kramer provided the Board with COVID updates. From 1/1/22 – 1/12/22 there have been 837 cases. Ms. Kramer provided the following breakdown for the number of cases:

- <10 years old – 66 cases
- 11-19 years old – 106 cases
- 20-29 years old – 146 cases
- 30-39 years old – 142 cases
- 40-49 years old – 127 cases
- 50-59 years old – 146 cases
- 60-69 years old – 66 cases
- 70-94 years old – 38 cases

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Of the 837 cases, 421 were vaccinated.

In speaking with the school department, there are approximately 120 students out from home tests that are not included in the case counts.

Ms. Lamas mentioned that the Omicron variant is highly contagious. The good thing is there is not as much severe illness and hospitalization. The main hospitalizations are in unvaccinated individuals.

Board members discussed the updated isolation/quarantine guidance issued by the CDC. Ms. DeSantis would like to see the new guidance posted to the department Facebook page.

Ms. Kramer informed the Board of the upcoming vaccine clinic to take place on January 19, 2022. It will be held at Our Lady of Fatima and is in collaboration with Big Y Pharmacy. There is discussion of the possibility of a clinic being held in the schools during an afternoon.

Board members discussed the possibility of a Town Wide Mask Mandate. Ms. DeSantis is all for it especially with the strong increase in the number of cases. Mr. LaFever is not for a Mandate. It would be very difficult to enforce. Mr. LaFever feels it might not truly help with the Omicron variant. Ms. Lamas would like to keep the Mask Advisory that is already in place. Ms. DeSantis would like to readvertise the Mask Advisory along with the need to vaccinate against Covid.

Ms. Crete spoke of the rapid antigen tests that were distributed. The department has distributed all of its supply. Ms. Crete would like to order 2 pallets of kits to continue distribution. These kits would be paid for using ARPA funds the town received. Board members agree with ordering more kits. Ms. Crete will be presenting a proposal to the Selectmen. Ms. Lamas would like to see more guidance in the use of rapid tests given to residents when the new kits are distributed.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 45 Robin Drive, owned by Jeanne Sady. Registered Sanitarian Lorri McCool is asking for the use of a sieve analysis in lieu of a percolation test. Ms. McCool is also requesting a 1-foot reduction to groundwater from 4ft required to 3ft proposed. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variances. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Crete is currently working on the department's 3-year plan. This will be presented to the Board at a later meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Lamas to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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