



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

PATRICIA L. ANDRADE, M.D.
CRAIG LONGO, M.D.
SARAH MORRIS, M.D.

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
DAMON O. CHAPLIN

APPROVED MINUTES

Emergency Board of Health Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Board to Convene Via Remote Participation

Alternative Means of Public Access Provided: Zoom Meeting/ Telephone Conference Call

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/3966365159>

Dial-In: 1 646 558 8656 US Meeting ID: 396 636 5159

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. meeting remotely per zoom communications which has been allowed per the Governor due to the pandemic this meeting is being recorded.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present were Damon Chaplin, Director
Patricia Andrade, M.D.
Craig Longo, M.D.
Sarah Morris, M.D. (ABSENT)

ACTION

3. Discussing draft amendment for EMERGENCY ORDER CONCERNING SENIOR FACILITIES Final DC.

Mr. Chaplin presented a brief summary stating we have seen an increase in the number of positive cases in region and New Bedford and in nursing homes and senior facilities also in hospitals as a result of this we think it is a good idea to restrict visitations in these facilities starting December 13, 2020.

Dr. Longo asked why have these facilities not done the restrictions on their own? Mr. Chaplin stated they were instructed not to by DPH and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Their reason was that they put systems in place to monitor the people who they thought were the key

members bringing in the virus meaning the staff. Testing protocol in place that monitors the staff and residents and that putting additional restrictions on the community coming into the facility is not necessary.

The Board did not agree with that.

Dr. Andrade would like to see COVID testing with people living in the same cluster. Not sure if organizations have their own policies and how we would assure that.

Mr. Chaplin explained there is a new technique called pool testing.

Dr. Andrade mentioned that having a protocol for everyone on that particular wing. We need a policy for positive cases on that floor.

Mr. Chaplin stated this order looking to put protections in place until vaccine comes out.

MOTION: by Dr. Longo to accept the emergency order regarding Long Term Facilities, Senior Living and Nursing Home Facilities. **SECONDED:** by **ROLL CALL** – Dr. Longo, and Dr. Andrade **YES.** All in favor. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Dr. Andrade **adjourned** the meeting at **4:53 p.m.**

A true record attest:



Health Department Chairperson

BOH Meeting Minutes Approved 10 / 7 / 21