

**BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES  
COUNTY OF MORRIS, NJ**

**HEALTH COMMISSION MINUTES  
May 4, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:44p.m. by Ms. O'Leary.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Commission members Dr. Barbara Girz, MJ O'Leary, Katherine Roberts, Deb Shertzer, and Mark Toppel were in attendance, as well as Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick, Assistant Health Officer Sarah Perramant, Board of Health Secretary Cara Fox and Council Liaison Lauren Barnett. Commission Members Dr. Stephen Leviss and Dr. Behnam Salari were absent.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

With consent of the Commission, Chairperson O'Leary opened the meeting for public comment.

Mountain Lakes Library Director Jennifer Lynch requested that the health officer call her.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Ms. Shertzer, second by Dr. Girz, to approve the Health Commission meeting minutes from January 26, 2021.

**5. BOROUGH UPDATE**

Ms. Fox reported that Borough Hall has temporarily relocated to 420 Boulevard Suite 103 in Mountain Lakes.

**6. HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

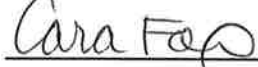
Mr. Fitzpatrick reviewed his reports from January through April 2021. He gave an update on how the Health Department is handling the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Commission asked questions to Mr. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Perramant, and they answered them.

**7. COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

Ms. O'Leary gave an update on what the Stigma Free subcommittee has been doing and reported that the subcommittee is working on postcards that contain QR codes to connect to resources, looking into partnering with the Let's Explore The Stigma (LETS) Group and drafting a blurb to put in the Borough email blast that May is mental health month. Ms. O'Leary also met with the Mountain Lakes High School Guidance Department to discuss the Stigma Free Initiative.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Ms. O'Leary, second by Dr. Girz, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20p.m. with all members in favor signifying by "Aye".

  
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**Cara Fox  
Board of Health Secretary**

# *Borough of Mountain Lakes*

## BOARD OF HEALTH

400 BOULEVARD • MOUNTAIN LAKES, NEW JERSEY 07046

Telephone: (973) 334-3131 • Fax: (973) 402-5595



**January 2021**

### **Health Department Report**

This summary is to provide information regarding the activities of the Health Officer and staff during the past month. Additional supplemental reports from Environmental, Health Education and are provided.

Decisions have been made for concerns related to modifications/changes for businesses, schools and municipal government agencies; opening of municipalities and schools as it relates to quarantines.

Participate in multiple weekly Zoom and Teams meetings with State Department of Health, County Agencies, LINCS and Health Officers in order to best implement State guidance

The Nursing Department continue to investigate COVID cases on COMM CARE and in CDRSS. Expanding cases are occurring this month due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. Nurses, inspectors and new staff both local and state funded are continuing to contact trace 7 days a week

Dozens of meetings attended either Zoom/phone with superintendents and school staff. Hundreds of phone calls received and responded to per week.

Radon program has been initiated. Canisters are available.

See attached vaccine information.

Currently Mt. Lakes has 30 active cases.

### **Activities**

- Review guidance from NJDOH/CDC regarding update of guidance and best practices quarantine and vaccine programs.
- Provide guidance to Fire, EMS and School Superintendents and school nurses as needed on an ongoing basis for specific circumstance and incidence.
- Provide information to Township Administrator, Mayor and other leadership within the community
- Review most frequently asked questions with staff to answer COVID questions from the public.
- Answer ongoing questions and concerns from municipal and school leadership, and residents.
- Continued to deliver a report 3 days a week with information regarding case numbers in the municipality, county and state and expired cases, providing guidance documents and timely information. Currently Mt. Lakes 30 active cases.
- Continue to discuss with residents, business owners and agencies regarding various quarantine employment issues for returning to work within the municipality/government and schools.

- Continue to monitor staff activities regarding public health inspections and complaints, which are becoming more common with additional community activity related to holidays and travel.
- Various discussions and emails with school superintendent regarding positive cases from sports and associated quarantines and contact tracing activities.
- Visited State Mega Site Located in Morris county Rockaway Mall at inception of opening to understand onsite flow, procedures and layout (organizational aspects were found to be well implemented ).
- Vaccine registration, became blocked or calls were dropped with a shut down of electronic registration, due to extremely high volume the state registration and county registration systems; also in the Atlantic healthcare scheduling system (for Mega site In Rockaway). Many adjustments have been made including notifying a smaller number of people within the approved groups to assure the greater likelihood of scheduling an appointment when notified of appointment availability.
- For the State Mega Site Located in Morris County at the Rockaway Mall currently it is advised to register on the Atlantic health care site. When registering on the State site, notification will be given as appointments open up throughout the state. Therefore, openings for the state super sites are attached to open availability of the sites and appointments may only be available in different locations other than the rockaway site. For example: we have heard of Morris County residents that needed to travel to Rowan University instead of the local site in Rockaway, as that was the opening made available to them.
- Recently, 1500 vaccines have been administer at the Rockaway Mega site within anticipation of 1800 vaccines becoming available by the first week of February.
- Atlantic Healthcare is opening appointments one or two days at a time thus pushing out vaccines a few days after appointments.
- 50 percent of the vaccine doses received by the state are distributed to the mega centers. Presently there is no availability to request vaccine on a smaller level but as vaccine becomes available application and acquisition of vaccine will become possible. Time line not determined but likely 6 to 8 weeks.
- Please find attached information regarding vaccine safety that can be distributed to the public.
- Demographics with regard to case breakdown will be provided before the meeting to have the most current information.
- Wildwood School – Final inspection and approval of newly renovated kitchen.
- Closure of abandoned septic system – North Briarcliff.

#### **Testing Site:**

County College of Morris – approximately 400 test per day with an average turnaround time of test results is 24 to 36 hrs.

Stay Well.

Respectfully Submitted,  
F. Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer

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### **February 2021**

#### **Health Department Report**

This report provides information regarding the activities of the health officer and staff during the past month. Additional supplemental reports from Environmental, Nursing, Health Education and are provided.

Modifications/changes for businesses, schools and municipal government agencies; opening of municipalities and schools as it relates to quarantines.

Participate in multiple weekly Zoom and Teams meetings with State Department of Health, County Agencies, LINCS and Health Officers in order to best implement State guidance

The Nursing Department continues to investigate COVID cases on COMM CARE and in CDRSS. Flattening cases are occurring this month. Nurses, inspectors and local and state funded staff are continuing to contact trace 7 days a week.

Meetings attended either Zoom/phone with superintendents and school staff. Ongoing phone calls received and responded to per week.

Radon canisters are available for residents free of charge program continues until March 31, 2021.

Vaccine information forwarded.

Currently Mt. Lakes has 18 active cases, last month there were 30 active cases.

#### **Activities**

- Review guidance from NJDOH/CDC regarding update of guidance and best practices quarantine and vaccine programs.
- Provide guidance to Fire, EMS and School Superintendents and school nurses as needed on an ongoing basis for specific circumstance and incidence.
- Provide information to Township Manager, and leadership within the community
- Review most frequently asked questions with staff to answer COVID questions from the public.
- Continued to deliver a report 3 days a week with information regarding case numbers in the municipality, county and state and expired cases, providing guidance documents and timely information.
- Continue to monitor staff activities regarding public health inspections and complaints, which are becoming more common.
- Plans are loosely developing for homebound and senior housing groups. Also a new 75-year-old and older phone line has been established by NJDOH for vaccine scheduling.(856-249-7007)

- Various discussions and emails with school superintendent regarding positive cases from sports and associated quarantines and contact tracing activities.
- For the Morris County Mega site currently it is advised to register on the Atlantic health care site. When registering on the State site, notification will be given as appointments open up throughout the state. Therefore, openings for the state super sites are attached to open availability of the sites and appointments may only be available in different locations other than the rockaway site. For example: we have heard of Morris County residents that needed to travel to Rowan University instead of the local site in Rockaway, as that was the opening made available to them.
- Atlantic Healthcare is opening appointments one or two days at a time thus pushing out vaccines a few days after appointments.
- 50 percent of the vaccine doses received by the state are distributed to the mega centers. Presently there is no availability to request vaccine on a smaller level but as vaccine becomes available application and acquisition of vaccine will become possible. Time line not determined but likely 6 weeks.

**Testing Site:**

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F. Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer

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### **March 2021**

#### **Health Department Report**

This report provides information regarding the activities of the health officer and staff during the past month. Additional supplemental reports from Environmental, Nursing, Health Education and are provided.

Added an additional Health Officer/Epidemiologist MPH during this month- Sarah Perramant.

Modifications/changes for businesses, schools and municipal government agencies; opening of municipalities and schools as it relates to quarantines.

Participate in multiple weekly Zoom and Teams meetings with State Department of Health, County Agencies, LINCIS and Health Officers in order to best implement State guidance

The Nursing Department continues to investigate COVID cases on COMM CARE and in CDRSS. Flattening cases are occurring this month. Nurses, inspectors and local and state funded staff are continuing to contact trace 7 days a week.

Meetings attended either Zoom/phone with superintendents and school staff. Ongoing phone calls received and responded to per week.

Currently Mt. Lakes has 8 active cases.

Radon program was conducted and concluded at the end of March.

Vaccine information forwarded in weekly reports.

#### **Activities**

- Review guidance from NJDOH/CDC regarding update of guidance and best practices quarantine and vaccine programs.
- Provide guidance to Fire, EMS and School Superintendents and school nurses as needed on an ongoing basis for specific circumstance and incidence.
- Provide information to Township Manager, and leadership within the community
- Review most frequently asked questions with staff to answer COVID questions from the public.
- Continued to deliver a report 3 days a week with information regarding case numbers in the municipality, county and state and expired cases, providing guidance documents and timely information.
- Continue to monitor staff activities regarding public health inspections and complaints, which are becoming more common.

- Plans began for homebound individuals, but has been paused due to J&J. A 65-year-old and older phone line has been established by NJDOH for vaccine scheduling.(856-249-7007)
- Various discussions and emails with school superintendent regarding positive cases from sports and associated quarantines and contact tracing activities.
- For the Morris County Mega site currently it is advised to register on the Atlantic health care site. When registering on the State site, notification will be given as appointments open up throughout the state. Therefore, openings for the state super sites are attached to open availability of the sites and appointments may only be available in different locations other than the rockaway site. For example: we have heard of Morris County residents that needed to travel to Rowan University instead of the local site in Rockaway, as that was the opening made available to them.

**Testing Site:**

County College of Morris – approximately 400 test per day with an average turnaround time of test results is 24 to 36 hrs.

Stay Well.

Respectfully Submitted,  
F. Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer

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**April 2021**

### **Health Department Report**

This report provides information regarding the activities of the Health Officer and staff during the past month. Additional supplemental reports from Environmental, Nursing, Health Education and are provided.

General guidance provided to businesses, schools and municipal government agencies; including opening schools and related quarantines.

The published CALI Score as of April 28, 2021 has changed from HIGH to MODERATE throughout the entire State of New Jersey. The cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in NJ has approached one million. This significant number of cases requires ongoing data review and correction which has occurred by a manual process throughout the pandemic. Recently, an automated process has been implemented to review and clean up the data so it is most accurate. The predominant reason for any change in the case count is duplicate counting of an individual when similar names, nicknames or initials are used which initially appeared to be multiple individuals when they are actually only one person. Communities' cumulative case count decreased due to the duplicate information that could not be fully corrected by manual review.

EO 237 and 238 expanding activity capacities due to lowering of cases and adjustment of previous EO's.

All individuals 16+ have become eligible to receive vaccine. Vaccine scheduling and walk-ins is easy to accomplish.

Travel guidance documents for fully vaccinated individual no longer requires quarantine.

**Please see the link below for the current out of state guidance for quarantine timelines.**

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

Participate in multiple weekly Zoom and Teams meetings with State Department of Health, County Agencies, LINCS and Health Officers in order to best implement State guidance

The Nursing Department continues to investigate COVID cases on COMM CARE and in CDRSS. Decreasing cases are occurring this month. Our nurses and local and state funded staff are continuing to contact trace outbreaks, most notably due to sports related activities.

Meetings attended either Zoom/TEAMS with superintendents and school staff. Ongoing phone calls received and responded to per week. A few face-to-face meetings are now occurring.

Currently Mt Lakes has 2 active cases.

Radon program completed January – April 2021

## **Activities**

- Vaccination sites are beginning to trim unnecessary hours.
- Review ongoing guidance from NJDOH/CDC regarding best practices for quarantine and vaccine programs.
- Continue to provide guidance to School Superintendents and school nurses as needed on an ongoing basis for specific circumstances.
- Provide information to Township Administrator, Mayor and other leadership within the community, as needed.
- Continued to deliver a report 3 days a week with information regarding case numbers in the municipality, county and state and expired cases, providing guidance documents and timely information. (Effective May 13, 2021 a new format with a weekly Thursday report).
- Continue to inform and discuss with residents, business owners and agencies various quarantine employment issues for returning to work.
- Continue to monitor staff activities regarding public health inspections and complaints. (see environmental, health education and nursing reports)
- Monitor and provide guidance on positive cases from sports and associated quarantines and contact tracing activities.

## **Testing Site:**

Counties continue to operate Testing Sites. Visit the county COVID website for up to date information.

Stay Well.

Respectfully Submitted,  
F. Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer