From:	Karen Wackerman
To:	Browne, Betsy
Subject:	Fwd: COVID-19
Date:	Saturday, January 2, 2021 11:07:28 AM

Hi Betsy -

Happy New Year!

Can you please add the email trail below to the RTM files for the last December meeting when we expected to hear from Sands? Thank you.

Karen
Karen Wackerman
RTM Moderator
RTM District 7 Representative
203-984-1673

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Karen Wackerman** <karenrtm7@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jan 2, 2021 at 11:03 AM
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19
To: Karen Wackerman <karenrtm7@gmail.com>
Cc: Kupchick, Brenda <BKupchick@fairfieldct.org>, Bertolone, Jackie <JBertolone@fairfieldct.org>, Cleary, Sands <scleary@fairfieldct.org>, McCarthy, Denis <DMcCarthy@fairfieldct.org>

To the RTM -

Below are communications regarding my email to the First Selectwoman with questions about COVID-19 from me, as well as Rep. Vergara's questions from several weeks ago. I am hopeful that we will receive some emailed answers that I can share with the RTM. I am sure that many of you, like me, are getting questions from constituents and look forward to being able to give them some answers.

Karen
Karen Wackerman
RTM Moderator
RTM District 7 Representative
203-984-1673

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Karen Wackerman** <karenrtm7@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jan 2, 2021 at 10:52 AM
Subject: Re: COVID-19
To: Kupchick, Brenda <BKupchick@fairfieldct.org>
Cc: Bertolone, Jackie <JBertolone@fairfieldct.org>, Carpenter, Jennifer

<JCarpenter@fairfieldct.org>, Cleary, Sands <SCleary@fairfieldct.org>, McCarthy, Denis <DMcCarthy@fairfieldct.org>

Apologies - I hit “send” before I finished.

It’s crazy that the RTM has still not been briefed on COVID. Your administration owes us answers that are available in writing to all members and to the public. As I already said, if certain questions require more work to answer, they can be answered within a reasonable time after you answer the easy questions.

On Sat, Jan 2, 2021 at 10:49 AM Karen Wackerman <karenrtm7@gmail.com> wrote:

> Brenda -
>
> Yes understand how busy Sands is. But you, Chief McCarthy and others could answer some of these questions. The entire RTM deserves answers, and Jill and I shouldn’t have to take hours out of our day to meet and take notes and translate what we are told.
>
> On Sat, Jan 2, 2021 at 10:39 AM Kupchick, Brenda <BKupchick@fairfieldct.org> wrote:
>
>> Karen,
>>
>> It takes a tremendous amount of time to read through all those questions and try to write responses that will undoubtedly lead to more questions and more questions. Time our health department simply doesn’t have and will impact their public health work.
>>
>> Again, I’m happy to have a conference call with you, Jill, sands and Denis where we can try to address most of this. You and Jill are welcome to take notes and share those with interested RTM members. I can also ask one of the Captains to join the call to address their enforcement of events that violate the states sectors rules.
>>
>> Regarding some of the technical questions about why something isn’t posted on the health department page the way it used to or data Jill wants posted, Jackie is happy to talk with Jill as a member of the command team and PIO group.
>>
>> Regarding the universities enrollments, those questions are best directed to the universities.
>>
>> I’ll have Jennifer work to schedule a time for the call.
>>
>> Brenda L. Kupchick
>> Fairfield First Selectwoman
>> 203-256-3030
>> Sullivan Independence Hall
>> 725 Old Post Road
>> Fairfield, CT 06824
>> https://www.fairfieldct.org/
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> Please excuse any typos
>>
>> On Jan 2, 2021, at 10:08 AM, Karen Wackerman <karenrtm7@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks, Brenda. Can someone respond to these questions in writing so that I can share the responses with the RTM? I recognize that some questions require some research and therefore may take longer to respond to, but others should be straightforward (e.g. are there enforcement policies and have there been enforcement actions and whether there are plans to have a town hall about the vaccine). I also recognize that some answers may be nuanced (for example, how to deal with landlords' enforcement of mask rules) and may necessitate a conversation.

I know how busy Sands is, and I am very grateful to him for everything he is doing. But Jill's questions have been with Sands for 2 1/2 weeks now. Even if we get answers piecemeal, we do need answers.

Karen

On Fri, Jan 1, 2021 at 7:16 PM Kupchick, Brenda <BKupchick@fairfieldct.org<mailto:BKupchick@fairfieldct.org>> wrote:
Karen,

Our health department has been working overtime and continues to do so. I'm happy to discuss some of these Issues with you over the phone with Sands and Denis when can schedule a time.

I must ensure Sands and the health department are able to completely focus of their important work without distraction that could put public health at risk.

Please reach out to Jen next week so we work to schedule a conference call.

Please copy my chief of staff on all communications so she can be in the loop.

Brenda L. Kupchick
Fairfield First Selectwoman
203-256-3030
Sullivan Independence Hall
725 Old Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
https://www.fairfieldct.org/
Sent from my iPhone
Please excuse any typos

On Jan 1, 2021, at 4:17 PM, Karen Wackerman <karenrtm7@gmail.com<mailto:karenrtm7@gmail.com>> wrote:

Brenda and Sands -

Happy New Year!

We were sorry that Sands was unable to speak with the RTM last month and hope that we can hear from him at our January meeting. In the meantime, I have a few questions:

1. Have there been any enforcement actions against any business or citizen in Fairfield regarding failure to comply with COVID-19 safety measures, other than the Brickyard Pub? If so, how many and what was the nature of those actions? What enforcement powers are available to the town, and which town departments are authorized to use those powers? Now that COVID-19 cases have been increasing, are there any plans to increase enforcement of rules relating to mask wearing, social distancing, limited gatherings, etc.? If not, why not?

2. I know that you both heard from my neighbor and constituent regarding the fact that in three medical buildings in town there were people not wearing masks. Chief McCarthy had someone speak with the landlords of those buildings and asked them to increase signage. Has there been any follow-up to check on compliance? Can those landlords be asked to post someone at entrances to enforce mask-wearing? For medical buildings, this would seem to be a very important issue.

3. Are there any plans to hold a town hall or other informational session to describe to town residents the plans for COVID-19 vaccinations? I know that Sands was busy preparing for those. I am sure that the town's residents would like to understand the details - how many doses did the town receive, who will be prioritized to receive the vaccines, etc.

I am also re-sending Representative Vergara's questions (below) regarding these issues. I realize that some of my questions overlap Representative Vergara's.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best -

Karen
Karen Wackerman
RTM Moderator
RTM District 7 Representative
203-984-1673

From: Jill Vergara <jillvergara@gmail.com<mailto:jillvergara@gmail.com>
<mailto:jillvergara@gmail.com<mailto:jillvergara@gmail.com>>>
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 5:23 PM
Subject: Questions for Mr. Cleary
To: Karen Wackerman <karenrtm7@gmail.com<mailto:karenrtm7@gmail.com>
<mailto:karenrtm7@gmail.com<mailto:karenrtm7@gmail.com>>>

Through you Madam Moderator, to Mr. Cleary, in advance of his presentation:
1. Please confirm the following:
As of June 4, 2020, Fairfield had 613 cases and 129 deaths related to Covid (92% of deaths occurring in assisted living facilities)
As of Sept 2, 2020, Fairfield had 746 cases and 144 deaths " (___% of deaths occurring in assisted living facilities)
As of Dec 15, 2020, Fairfield has 2,664 cases and 165 deaths " (89.1% of deaths occurring in assisted living facilities)

-Why are additional deaths no longer noted in the town updates?
-Why is the percentage of deaths occurring in assisted living facilities no longer noted in the town updates?
-There seems to be an uptick in elder care fatalities. If you look at the chart on the town page, no elder care fatalities occur mid-June through mid-November, when there is a reemergence. Are these elder care facility deaths considered outbreaks? How are we handling this concerning reemergence?

2. Fairfield has 2664 cases and has had 165 deaths related to covid, which means that our case fatality rate is 6.2. That is quite high compared to other towns. By comparison Greenwich, which is closer to the city and has many commuters and has an older population comparatively has had 2100 cases and 60 deaths (or a case fatality rate of 2.8). What is contributing to this high case fatality rate? Interestingly, West Hartford (7.4), Hamden (5.7) and Middletown (5.3) all also have higher case fatality rates than most other towns in the state, and they are also college towns. Has there been any speculation at the state level that our university towns are experiencing higher death rates? If so, what is being done about it? [Also note, Fairfield has the 7th highest number of deaths in the State (165) but is the 11th most populous town. Have we discussed this problem at all?]

See also New York Times article, "Young people have less covid-19 risk, but in college towns, deaths rose fast," Dec. 12, 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/12/us/covid-colleges-nursing-homes.html ("As coronavirus deaths soar across the country, deaths in communities that are home to colleges have risen faster than the rest of the nation.")

3. Fairfield has had 70,568 tests. Hamden and Middletown, which are both smaller towns than Fairfield, have had a significantly higher number of tests--90,737 and 124,333, respectively. Fairfield is impacted by 2 universities; whereas Hamden and Middletown each only house one university. Have the universities confirmed how many tests they will conduct weekly going forward? Many towns have offered free public testing. When will Fairfield offer such testing?

4. The town used to have a table that listed total cases at both Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University. The town also had language underneath the table that would list the number of those cases that had been counted in the town totals (as there has been a lag in state reporting). Why is this table no longer being maintained? I would like to formally request that you put that table back onto the town's Covid data page.

5. In total, 801 SHU students and 612 FU students contracted covid in 3 months. SHU has a total student pop of 7589, and Fairfield U has a student pop of 5,475. Thus, 10.6% of SHU's student pop contracted covid; and 11.2% of FU students contracted covid. How does this compare to other universities in the state?

6. Please confirm the number of on-campus Sacred Heart students enrolled for this coming semester; please also confirm the number of on-campus Fairfield University students enrolled this coming semester, as well as the number of off-campus Fairfield University students enrolled.

7. When will each of the universities re-open their campuses in January? What will the re-entry procedures be for students? What is the planned number of weekly testing for

> students? Will the stag bus run in the winter? Will the universities have spring break? If so, what will the re-entry procedures be?
>
> 8. Has the social gathering data in Fairfield improved since being ranked the top 1-3 in the state in September through November?
>
> 9. What are the rules in town regarding wearing masks? When were these rules put into effect? What are the penalties for violating the rules? How many enforcement actions have been taken?
>
> 10. What are the rules in town regarding social gatherings? When were these rules put into effect? What are the penalties for violating the rules? How many enforcement actions have been taken? How have these rules been enforced against college students throwing parties? Most recently, there were "Santa Con" parties on the beach. Were there any enforcement actions against any people participating in or hosting those parties? Were there any enforcement actions against landlords of students hosting parties?
>
> Jill Vergara
> Majority Leader, Fairfield RTM
> Representative, RTM District 7
> (203) 292-8115 (home)
> (203) 993-5592 (cell)
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> Karen Wackerman
> Moderator
> Fairfield Representative Town Meeting
> RTM Representative, District 7
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> Moderator
> Fairfield Representative Town Meeting
> RTM Representative, District 7

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Fairfield Representative Town Meeting
RTM Representative, District 7