

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

Thursday, March 12, 2020

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a public meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020 in the Municipal Services Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1450.

**Board Members Present:** Dr. Thomas Farley, Dr. Tyra Bryant-Stephens, Dr. Marla Gold, Dr. Jennifer Ibrahim, Dr. Amid Ismail, Dr. Scott McNeal, Dr. John Rich

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Health Commissioner and Board President Thomas Farley, MD, MPH, called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM. Dr. Farley asked for comments and questions about the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Health held on Thursday, February 13, 2020.

**Motion for approval of minutes approved unanimously.**

**EPIDEMIOLOGIC AND CONTROL ASPECTS OF COVID-19**

Dr. Farley presented on the epidemiologic and control aspects of the novel coronavirus, including a discussion of the epidemic curves in other locations. Farley discussed strategies for addressing COVID-19, including contact tracing, social distancing, and community spread management. Farley noted that interventions do not need to be perfectly implemented to be successful; it is only necessary to reduce the reproductive rate sufficiently to control the spread of the infection.

Dr. Farley noted the current challenges of slow and limited COVID-19 testing, owing to a lack of sites capable of conducting the tests and limitations on reagent stock. The Board discussed current City efforts to control COVID-19 and possible future control measures.

**AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE AND NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS**

Dr. Caroline Johnson presented on “Amendments to Regulations Governing the Control of Communicable and Noncommunicable Disease and Conditions,” which add COVID-19 to the list of diseases or conditions that are reportable and can result in quarantine or isolation. Johnson noted that this regulation was being pursued to clarify the Department’s authority. Johnson also noted that the regulation covered any novel coronavirus strain capable of causing severe disease or with pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV, which surfaced in the early 2000s.

Dr. Johnson noted that the proposed regulation was drafted to go into effect immediately pursuant to emergency authority.

**Motion for approval of regulation approved unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Farley adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.