



## Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719  
Telephone: (508) 979-4023 ext. 125 · Fax: (508) 979-4079

February 26, 2025

PRESENT: Brian Meneses, Barbara Acksen, David Flaherty

ABSENT: Justine Frezza

### 1. Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Meneses called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Vice Chair Meneses welcomed everyone.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Vice Chair Meneses read the media and recording notifications.

### 4. Minutes of the Meeting

- a. **Motion:** Member Acksen made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting February 12, 2025. Vice Chair Meneses seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).

### 5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 5.95% down from 6.41%. This is from positive tests in a clinical setting only.
- b. Blood pressure and wellness clinics offered every Wednesday at the COA from 1-3 pm.
- c. Gastrointestinal illness cases, such as the norovirus, have risen in Fairhaven and the Southcoast. Influenza is also on the rise. Be sure to wash hands often, after the restroom, before preparing, serving, and eating meals. Sanitize surfaces frequently. Pertussis (whooping cough) and other respiratory illnesses are on the rise. There has been an outbreak of measles in Texas and New Mexico. There has been a slight rise in Massachusetts. Please consult your physician regarding vaccinations.
- d. No Perc tests were witnessed and no Title 5 inspections were witnessed.

- e. Rodent complaints are still coming in. Please be vigilant with trash and birdseed on your property. Consult a licensed exterminator for property treatment in conjunction with neighbors if it seems overwhelming.
- f. Avian bird flu has been reported in Southeastern Massachusetts. If any dead birds are found please see the Fairhaven Health Department's website for information and contact the Animal Control Officer. Agent Flaherty also asked that residents call the non-emergency Police Department number at 508-997-7421.
- g. The training video for Tobacco Retailers has been uploaded to the Fairhaven You Tube channel. The Regional Tobacco compliance Collaborative from New Bedford will be using this to further educate Fairhaven vendors and their employees.
- h. Fairhaven home-bound residents qualify for a free home-bound flu vaccine offered by the Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative to provide an in-home vaccine. Please check the Health Department webpage for more information.
- i. The Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative has provided medication disposal bags, sharps containers, CPR masks, tick removers, sunblock and pill containers (these are available in English and Spanish). Please visit the Health Department for any of these free items.
- j. Agent Flaherty notes in two weeks he will be attending a seminar in Taunton on Title 5. Vice Chair Meneses asked if it was to stay up to date on the regulations. Agent Flaherty affirms the purpose is to review any changes to Title 5 or new technologies. It also provides CEUs to Agent Flaherty.

**6. Public Comment**

- a. 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues.

**7. Invoices, Correspondence and any other business that may properly come before the Board not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

**8. Next Meeting Date – March 12, 2025 at 5:00pm**

**9. Meeting Adjourned – Motion:** Member Acksen motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Vice Chair Meneses seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).