

BOARD OF HEALTH



TOWN OF HEATH
Massachusetts

HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING – Mask Mandate Meeting Minutes Held March 14, 2022, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, Remote Meeting via Zoom

9:00 AM Special Meeting called to order, Gene Garland chairing
BOH Members in Attendance: Lorraine Berger, Gene Garland (BOH chair), Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Elissa Viarengo,
Library – Kate Barrows

CASE RATE TRENDS

- Barbara expressed disappointment that Mohawk Schools case rate will no longer be reported in MAVEN.
- Susan reported that there were no cases up until the 11th in the schools
- Barbara DESE no longer reporting, people home testing, the trend is positive

MASK MANDATE DISCUSSION

- Drop mandate and impose an advisory for masking. Discussed robo call coordinated with the BOS in issuing a masking advisory and robe call.
- Follow-up robo-call with update on cases, testing availability, vaccination availability and events.
- Library – has concerns about the small space of the library considering the population that utilizes the library. Would like to mask mandate continue for the library
- Concerned with access to emergency services in Heath and creating about the risks.
- Post office requested that the public bathrooms be opened in Sawyer Hall.

MOTION: The Board moved to maintain the current mask mandate in Heath for Sawyer Hall and rescind the mask mandate for other publicly accessible buildings in Heath based on the declining trend in COVID cases. The BOH will replace the town wide mask mandate with a mask advisory strongly recommending that individuals of the age of 65, the unvaccinated, and immunocompromised individuals wear masks in publicly accessible buildings. The Heath BOH will continue to monitor COVID – 19 trends at the town, county, and state level and base future mask recommendations on the COVID – 19 Community Risk Level (i.e. Green, Yellow, Red). The Heath BOH is cautiously optimistic, recommends masking in Sawyer Hall.

- Barbara seconded the motion.
- No discussion. Vote Barbara – yes, Elissa – yes, Lorraine – yes, Gene – yes, Susan – not present for this vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Meeting minutes taken by Gene Garland, chair. Revised by Kate Peppard, BOH Clerk.

Minutes Approved: 4/7/22 at BOH monthly meeting

Minutes Approved by: Gene Garland, Lorraine Berger, Susan Gruen, Elissa Viarengo