

TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
Local Emergency Planning Committee
December 9, 2020
MINUTES

The weekly meeting of the Town of Wolfeboro, Local Emergency Planning Committee was held via conference call through the Public Safety Building. The meeting was conducted by Chief Norman Skantze. The following were in attendance: Chief of Police Dean Rondeau, Health Officer Shelley Rondeau, Central Dispatch Supervisor Mia Lyons, Finance Director Kathryn Carpentier, Selectmen's Representative Paul O'Brien and Linda Murray, Director of Operations MED Barry Muccio, Fire/Rescue Executive Assistant Cathleen LaPierre and Lieutenant André de Beer, Public Works Adam Tasker, Police Staff Sergeant Guy Maloney, Huggins Hospital EMS Coordinator Janet Williamson, Parks and Recreation Director Christine Collins, Town Managers Office Executive Assistant Amy Muccio and HSEM Senior Field Representative Heidi Lawton.

Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director Norman Skantze called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

November 12, 2020 minutes were accepted as is.

Heidi Lawton stated an email with updated quarantine guidance for First Responders in NH was sent out this morning. In order to assist the state in contacting First Responders directly regarding the vaccine, a spreadsheet will be sent out via the new director in charge of the public health region.

Norman Skantze understands from previous conversations, the first round of vaccines will be issued to police, fire and EMS. He voiced concern for the other critical town employees prone to exposure i.e. MED, Public Works, Transfer Station etc. and inquired as to what could be done to ensure they receive the vaccine as soon as possible.

Heidi Lawton noted that would be a question for Public Health officials.

Janet Williamson stated she will address later in her report.

Schellely Rondeau reported 20 active cases, 84 total and they continue to monitor. She is working with Carroll County Health in setting up closed pods for vaccines and awaits FDA approval.

Janet Williamson reported 2 recent positive admissions, they stay for a couple of days and are then released based on low acuity. Huggins Hospital does not currently have any positive admissions as they were released yesterday. She noted her first try with Belimumab. Swabbing/testing continues to increase; 600-700/week with 5-6 new positives/day. Should there be a need for additional space for positive COVID patients, the hospital will expand from within as opposed to immediately setting up the ACS. The vaccine currently awaits FDA approval and will have answers tomorrow or Friday. They currently expect the vaccine to ship out the week of December 15th and plan to administer to hospital staff the week of December 22nd. First Responders/police will receive an email with a form to complete and submit. She will personally be visiting the stations and administering the vaccination and recommends not having all staff receive it at once due to possible side effects (fever, chills, nausea, vomiting); split the crews in half. A meeting will take place with Memorial to get the procedure down.

Paul O'Brien inquired about folks with preexisting conditions entering the hospital and how they will be handled.

Janet Williamson replied that's still to be determined – the screening process is strict and telehealth visits are being used as a preventative means.

Paul O'Brien anticipates an increase in questions and calls pertaining to receiving the vaccine and would like to be able to provide some answers to the public.

Janet Williamson stated 400 vaccines were to be issued; however, the number has dropped to 100; therefore, it will be challenging to know how many can receive the vaccine.

Heidi Lawton suggested providing 3 lists: one for Phase 1A, a secondary for Phase 2, and a third list (obtain from homes frequently visited).

Schelley Rondeau noted folks under home care services are covered.

Norman Skantze asked Dean Rondeau, Adam Tasker (recently appointed Safety Officer) and Thomas Zotti to work on providing those lists.

Dean Rondeau spoke with Janet Williamson and supports the hospital expanding within as they can retain a larger number of patients than the ACS. However, he still feels the ACS needs to remain available as plan B. He noted Janet Williamson has the waivers Health and Human Services requires should the hospital reach its max (75% occupancy) and the ACS is needed. Prior to vaccinating folks in the community, he suggested departments develop a list of those who are at a higher risk due to having greater contact with the general public.

Cathleen LaPierre reported PPE has been obtained from the state and distributed to the departments as requested. The electrostatic sprayers will be ordered upon receiving the signed purchase order from the town hall and provided a brief report on the sprayers. FEMA will cover the cost of backfill/OT for departments effected by COVID-19 along with the sprayers.

Kathryn Carpentier reported no additional changes financially since the previous meeting and will be working with Cathleen LaPierre on submitting information to FEMA for OT/backfill etc. as needed.

Mia Lyons noted traffic in and out of the PSB is minimal. She expressed concern for the difference in reports i.e. the number of positive COVID cases she receives in a report versus what the state posts.

Dean Rondeau asked if Heidi Lawton might be able to assist through obtaining accurate information from the state or by contacting the right person to make him/her aware the accuracy of the information is crucial to towns for planning purposes.

Heidi Lawton noted the public health lab is backed up 2 weeks due to the number of folks being tested. This may be contributing to the difference in the numbers being reported as positive COVID cases and she will express the concerns.

Norman Skantze discussed the PSB C-19 Metric and the Return to Work policy for the Fire Rescue Department.

Linda Murray thanked all involved and noted it might be helpful for the Board of Selectmen to see the Metric and Return to Work policy the Fire Department is using to better understand why one building is closed and others are not.

Paul O'Brien stated he wishes the public could hear everything just discussed to make them aware things are under control and alleviate anxiety; he is proud of everyone's involvement.

Norman Skantze stated the matrix is for the fire station; he can't direct it, but is happy to provide as a guideline and will send it out today. He noted Dave Ford and Mark Livie have a copy. He discussed the PIO position and reminded folks if information needs to be distributed or posted to please send to Jim Pineo for review. LEPC meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month and Command Staff meetings are held the 3rd Friday of the month.

Barry Muccio inquired if there was information pertaining to reinfection rates.

Norman Skantze noted if one had the virus, he/she could show positive for up to 3 months.

Schelley Rondeau stated although it's rare, there is always a chance of getting reinfected due this being a virus and similar to the flu.

Janet Williamson agreed with Shelley Rondeau and stated this virus does mutate. A person could be immune for up to 3 months. She knows of 2 cases worldwide that have had the virus twice; the vaccine should help in preventing it from occurring.

Schelley Rondeau expressed the need to continue with good hand washing, wearing masks, social distancing, not becoming lackadaisical, and staying out of work if you are sick.

Janet Williamson noted once folks receive the vaccine masks will still need to be worn as the virus can be transmitted.

Norman Skantze noted the next LEPC meeting will take place on January 13th, the Command Staff meeting will be held on January 22nd both at 10:00 AM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.