



City of Norwalk

Board of Health

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2020 8:00 AM

Teleconference Dial in Number: 929-229-5404 Conference ID: 350 169 893#

Call to order at 8:03AM Present:

Board of Health: Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, Vincent Amoruccio, MA, Matthew Brovender, Esq, Kenneth Lalime, RPH, Janet Karpiak, MD, Norman Weinberger, MD

Staff: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health, Megan DiMeglio, Project Coordinator, Theresa Argondezzi, Health Educator, David Reed, MD, Medical Director

Media: Erin Kayata, Norwalk Hour Reporter

COVID-19

Situational Overview: Ms. D'Amore gave an update on the number of cases in the State, County, and the City of Norwalk. She also reminded board members to sign up for the Governor's email listserv. Daily the Governor sends out updates and the Mayor updates the City's website in the evening with Norwalk related information. Ms. D'Amore explained the Health Department's approach and what the department has been doing since the beginning. Ms. D'Amore commended the Mayor for his great leadership during this time.

Collection Sites and Connecticut Testing Data: Ms. D'Amore mentioned testing sites around the State and the new testing site in Norwalk at Norwalk Hospital.

Contact Tracing and Containment: Ms. D'Amore explained the Health Department's role in conducting contact tracing. Beside conducting the tracing of positive cases the staff are notifying others of contact, giving guidance, answering questions on the recovery phase, and explaining the self isolation process. The Health Department is also fielding a lot of calls related to COVID-19 and helping connect people to the right places.

Communications and Outreach: Ms. D'Amore thanked Ms. Argondezzi for taking the lead in managing and developing content for the departments website. Ms. D'Amore also thanked Ms. Argondezzi for managing the social media pages and Ms. DiMeglio for assisting with

them as well. Ms. Argondezzi recognized Josh Morgan, the Communication Manger for his great work. Ms. D'Amore mentioned the weekly calls the Chief of Community Services is having with local partners in the community. We are finding out what they are doing and how we can support those organizations as they support the community.

Community Mitigation:

Ms. D'Amore recognizes with restricting public contact it takes a toll on the local businesses having to close. Community mitigation is key to slowing down the spread of the virus and saving lives. Ms. D'Amore emphasized the messaging the department is sharing with the public. "Staying home, saves lives" Ms. D'Amore mentioned what the school system is doing to help during this time. The schools are using buses to drop off two meals a day to all the bus stops in Norwalk. Families can come and pickup the meals for all children in the household. Ms. D'Amore also thanked all the partners in the community for working together.

Current Norwalk Health Department Operations – Essential Programs & Services

Ms. D'Amore explained which services have been suspended during this time. Some grant programs like WIC are still running but remotely. Staff are working staggered shifts to still have coverages but limit contact. The health department building is closed to the public but staff are still fielding calls and offering essential services.

Ms. D'Amore asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Brovender stated "staff are doing a fantastic job and the website looked great and up to date" Dr. Quell stated "thanks to all the staff for doing a great job and getting the work done."

Adjourn at 8:21 AM