

**Minutes of the Board of Health Special Meeting via Teleconferencing
Due to the State of Emergency
May 7, 2020**

ROLL CALL: A special meeting of the Allendale Board of Health was held by Teleconferencing on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Nadine Benoit.

The following members were present: Heidi Askin, Maria Crean (absent), Robin Iversen, Chris Martin, Linda Morgan, Susan Toron and Nadine Benoit. Also present was our Sanitarian, Kristin Caperino, Mike Dillion-APD, Sharyesse Frasco-CERT and Tyler Yaccarino.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: The Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied through posting on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and the Borough website, and by publication in The Record with copies being sent to The Ridgewood News and Star Ledger.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The April 2, 2020 minutes were accepted with a motion to approve by Robin Iversen and seconded by Heidi Askin.

SECRETARY/REGISTRAR'S REPORT:

Adult Health Clinic Closed Until Further Notice

Child Health Clinic Closed Until Further Notice

Vital Statistic 1 Marriage License, 1 Marriage Certificate, 0 Births, 0 Deaths

Receipts \$200

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Premier Access at CarePlus NJ for Local HEROES – Behavioral Health Clinic

This correspondence was forwarded to First Responders.

HEALTH OFFICER/SANITARY REPORTS

Kristin's report for the month of April is as follows: We have started our virtual site inspections with establishments. We began with Acme and it is going on a case by case basis. It was decided to start with complaints, and we received one from Acme and one from Fino's. From this point forward we are awaiting guidance from the State. We have contingency plans for all the different scenarios that could possibly happen

therefore we are waiting for the State to give us guidance on how to go forward with the re-opening of restaurants, pools and lakes. From this point on we also have quality control on both ends and our supervisor calls the different establishments to see how the inspection performance was. And we also have participation from the retail food establishments to make sure the performance program is successful on both sides.

We are keeping records on who is open in Allendale, who has closed because of the pandemic, and establishments that have refused to work with us, so that when they reopen we will prioritize the places that have been closed during this whole time and the places that have refused to respond or call asking for virtual inspections. However, we are physically in the field for emergencies, complaints and dog bites.

Nadine asked Kristin to clarify the following question. If a restaurant was not open during this time and they are preparing to open now will they have a virtual inspection or an on-site inspection. Kristin replied all depends on the timing of their opening and that situation will be handled on a case by case basis.

Kristin confirmed that she did a visual inspection of both ice cream trucks. All requirements were met and both vendors were issued permits to operate in Allendale.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Robin Iverson asked what the plan is for the lake. Will we be open or not? Kristin replied that we are waiting for the State on how to proceed with the opening. Right now, the answer is no.

Nadine asked Heidi if she will be participating in the seminar on Suicide Prevention sponsored by the USRA Coalition. Heidi responded she will part of the seminar and report her findings next month.

Heidi shared her concern about the nursing home and the fact that the state listed 70 cases and 20 deaths, but the town only reported 58 cases. Are the 58 cases in town just current active cases, or are we doing the cumulative count as well? Nadine asked Sharysse where she saw the 70 cases listed and Sharysse said it was published in a daily newspaper article. Linda stated you can also go to the State website and you can keep a record of the residents that have Covid-19 and how many have passed away in the nursing home. Allendale nursing home lists 73 cases and 21 deaths. According to the county the town lists 58 cases. Nadine will reach out to the OEM Director to see if he could follow up on the discrepancies in the State numbers not matching Allendale's numbers. Sharysse asked Nadine to clarify the issue of where the people in the nursing home are officially living. Nadine replies if they are long term care then their home is in Allendale Nursing Home. If they are in rehab it is presumably a short-term stay, so they

would reside in the town that they came from. Perhaps the numbers are being lumped together and Scott will investigate that.

Nadine will review again the two testing sites for Covid-19 in Bergen County. They are now able to test asymptomatic people as well as symptomatic. New Bridge Medical Center is a testing site for Bergen County residents only. For more information go to the Bergen County Dept of Health website DOH.NJ.com or Google Bergen County Department of Health Services. You MUST register for the New Bridge site and that can be done online. There is a link and there is a questionnaire, which is a screening survey, and they will give you an appointment. The other site is Bergen Community College which is also testing asymptomatic and symptomatic persons. This site is for NJ State residents and they are open Sundays, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There are approximately 500 tests available. The contract there is until the end of May. You do not have to be pre-screened and they open at 8 am. Testing is done in Lot C on the main campus.

Linda mentioned Rite-Aid is doing nasal swab testing in Waldwick from 9 to 5.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nadine was sent an alert from the county that there is a PSA from the Commissioner of Health. It relates to the fact that people are having heart attacks and strokes because they are afraid to go to the emergency room in fear of Covid-19. The PSA is saying please do not do that. The ERs are safe and by not going to the hospital you are putting your life in danger.

For the purpose of the public, following are the symptoms to look out for:

Strokes can include face drooping, arm weakness or numbness, slurred speech or difficulty speaking, sudden confusion and trouble seeing.

Heart Attack can include chest pain or pressure, pain or discomfort in your arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach, shortness of breath, nausea and lightheadedness.

The Commissioner is encouraging people to go to the ER or dial 911 if they are having any symptoms.

You can go to the CDC website to look for symptoms on Covid-19. The most significant symptoms are fever and shortness of breath. They are constantly updating this website with new information.

They are now adding other symptoms for Covid 19 such as abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea and they also added confusion.

In the geriatric population they are seeing acute confusion, which is called delirium, and they are seeing a tremendous amount of delirium with Covid positive patients. The reason for this is the patient is hypoxic which means they are not getting enough oxygenation to the brain cells which causes confusion. Many elderly patients who are

hypoxic are Covid 19 positive and sometimes this confusion may be the only symptom you are seeing.

For the pediatric population, the CDC website points out sores on toes are being linked to blood clotting. You make more clots when you are Covid positive.

Always call your provider if you have concerns and if you are experiencing shortness of breath do not hesitate to go to the hospital.

Hospital admissions are going down in this area, so they are not as stressed as they were a month ago.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one came forward

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Martin and seconded by Robin Iversen The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Nadine mentioned that Mayor Bernstein could not be on the call. He wants to extend his gratitude to the Allendale Board of Health, our Sanitarian, BOH Secretary Carolyn and to everyone for pulling together and for getting the information out to our residents. He also wants to thank all the volunteers because he knows how hard everyone works and is taking this situation very seriously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Pistone
Board of Health Secretary