



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, March 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

**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 6:03 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 Patricia Andrade, M.D.  
Craig Longo, M.D. (EXCUSED)  
Sarah Morris, M.D.(EXCUSED)  
Damon Chaplin, Director**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Dr. Andrade called for a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the emergency meetings held on January 11, 2021, January 12, 2021, January 19, 2021 and February 24, 2021.**

**ACTION**

**4. Discussion to adopt emergency orders regarding COVID-19 PROTECTION PROTOCOLS, VACCINATION, AND SURVEILLANCE FOR LONG TERM CARE, SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES, AND NURSING HOMES, DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

**Invitees: Damon Chaplin, Health Director  
Elizabeth Treadup Pio, Associate City Solicitor**

Mr. Chaplin stated that we are looking at the revised order to replace the preexisting emergency order that put restrictions on nursing homes and long-term facilities for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Andrade discussed that the board feels more comfortable now since the numbers have been decreasing in last month. The Board and the state feel its time to move forward and because of the vaccination campaign and residents being more protected.

The Board looked at the numbers and a majority of nursing homes and long-term facilities had a 80% vaccination rate. This new order will rescind the wellness checks quarantines that was voted upon in the fall. These institutions have ways of vaccinating their residents and also will be extended into low income elderly housing for the availability of vaccinations. Vaccinations are key to protecting the population and that is why we set this 80% rate. We are asking that the facilities keep track make sure they stay in the 80% range. Also, we want management of these facilities to realize that if their vaccination population drops to below 50% that puts everyone in facility at risk.

Mr. Chaplin stated that it is difficult to enforce who a person is going to see and when in these facilities.

Dr. Andrade stated the document itself touches on all the points and it protects the population as best as we can and still starts to open things up.

Mr. Chaplin mentioned talking to state about weekly testing for non-vaccinated residents. State has weekly testing for staff.

Dr. Andrade mentioned she is happy with the revisions on the emergency order.

**MOTION:** by Dr. Andrade to accept the emergency order regarding COVID-19 protection protocols, vaccinations, and surveillance for long term care, senior living facilities and nursing homes, during the COVID-19 pandemic as prepared to take affect March 8, 2021 which will rescind and override any existing orders regarding COVID-19 protocols in living facilities. **SECONDED:** by **ROLL CALL** – Dr. Longo and Dr. Andrade **YES.** All in favor. **MOTION CARRIES.**

## 5. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Patricia Andrade, M.D.  
Sarah Morris, M.D. (EXCUSED)  
Craig Longo, M.D. (EXCUSED)

## 6. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Dr. Andrade **adjourned** the meeting at **6:25 p.m.**

A true record attest:

  
Health Department Chairperson

**BOH Meeting Minutes Approved 10 / 7 / 21**