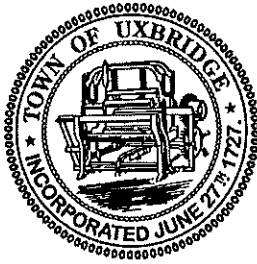


*Dr. David Tapscott, Chairman*  
*Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chair*  
*Dr. Cay Denherder, Member*  
*Erin Hightower, Director*  
*Kaitlin Donahue, Health Inspector*  
*Sara Manganelli, Administrative Assistant*



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE  
BOARD OF HEALTH**  
21 South Main Street, Room 204  
Uxbridge, MA 01569  
508-278-8600 ext. 8  
boh@uxbridge-ma.gov

**Minutes of the Uxbridge Board of Health meeting held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:30 PM**

**Present:** David Tapscott, Chairman; Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chair; and Dr. Cay Denherder, Member  
Also present, Erin Hightower, Health Director; Kaitlin Donahue, Health Inspector; Sara Manganelli, Administrative Assistant

**Meeting called to order:** The time being 5:30 PM and a quorum present, Vice Chairman Dr. David Tapscott called the meeting to order.

Dr. David Tapscott announced guidelines for this meeting, setting the ground rules:

Profanity, yelling, personal threats or other actions deemed disruptive by the Chair will not be tolerated.

- a. A warning will be given to any participant exhibiting disruptive behavior along with a request to refrain from disruptive behavior
- b. A second warning will be given along with a warning that the individual may be requested to leave the meeting if disruptive behavior persists
- c. If such behavior persists after two warnings, a request to leave the meeting along with a warning that the person exhibiting such behavior will be escorted from the meeting if the behavior persist
- d. If the person does not leave the meeting and such behavior persists, the Chair will request that the person be removed by an Uxbridge officer

**1. Discussion regarding COVID status**

There was a discussion regarding the number of cases from December 2021 to present.

**2. Discussion and/or vote regarding mask mandate for indoor public spaces**

Gregory Vulturo, Chair and Chief of Emergency Medicine at UMASS. Today there was 69 patients entered the Emergency Department with a four hour wait for a bed. Over the last week there was over a 30 hour wait for a bed. UMASS has stopped all elective procedures. 690 staff have been out sick since January 1, 2022. There is approximately 400 COVID patients admitted and the patients that are in ICU are not vaccinated. He stated that pediatric hospitalizations are pretty low.

Cay Denherder stated that she has read several articles on masking and how it does work. Joann shared that article, "An Evidence Review of Face Masks Against COVID-19" by the National Academy of Sciences, January 11, 2022, written by 19 authors. Masks are more effective in a well-ventilated area.

**Public Comment:**

James Smith: Voices that he does not like the mask mandate. He finds that based on population, the number of positive cases are low.

Kelly Cote: Talking about the different kinds of masks. Voices that she does not like the mask mandate. She spoke about the number of cases vs. the number of tests given. Feels as if the number is low compared to population.

Dr. <sup>DOMINICK</sup> ~~Domenic~~ Tamaro: Spoke about the number of cases in the RI hospital, .016%. He informs us that touching surfaces don not spread the COVID virus.

Paul Balutis: Voices that he is for the mask mandate.

Tina Ryan: Applauds the BOH. She has decided to home school her three children. Voiced her concerns regarding COVID. She also went over visitor restrictions that hospitals have had in the past and are having again since the spike.

Rachel Frazier: Applauds the BOH. She supports the mask mandate. She has noticed that other surrounding towns already have a mask mandate. She was shocked that Uxbridge didn't already have a mask mandate in place.

Mary Cates: Voices that she does not like the mask mandate. She finds as if most people already wear masks in public spaces.

Patrick Stephan: Voices that she is for the mask mandate.

Debbie Stark: What is the threshold and reconsideration for the mask mandate. The Board said it will depend on the surrounding hospitals and positivity.

Sarah Douglas: Voices that she is for the mask mandate.

Dan Markman: Looked up and the CDC does advise the use of masks indoors.

Domenic Tamaro: Stated that there is no drop in positivity.

Orlando Corona: Thank you to the BOH and for the mask mandate. Applauds how the meeting is being held and how everyone is being civil.

*Dr. Cay Denherder made a motion to issue a mask mandate starting 12:01pm on Saturday, January 15, 2022 and reviewed on February 2, 2022, the next Board of Health meeting and may be extended to a further date if the Board deems it is necessary. See Uxbridge Mask Mandate attachment for full description of the mask mandate. Dr. David Tapscott seconded and the motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0-0. Dr. Cay Denherder – aye, Dr. Joann Lindenmayer – aye, Dr. David Tapscott – aye,*

**3. Recycling/Trash Updates**

Erin Hightower stated that the cart grant by the DEP needs to be signed by the end of 2022. Erin created a survey send out by email, the senior center, library and town hall to the

**4. CITIZEN'S FORUM**

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Will discuss at next meeting

**6. ANY OTHER MATTER THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn:** *Dr. David Tapscott moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Dr. Joann Lindenmayer seconded and the motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0-0. Dr. David Tapscott – aye, Dr. Joann Lindenmayer – aye, Dr. Cay Denherder - aye*

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David Tapscott, Chairman

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Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chairman

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Cay Denherder, Member

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Sara Manganelli, Administrative Assistant