

DRAFT CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 17NOVEMBER2020

Present: Kathie Lynch, Bianca Monteiro, Ann Birner, Kim McNamara, Toni McLellan, Kristin Shaw, Stephanie Seacord; and citizen Andrew Bagley

The first reading of the proposed mask ordinance extension took place during last night's City Council meeting. Discussion of the CRTF's status and whether to continue into 2021 is scheduled to begin at next week's meeting.

Current members shared opinions as to the best path forward, should the City Council extend the charter of the Task Force and the Health Subcommittee. All agreed that Richard DiPentima would be an excellent addition to both. **Ann** will relay this endorsement during the next Task Force meeting.

The weekly dashboard speaks for itself. Data are trending in the wrong direction and shaded maps of NH show dark colors (worsening conditions) throughout. Positivity remains difficult to nail down, as methods, timing of samples included, etc, may vary. When presenting, **Ann** will emphasize that it is not the exact percent positive that matters so much as the trend, which is clearly upward.

Concern regarding recent trends were expressed by all in various ways, particularly in the context of holiday gatherings and travel. Stephanie reported projects and plans she is working on to educate the public regarding safe behaviors and risk reduction. These include supportive work on a school nursing staff document, timely press releases, and focusing on this topic in regular advisories she distributes via email and social media.

Additional ideas were proposed, such as human interest stories in the local news (how people plan to celebrate safely and celebratory alternatives to traditional gathering), setting up an interview with one or more HSC representative. A suggestion to request publication of the dashboard in the local news was felt to be risky as the information quickly becomes out of date. The local news could be asked to publish more local data, but it can be difficult to obtain. Stephanie will consider follow up as appropriate in the normal course of her duties.

Changes are proposed to the Daily Life FAQ as follows:

- Given the State's recent change in contact tracing strategy, the FAQ will state "If you are at risk, you may be contacted". The word "may" replaces the word "will".
- Via email, Toni has suggested additional detail be added regarding contact tracing.
- Stephanie and Ann proposed changes to the "3Cs" which was circulated by email.

Stephanie will incorporate all of the above and distribute after this meeting. **All** are requested to comment before EOB so that that **Ann** can send to Task Force members prior to tomorrow's meeting.

Kristin is working on a "restaurant guide" for the Public Health Department that, when publicized, will also help people to understand the current approach to contact tracing and what to do if exposure is suspected.

Given setbacks in State efforts, City Public Health and the School District are aiming to fill a void in contact tracing. Kim asked for ideas on how to secure volunteers to contribute toward that effort. Proposals included tapping into college students, particularly those in nursing or other health care programs, securing funding through CARES or elsewhere, reach out to retired HCPs, reach out to school/parent organizations.

A meeting will be scheduled for next week (Thanksgiving week) and held if agenda items indicate a need.