
DR. TOM STATE SENATE
SHERMAN
DISTRICT 24 NEWSLETTER

Vaccine Supersite -- A Day at the Loudoun Speedway!

I had the opportunity to spend Sunday, March 28 with a few hundred dedicated volunteers vaccinating more than 4,000 New Hampshire residents against COVID-19. Teams cheered as cars pulled into their lanes. If it happened to be your birthday, happy birthday was sung by a spontaneously formed choir! In spite of heavy rain and strong winds, spirits were high all day. Recipients of the vaccines appeared both thrilled and relieved all at the same time.

DHHS Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jonathan Ballard, gave me a tour of the vaccine preparation area and the operations center. I met many of the people coordinating the event, ensuring that there were enough supplies and that those receiving vaccines were closely monitored for any side effects. My hat is off to Dr. Ballard, Director Perry Plummer, and Commissioner Quinn -- what an amazing job!!



COVID-19 Pandemic Work

As the vaccine scheduling has rolled out, it has certainly faced some tough challenges. New Hampshire has joined other states in deciding to stop using the federal VAMS system for scheduling; unfortunately, the rollout of the new system, VINI, was also been plagued by difficulties for the public trying to access appointments. I have been in regular contact with Director Perry Plummer and Dr. Jonathan Ballard, so I know the NH Department of Health and Human Services is working hard to address the issues that have arisen. My office has been helping individual constituents who have had problems with both systems to make sure they get their vaccines as quickly as possible. The good news is that most of the glitches now appear to have been resolved!



Senator Sherman receiving the second vaccine injection

NH DHHS continues to work to open more sites across the state to ensure individuals are able to get their first and second doses in appropriate timeframes.

The implementation of the new system whereby, when individuals receive their first shot, they will also receive a card with the date and time for their second shot, alleviates the need for them to separately schedule their second shot.

In spite of all of the good news regarding vaccines, especially with recent approval of the single injection Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the possible availability of the Astra Zeneca vaccine, I want to again emphasize the need for Granite Staters to continue to follow state and CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19: wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, washing hands or using hand sanitizer, not touching your face, and making sure there is adequate ventilation indoors. Even as our residents begin to be vaccinated, we must remain vigilant, as we still have a long road ahead of us to overcome this pandemic.

Commission & Committee Work

Here are updates from some of the commissions, committees, and councils I am on which have been active recently:

Health & Human Services Committee -- Member

Standing Committees have been meeting virtually here in the Senate. The Health and Human Services Committee has begun hearings on some important pieces of legislation, including bills on therapeutic cannabis and the SNAP program. A number of my bills have come before the Committee and have had strong bipartisan support from citizens and stakeholders across the state. I am looking forward to working on these bills with my colleagues, as we strive to make New Hampshire a better state to live in for everyone.

Transportation Committee -- Member

The Transportation Committee had its first meeting on February 16th to have a presentation from the Department of Transportation and to begin hearings. I am looking forward to participating in this Committee, as transportation plays such a vital role in my senate district, our economy and lives, now more so than ever as we continue to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness – Chair

On January 15th, the Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness met and had an incredibly informative presentation by Director Dave Wieters, Director Andrew Chalsma, and Bureau Chief Chiahui Chawla from the Department of Health & Human Services. This presentation resulted in some great discussion about the work of the Commission and our next steps. The Commission then met on Friday, February 19th at 12pm with another great presentation on the NH Birth Defects Registry by Suzann Beauregard, Birth Conditions Program Coordinator and Dr. David LaFlamme, Epidemiologist and Research Assistant Professor from the NH DHHS DPHS Maternal and Child Health Section. Our next meeting is April 16 from 12-2.

State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan Advisory Council – Chair

During the January 15th meeting, the Council heard from the Subcommittee on Community Engagement and from Jo Porter regarding data discussions on health status and outcomes, and social connectedness. We then met on Friday, February 19th at 9:30am to hear from the Subcommittee on Community Engagement and review pending legislation regarding the Advisory Council. We met again on March 19th and our next meeting is on April 16th from 9:30-11:30.

New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board – First-Named Senator

The New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board met on Friday, February 5th and elected Representative Merchant as Chair of the Board. The meeting was a great jumping off point for the Board to begin their vital work of ensuring New Hampshire residents have access to affordable drugs, and I am looking forward to continuing to serve on this Board as we work to develop its structure.

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee -- Member (Appointed by Commissioner NH DHHS)

The Committee met on February 19th and discussed issues regarding prioritizing of vaccines in light of the likely approval of the single dose Johnson & Johnson CoVID-19 vaccine in order to assist the Department of Health and Human Services in crafting updated vaccination guidance.

Legislative Updates

The Legislature has been meeting regularly by virtual means to hear and pass legislation. All of my sixteen prime sponsored bills have been introduced and had hearings at this point, and these bills have covered a range of important topics such as health care, voting policies, and environmental issues. I have been grateful for all those who have testified in support of these essential pieces of legislation. Please find links to watch the hearings here and a report from WMUR on [Insert link]

My independent redistricting bill, an effort to ensure that every vote in NH counts, was unfortunately voted Inexpedient to Legislate along party lines with the Republican majority wishing to keep exclusive control of this critical process. Please see my Op-Ed on the bill here (<https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/opinion/columns/guest/2021/01/30/perkins-kwoka-sherman-our-democracy-too-important/4318573001/>) as well as an informative article on it in InDepth NH here: <http://indepthnh.org/2021/02/01/senate-committee-nixes-independent-redistricting-commission/>

The Senate passed SB2, which will allow for the preprocessing of absentee ballots for certain 2021 elections and allows for the postponement of annual town meetings in calendar year 2021 where concerns exist during the COVID-19 health emergency. This necessary piece of legislation was delayed in the House, making it necessary for the Governor to enact much of the bill by emergency order.

Senator Whitley and I introduced our bills, SB 157-FN-A and SB 70-FN, in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which focus on finally resolving the practice of boarding children in mental health crisis in our emergency rooms. When passed into law, the bills would go a long way to implementing a statewide system of care for children with mental and behavioral illness, ensuring they get the help they need when they need it. Click the image below to view a roundtable I hosted with Senator Whitley, Jodie Lubarsky from the Seacoast Mental Health Center, and a young constituent who experienced ER boarding first hand explaining the compelling need to solve this problem:

NH SENATE DEMOCRATS'

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

HOSTED BY

SENATOR BECKY WHITLEY - SD 15
SENATOR TOM SHERMAN - SD 24



In District Work



I have been working closely with the owners of the WHYM Craft Pub & Brewery in Hampton, "crafting" an amendment to SB 17 that would allow them to expand production of their favorite brews beyond their on site capacity by contracting with NH-based producers. This is a smart business solution for our local brewpubs and for the state as a whole, allowing expansion of local businesses and contract brewers, all while increasing state revenue. It has passed the Senate and is being introduced this week in the House!

I continue to work closely with district businesses to minimize the impact of CoVID on their ability to stay in operation. Perhaps most devastated by the pandemic are our restaurants, and so I signed on as a cosponsor to Senator Rosenwald's SB 128-FN-A-LOCAL to provide relief through temporary changes to the Rooms & Meals Tax. I have been in close touch with our federal delegation as well to ensure that NH businesses get the benefits they deserve as additional measures pass Congress and are signed into law by the President.

DISTRICT PHOTOS



King tide in Rye on the marsh



A warm week at Jenness beach brought out the surfers

IN DISTRICT NEWS

Girl Scout Cookie Season

Girl Scout Cookie season was once again upon us and, during these unprecedented times the tenacious drive of our Girl Scouts, could not be defeated. The Girl Scouts found multiple different ways to ensure we were all still able to gget our cookie fix through through initiatives like collaborating with Grubhub or allowing for direct orders from the Girl Scout Site found here. We have also luckily still been able to see the business acumen of our scouts in person, as some in-person booths were set up around the district, all while adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. Let's make sure we are supporting our scouts this season, while also getting a little cookie comfort for ourselves!

LCHIP Grant Recipients

As mentioned in my last Newsletter the Town of Hampton Falls and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests were 2020 LCHIP grant recipients. I was very excited to have walked the 32 acres of land along the Taylor River and abutting the Hurd Farm on February 12th, presenting Senate Resolutions to the Town, the Society, and to the Kibler Family recognizing the hard work that went into obtaining the grant. The award of this grant and the preservation of our pristine lands is something that can be overlooked, but is nonetheless something we need to strive for. Mother Nature will continue to provide for us, for only so long as we provide for her.



IN DISTRICT NEWS

Ocean Boulevard

The Department of Transportation held its first public meeting regarding Ocean Boulevard in Hampton on Tuesday, March 2nd. This meeting informed the public about the exciting improvements that will be coming to the 3.3 mile stretch of Rt 1A, which will improve mobility and safety for everyone and address growing concerns about rising sea levels . These plans are part of the state's Ten-Year Plan, and the presentation can be found on the DOT website [here](#). This is a great initiative that will bring much needed improvements to the Hampton community, resulting in benefits that will ripple throughout the Seacoast

Coakley Superfund Site

The EPA held a virtual briefing on the Coakley Superfund Site on March 3. The site continues to be a concern for the community and it is something that has stayed at the forefront of my mind. The EPA has announced that they will be implementing a legally-required Five-Year Review of the site, examining the previous remediation efforts that occurred. Updates on the EPA's efforts can be found [here](#).

District 24 Heroes

Officer Dave Hersey

I want to recognize the heroic actions of Seabrook police officer Dave Hersey. On Wednesday March 10th, Officer Hersey was the first to arrive on the scene of a deadly fire in Seabrook. Through his brave efforts, in spite of the significant risk to himself, he was able to assist one of the residents escape the blaze. Our first responders often make the choice to place our safety over that of their own, and they deserve the highest praise for those efforts. I want to express my personal thanks to Officer Hersey and all our first responders who responded to this tragic incident.

Lauren Hoepp

I also want to recognize Hampton's own Special Olympics athlete, Lauren Hoepp, who participated in this year's virtual Penguin Plunge. Lauren raised over \$3,000 for the Special Olympics through her fundraising for the Penguin Plunge. Even though these challenging times make what are normally community events where we can all come to rally together seemingly impossible, I applaud Lauren and everyone involved in the Penguin Plunge for finding a way to make this happen, all while staying safe.

COVID-19 Information

Precautions to avoid transmission of COVID-19: <https://bit.ly/3aJnEdv>

- Stay home unless have to go out on essential business (per Governor's Executive Order)
- Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds or apply alcohol-based hand sanitizer after any contact with others and several times during the day
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay at least six feet away from other people
- Cover coughs or sneezes with the inside of your elbow

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle Pain
- Sore throat
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Less common – diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain

What to do if sick or any of the above symptoms

- Call your primary care doctor
 - Call 2-1-1
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COVID-19 Vaccine Information

To Register for a COVID-19 Vaccine:

<https://vini.nh.gov/providers/s/>

Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers:

Moderna: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>

Pfizer-BioNtech: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

FDA's Translations of the Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers:

Moderna: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine>

Pfizer-BioNtech: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

FDA's Emergency Use Authorization:

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144636/download>

CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

Pfizer-BioNTech Fact Sheet:

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Moderna Fact Sheet:

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>

Local Reactions, Systemic Reactions, Adverse Events, and Serious Adverse Events:

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine: [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/reactogenicity.html?](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/reactogenicity.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-manufacturer%2Fpfizer%2Freactogenicity.html)

[CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-manufacturer%2Fpfizer%2Freactogenicity.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/reactogenicity.html)

Local Reactions, Systemic Reactions, Adverse Events, and Serious Adverse Events:

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/reactogenicity.html>

NH COVID-19 Hotlines

- **DHHS COVID-19 Hotline** 2-1-1 or 603-634-3388
- **Unemployment Assistance Hotline** 603-271-7700
- **Emergency Daycare System** 855-393-1731

NH COVID-19 Websites

- **NH DHHS COVID-19 Home Page** <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>
- **Gov's Emergency Orders** <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/index.htm>
- **COVID-19 NH Business Resources** <https://www.nheconomy.com/covid19>
- **Emergency Order #17 Essential Business List** <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/documents/emergency-order-17.pdf>
- **SBA Disaster Assistance** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- **NH PPE Supplies Needed** <https://www.nheconomy.com/ppehelp>
- **NH Employment Security - Unemployment Filing** <https://www.nhes.nh.gov/>
- **NH Responds Health Professional Volunteer Sign Up** <https://nhresponds.org/>
- **Nonprofit Volunteer Sign Up** <https://volunteernh.org/>
- **\$50M Hospital Relief Fund Applications** <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/media/pr/2020/03232020-healthcare-relief-fund.htm>
- **New Hampshire Hospitality Employee Relief Fund** <https://www.nhlra.com/new-hampshire-hospitality-employee-relief-fund.html>
- **Explanation of Public Health Monitoring and Movement Restriction Terms** <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/documents/terms.pdf>
- **Emergency Responders - Unprotected Exposure Guidelines** <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/documents/unprotected-exposure-guidance.pdf>
- **CDC Situation Summary** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **World Health Organization** https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1



CONTACT INFORMATION

(e): tom.sherman@leg.state.nh.us

(w): 603-271-7875

(h): 603-379-2248

Website: tomsherman.us

Staff: Jennifer Horgan, jennifer.horgan@leg.state.nh.us

ABOUT SENATE DISTRICT 24

District 24 includes Seabrook, South Hampton, Newton, Kensington, Hampton Falls, Hampton, North Hampton, Greenland, Stratham, Rye and New Castle.