



**City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Blue Ribbon Committee to Reopen Portsmouth 2021  
Remote meeting via Zoom**

Register in advance for this Zoom meeting:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/JEsc-GsrzgqH9ZifhQy4GoKIK\\_2TkspEYso](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/JEsc-GsrzgqH9ZifhQy4GoKIK_2TkspEYso)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please note, this meeting will also be re-broadcast on the City's YouTube Channel.

*Per NH RSA 91-A:2, III (b) the Chair has declared the COVID-19 outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-24, and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members will be participating remotely and will identify their location and any person present with them at that location. All votes will be by roll call.*

**AGENDA**

**January 6, 2021**

**2:00-3:00 p.m.**

- |      |   |         |
|------|---|---------|
| I.   | Welcome and Approval of 12/23/2020 and 12/30/2020 Meeting Minutes   | 2 min.  |
| II.  | Vacancies Update  | 5 min.  |
| III. | New Charge <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance collaboration with existing resources – EDC, Pro Portsmouth, Chamber, Design Group, etc. to gather/distribute info re: economic impact of Covid, promote Portsmouth, reach out and help more orgs and businesses/ identify new needs, improve/kickstart street use</li></ul> | 15 min. |
| IV.  | Blue Ribbon Committee on Health Report  | 10 min. |
| V.   | Street Use 2021   | 15 min. |

**City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire**  
**The Mayor's Blue-Ribbon Committee to Reopen Portsmouth 2021**  
**Remote meeting via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 23, 2020, 2:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Co-Chair James Petersen called the meeting to order at 2:00. City Manager Karen Conard represented the City staff and was the moderator. Patience Horton took minutes. This was the first Committee to Reopen meeting. Votes were taken with a show of hands.

The new roster has not been prepared.

Present (based on Task Force personnel):

1. James Petersen, Petersen Engineering, Co-Chair
2. Mark Stebbins, ProCon Construction, Co-Chair
3. Kim McNamara, Health Officer
4. Karen Conard, City Manager
5. Petra Huda, City Councilor
6. Karen Bouffard, The Real Estate Market, Inc. (Real Estate)
7. Sarah Lachance, Economic Development Commission
8. John Golumb, Poco's Bow Street Cantina (Restaurant)
9. Deborah Anthony, Gather Pantry Market (Non-profit)
10. Alan Gold, Economic Development Commission
11. Ann Birner, PharmD (Health Care Professional)
12. Jim Lee, REMAX Shoreline (Real Estate)
13. Russ Grazier, PMAC (Non-profit)
14. Valerie Rochon, President, Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth

Absent (based on Task Force personnel):

15. Bianca Monteiro, York Pulmonary Associates (Health Care Professional)
16. Kathryn Lynch, (Non-profit Health-care Organization)
17. Martha Fuller Clark, NH State Senate District 21
18. Jeffrey Goss, The Clipper Tavern (Restaurant)
19. Joe Scarlotto (Restaurant)

City Staff present:

1. Nancy Colbert Puff, Deputy City Manager
2. Todd Germain, Fire Chief
3. Stephanie Seacord, Public Information Officer
4. Joe Almeida, Facilities Manager
5. Patrick Howe, Deputy Fire Chief
6. Kristin Shaw, Deputy Health Officer
7. Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Director
8. Mark Newport, Police Chief

Also present were:

1. Anne Weidman, Design Professionals' Alliance
2. Barbara Massar, Pro-Portsmouth
3. Esther Kennedy, City Councilor

### **I. Welcome & Approval of December 16, 2020 Minutes**

Motion: Jim Lee moved to approve the December 16, 2020, with amendments. Karen Conard seconded. The secretary had not described the structures of the two new Blue-Ribbon Committees correctly. The motion passed unanimously.

### **II. Task Force Vacancies & Other Clarifications**

There are six vacancies on the Blue-Ribbon Committee to Reopen: one retail, one arts and non-profit, one health, two restaurant, and one at-large.

#### **Discussion**

**Russ Grazier:** I am disappointed that every person on the Committee has to be a resident of Portsmouth. That will exclude some of the leaders of the largest nonprofit arts-organizations. **Valerie Rochon:** I completely disagree with the exclusion. That will exclude all Chamber staff. That means that many people like the Labrie family and Jim Jalbert, who have large stakes in Portsmouth, cannot join the Committee. **James Petersen:** We were clear and concise in our recommendations to the Council, and they returned with constraints we have to work with. **Councilor Huda:** The Mayor has stated that he has “something in the works” for the arts community.

### **III. Health Committee Report**

Kathy Lynch has agreed to take over as Chair.

## **CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES December 23, 2020 By Ann Birner, Former CRTF Health Committee Chair**

The future of the Health Blue Ribbon Committee's vision for the future is aligned with the description just outlined by the City Manager, the Reopen Portsmouth 2021 BRC co-chairs, and Councilor Huda.

The weekly dashboard was reviewed. We always watch for trends over time and should continue to do so. That said, positivity and cases are level or down in the State, County and City. Hospitalizations generally follow case numbers with a time lag and are continuing to rise. Possibly we are heading toward the end of the Thanksgiving surge, but we need to remain aware that Christmas and New Year are right around the corner and much will depend on travel and other behaviors during those times. And, despite some encouraging trends. the entire state of NH

remains designated as having substantial community transmission, and NH/MA/ME all continue to be categorized as having “uncontrolled spread”.

As the vaccination program rolls out, we hope to see a benefit from that as well, but it will take time. The Health BRC will follow the vaccination program and provide updates on progress.

There was a brief discussion of mutations as recently highlighted in the news media; particularly the variant that is becoming prominent in the United Kingdom. Health BRC will follow.

*Ann Birner*

### **Parting Comment by Russ Grazier**

Thanks to all. It has been a difficult year for all the non-profits in the community. I am going to focus my efforts in 2021 on getting PMAC back to where it needs to be.

### **Streets—Winter/Summer/Spring**

Mark Stebbins asked that there be only one meeting next week. The focus should be on springtime.

Anne Weidman:

- A lot of cities have put signage in parking garages stating how many minutes it takes to walk to key sites in the city. We would be encouraging the use of the parking garages when spaces are reclaimed by restaurants next spring.
- Proposed winter project have been dropped. Is that on purpose?
- The West End could use a stronger campaign now that it has an improved Islington streetscape. It would help disperse people from Market Square.
- Improvement of the aesthetics of sidewalk dining can be developed.
- Severino barriers can be personalized.
- Accessibility should be of greater concern.
- A new live stream of the Labrie Family Skating Rink has hundreds of viewers from all over the world.

### **Other Business**

Stronger statistics are needed. Nancy Carmer said that it is necessary to have more data about where we are economically across the city (even outside of downtown). The Economic Development Commission has an opportunity to have a stronger role with the Blue-Ribbon Committee, said Alan Gold.

Nancy Carmer: There is money for performance and other arts in the new Stimulus Package. The EDC funnels information to businesses that they can find the right resources. The Small Business Development Center is gearing up to present their first webinar about that.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

- Motion: Valerie Rochon moved to adjourn. Jim Lee seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patience G. Horton  
Recording Secretary

**City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire**  
**The Mayor's Blue-Ribbon Committee to Reopen Portsmouth 2021**  
**Remote meeting via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 30, 2020, 2:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Co-Chair James Petersen called the meeting to order at 2:00. City Manager Karen Conard represented the City staff and was the moderator. Patience Horton took minutes. This was the second Committee on Reopening meeting. Votes were taken with a show of hands. The meeting lasted 40 minutes.

A roster has not been established.

Present (based on Task Force personnel):

1. James Petersen, Petersen Engineering, Co-Chair
2. Mark Stebbins, ProCon Construction, Co-Chair
3. Kim McNamara, Health Officer
4. Karen Conard, City Manager
5. Petra Huda, City Councilor
6. Karen Bouffard, The Real Estate Market, Inc. (Real Estate)
7. Sarah Lachance, Economic Development Commission
8. John Golumb, Poco's Bow Street Cantina (Restaurant)
9. Deborah Anthony, Gather Pantry Market (Non-profit)
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13. Russ Grazier, PMAC (Non-profit)
14. Valerie Rochon, President, Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth
15. Martha Fuller Clark, NH State Senate District 21

Absent (based on Task Force personnel):

16. Bianca Monteiro, York Pulmonary Associates (Health Care Professional)
17. Kathryn Lynch, (Non-profit Health-care Organization)
18. Jeffrey Goss, The Clipper Tavern (Restaurant)
19. Joe Scarlotto (Restaurant)

City Staff present:

1. Stephanie Seacord, Public Information Officer
2. Patrick Howe, Deputy Fire Chief

Also present were:

1. Anne Weidman, Design Professionals' Alliance
2. Andrew Bagley, PopUpNH
3. Laura Brown, PopUpNH
4. Esther Kennedy, City Councilor

## **I. Welcome**

James Petersen wished everyone a Happy New Year. There were no Minutes to review.

## **II. New Charge**

The opening statement of the new charge, “The Development of a Plan to Include All Portsmouth Businesses in the Reopening of Portsmouth,” prompted discussion.

Councilor Huda said that the Mayor hopes to help more than the restaurants, which seemed to receive the concentration of help in 2020. The help is for non-profits, retail, hotels, and service industries (e.g., doctors, lawyers, and printers), as well. With the March 1 opening being two months away, we don’t need to be as nimble as what was expected in 2020, when there was such an imminent sense of emergency.

### **Discussion**

**Karen Conard:** One attribute of a blue-ribbon committee is that they do not have the authority to act. They are purely advisory. It is important to get the insight of the Mayor.

**Senator Fuller Clark:** One of the issues we faced over the past year was being able to make things happen very quickly. If everything has to go before the City Council for action, it is going to slow everything we are trying to do. It’s going to work as an impediment.

Why was the decision made to turn this into a blue-ribbon committee rather than a task force? **Karen Conard:** My understanding was that the Council was comfortable with the permitting that took place in 2020 and that the ability for outdoor dining in the public realm can continue in that same fashion. The ability for the City Manager to act continues on in 2021.

Mark Stebbins said that, since there are no subcommittees, the Monday Streets Subcommittee should be shut down for the time being.

## **III. Blue Ribbon Committee on Health Report**

The Blue-Ribbon Committee on Health not submit notes.

### **Adjourn**

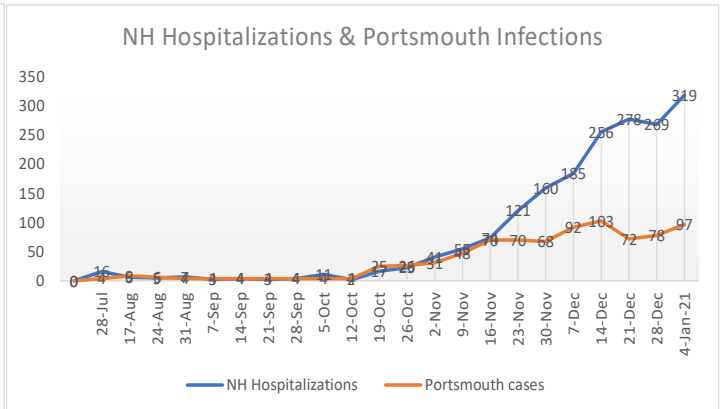
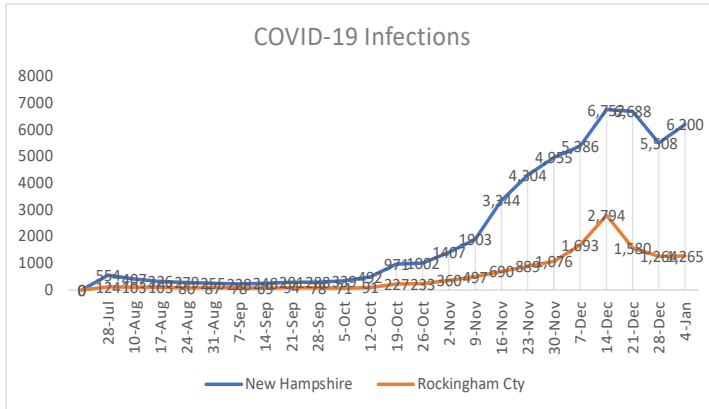
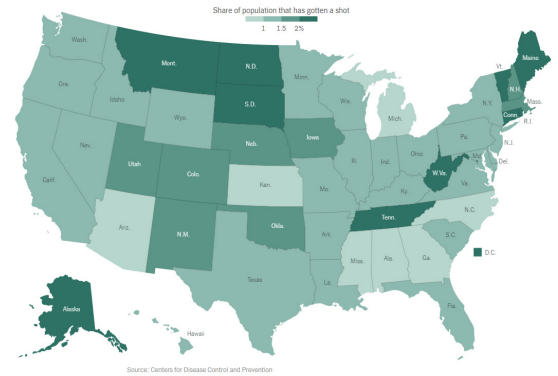
- Motion: Jim Lee moved to adjourn until “next year.” Alan Gold seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patience G. Horton  
Recording Secretary

# COVID-19 DASHBOARD 1/4/21

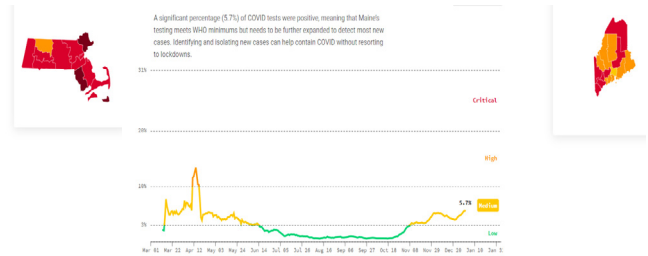
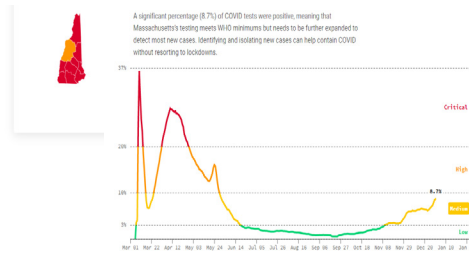
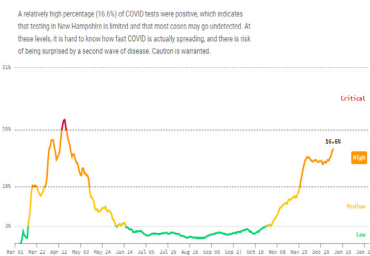
	This Wk	Last Wk	Cumulative	Deaths
<b>NH Positivity</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>		
<b>Rockingham Positivity</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>		
<b>NH</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>47,328</b>	<b>781</b>
<b>Rockingham</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>11,581</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>728</b>	
Positivity Rockingham County: NH DHHS				
<b>NH Vaccinations</b>	<b>21,181</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>53,675 (doses received)</b>	

Data/map source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-19-vaccine-doses.html>



NH & Rockingham County Cases by Week

NH Hospitalizations & Portsmouth Resident Cases



Data and graphs above show are in a new format as the Covid Tracking Project has now merged with the Covid Act Now data tracker that combines data reported by the CDC and the states. For more: <https://covidactnow.org/?s=1488444>

New Hampshire announced 325 cases for January 4. There were an average of 697 cases per day over the most recent 7-day period (December 29 to January 4). This is a 4% increase compared to the previous 7-day period.

**47,328**  
Total Cases

**6,200**  
Active Cases

**916**  
Total Hosp.

**319**  
Current Hosp.

**8.7%**  
7-Day Test Positivity

**5,676**  
Avg. Daily Tests

**40,347**  
Total Recovered

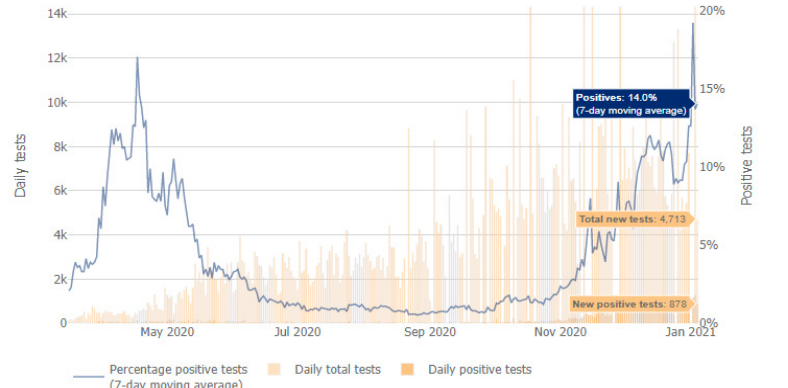
**781**  
Total Deaths

Total Deaths by Age

Daily Trend for New Cases

New Cases per 100k over 14 days

Data as of: 1/4/2021



The graph above shows the total daily number of COVID-19 tests reported in NH, and of those tests, how many were positive each day. The trend line in blue shows the average percentage of tests that were positive over the last 7 days.

Note: DHHS changed the map above to show the number of new cases per 100k people over the last 14 days to create shading gradients between counties

Send questions to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Health via [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com)  
 Johns Hopkins COVID Tracker: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/new-hampshire>  
 NH (interactive map, by town): <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/summary.htm>  
 US MAP (right) source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html#map>  
 Current US Hot Spots (at right) Darker shading = more cases. On Nov. 18, the color scale on the hot spots map was expanded to reflect the new record rates of infection. The map was also changed so that areas with very low population density are now shaded.

