



CITY OF HALLOWELL

ONE WINTHROP STREET
HALLOWELL, MAINE 04347

NATE RUDY, CITY MANAGER, HEALTH OFFICER
citymanager@hallowellmaine.org

TEL: (207) 430-4403; FAX (207) 621-8317
www.hallowell.govoffice.com

Hallowell Board of Health Meeting Minutes April 7, 2020

Officials in Attendance: Drs. Annette Beyea, Scott Schiff-Slater and Sid Sewall; Nate Rudy

Agenda: **Whether to require the public to wear masks / face coverings in public areas; Whether City outdoor resources pose a significant Coronavirus exposure risk; Mental and emotional health factors of Coronavirus response**

This Board of Health is an official City entity, formed under Maine state statute **Title 22 Section 453. Local board of health**, which states:

Any municipality may appoint, in addition to the local health officer, a board of health consisting of 3 members besides the local health officer, one of whom shall be a physician if available in the community, and one a woman. When first appointed members of the board shall be appointed one for one year, one for 2 years and one for 3 years. Subsequent appointments shall be for 3-year terms.

The local health officer shall be secretary ex officio of said board and keep a record of all proceedings. The local board of health shall constitute an advisory body to the local health officer.

Whether to require the public to wear masks / face coverings in public areas – The Board recommended that the City promote wearing masks / face coverings in public areas and lead by example by having City employees wear masks / face coverings in public. Also, it would be appropriate and advisable for police officers to wear masks / face coverings during law enforcement encounters, and to educate the public about the benefits to wearing masks / face coverings as a way to reduce person to person virus transmission. A City Order requiring the public to wear face coverings was not recommended, and fines were not recommended as a deterrent to non-compliance.

Whether City outdoor resources pose a significant Coronavirus exposure risk – The Board recommended that City resources such as the leaf and brush pile on Fish and Game Road and outdoor recreation areas like the RES and the Effie Berry Conservation Area remain open but monitored for overuse / misuse and potential for person to person virus transmission. The potential risk in these spaces seems low provided that they are not overwhelmed with users who do not observe physical distancing recommendations.

Mental and emotional health factors of Coronavirus response – The Health Officer asked the Board to provide any resources or weblinks that they found useful in educating the public about ways to reduce or avoid mental and emotional health risks related to Coronavirus response. Particular concern was raised for “shut in” people, and people who are not receiving City messaging on Facebook and the City website because they don’t have or use computers or smart phones. The Board recommended that the City raise awareness about this limitation, and ask people to share information with friends and neighbors who may not be receiving City messages.