

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Thursday, May 11, 2017

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a public meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2017 in the Municipal Services Building, 1401 J.F.K. Boulevard, 14th Floor, Room 1450.

Board Members Present: Tyra Bryant-Stephens, MD; Thomas Farley, MD, MPH; Marla J. Gold, MD; Jennifer Ibrahim, PhD; John Rich, MD, MPH.

Attendees: Caroline Johnson, Jeffrey Hom, Josh Roper, Lauren Ryder.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Health Commissioner and Board President Thomas A. Farley, MD, MPH called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM, welcoming the Board and guests. Dr. Farley introduced Dr. Caroline Johnson, MD to discuss two Board of Health regulations: the first concerning updates to school immunization requirements and the second concerning perinatal hepatitis B and C reporting.

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REGULATION:

Dr. Johnson presented an overview of the proposed regulation: “Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Immunization and Treatment of Newborns, Children and Adolescents.” She provided the following information:

- New requirements: the State of Pennsylvania has decreased the time frame for immunization requirements compliance for school entry: First day of school for 12th grade students and five days for a student below grade level 12.
- Previous immunization requirements were written to have separate requirements for going into kindergarten, sixth grade and high school because some students were grandfathered.
- Upon graduation, students should have the core series of vaccines:
 - 3 doses of Hepatitis B
 - Diphtheria
 - Tetanus
 - Pertussis
 - Update on Poliomyelitis, 4th dose booster must be given on or after 4th birthday
 - 2 doses of Measles Mumps and Rubella
 - 2 doses of Varicella (will accept proof of immunity from physician or lab test)

This regulation is consistent with State policy, the language used is standardized and grandfathering is eliminated.

- All schools in Philadelphia have to follow these requirements with no exemptions even home-schooled children.
- School nurses will make recommendations on 12-month vaccine for MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) occurring a week before the 12th month.
- Special requirement of Meningococcal and Pertussis, tetanus, diphtheria for 7th grade entry changed from 6th grade to coincide with 7th grade physical exam and to meet State policy.
- 12th grade entry requirement for Meningococcal is brand new at the State level and must be enforced. Federal government will cover Meningococcal vaccines for students under 19. The 12th grade entry requirement for Pertussis, tetanus, diphtheria is enforced to review the vaccines are up to date.

There was brief discussion among the Board about HPV vaccination and its absence from currently required vaccinations for school entry.

City of Philadelphia Health Department’s plan to reinforce State of Pennsylvania requirements:

Schools will follow the State mandate to reinforce immunization requirements. The City will notify new 12th graders of the new meningococcal vaccine requirements.

Dr. Farley stated we should monitor this to prevent a disproportionate disadvantage to families with fewer resources. Working with the schools and healthcare providers will assist with communication and coordination with those affected. Dr. Farley motioned that the regulation be approved. Motion seconded. **Motion passed.**

PERINATAL HEPATITIS B AND C REPORTING REGULATION:

Dr. Johnson presented an overview of the proposed regulation: “Amendments to Regulations Governing the Control of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases and Conditions.”

The new regulation specifies requirements for provider reporting of hepatitis B to include all laboratory tests related to hepatitis B as well as reporting of all pregnant women with chronic or acute hepatitis B or C infection.

Benefits of reporting requirements:

- City Health Centers will have communicable disease data on maternal health for first and subsequent pregnancies, which can lead to an increase in updated vaccinations city-wide.
- Exception from HIPAA enables providers to legally report cases.

Dr. Farley motioned that the regulation be approved. Motion seconded. **Motion passed.**