# HEALTH BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE (BRC) MEETING MINUTES
# 6April2021

**Voting members present:** Kathie Lynch (Chair), Ann Birner (Minutes), Kristin Shaw for Kim McNamara, Richard DiPentima
**Absent:** James Petersen
**Non-voting city staff present**: Stephanie Seacord

**Action items below identify name of responsible party in bold font.**

Kathie read the approved waiver for remote meeting participation during the pandemic and participants identified location and any others present at that location. A motion to approve the minutes of 30 March was made Ann, seconded by Rich. The minutes were approved without comment or discussion.

The dashboard was reviewed by **Kathie**, who will present it at the next Reopen BRC meeting. Case numbers continue to rise in the county, state and city. Positivity is up in NH and in Rockingham County. The good news is the ongoing vaccination program with over 40% of NH residents having received at least one dose. Discussion points included the observation that pediatric cases seem to be on the rise, possibly related to school reopening and increased team sporting activities. Concern was expressed regarding efforts to reopen the City-managed Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. The Public Works and Health Departments have determined that air circulation does not meet current COVID ventilation needs. The City will revisit the decision as infection rates and alternative solutions evolve. At this time, the cost of upgrades exceeds available resources.

Revisions to the “Daily Life” FAQs, based on CDC travel guidance for vaccinated individuals, were reviewed in detail. Similar changes have been made to the travel guidance in the Post-Vaccination FAQs. CDC representatives have stated publicly that even in the fully vaccinated population, travel should be limited to essential purposes. **Ann** will review the two documents to ensure that caveats are expressed to the same degree, and send to the group. Unless there are further suggestions from members, **Stephanie** will ensure appropriate format for public facing documents and then post.

Kathie led the group through the current iteration of the “Kids and COVID-19” FAQ. Language was added regarding the 3’ distance allowed under defined circumstances in schools by the State of NH. The group subsequently approved the content. **Kathie** will submit to **Stephanie** for posting.

The “Treatment of COVID-19” FAQs was discussed, including scope (limited to outpatient monoclonal antibodies, as summarized in the introductory language). This will be finalized by **Rich** and sent to **Stephanie** for posting.

Kristin summarized efforts of the Health Department, now focused on vaccine outreach to people who are homebound. **Stephanie** will update the alert on Channel 22 including Kristin’s phone number in place of 211. There is a clinic today at the Portsmouth Senior Center.

There were no public comments. Ann made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Rich, all agreed.