

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

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a special public meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. The meeting was held virtually using the GoToWebinar platform in light of restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, allowing access to the public via computer or other device and via a toll-free phone number.

Board Members Present

Dr. Tyra Bryant-Stephens, Dr. Ana Diez-Roux, Dr. Thomas Farley, 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 6:41 PM.

MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from November 24, 2020.

NINETEENTH SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 (AMENDMENT TO SAFER AT HOME FALL-WINTER RESTRICTIONS)

Jo Rosenberger-Altman, of the Law Department, described the regulation in the context of the Board approving the Eighteenth Supplementary Regulation at a time of high case counts in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. The number of new cases in Philadelphia began dropping, while the state's new case counts continued rising until they implemented similar orders.

The regulation is about the Board agreeing with the Mayor's and Health Commissioner's December 30th Order, which is an amendment to the November 16th Safer-at-Home order and will expire on January 15, 2021 unless extended.

Ms. Rosenberger-Altman then described the December 30th Order. This Order extends the previous Order through January 15, 2021. Exceptions include: in-person secondary education (high school), and outdoor events with food and drink with a maximum of 25 people, and a limit of four people per table. The Order adds additional restrictions for office work, in order to line up with the state's Order, and says that if work can be conducted remotely or via telework it should be.

Additional settings and activities that will be allowed to resume on January 4, provided they meet density limits and masking. These include: gyms and indoor exercise facilities, and indoor

cultural, recreation, and entertainment facilities without eating, drinking, or smoking. Outdoor sporting activities for youth and adult are permitted to resume, provided they follow guidance from the Fourth Emergency Regulation from September.

Dr. Farley clarified that theaters are not allowed to be open, but museums and other settings may resume and that theaters in those facilities are not allowed to open. Theaters and other performance venues allow people to sit together for longer than other settings and are considered higher risk at this point.

Dr. Farley described the general principles guiding the restrictions being put in place. Settings that are indoors, have lots of people, people together for a longer period of time, lack of mask use, or have evidence of outbreaks in those settings are more likely to be restricted. Indoor settings tend to be the highest risk, when compared to outdoor settings. This means that ventilation should be a key component to reopening indoor dining, and the Health Department is looking into how to improve that.

Dr. McNeal moved; Dr. Ibrahim seconded.

Motion for approval of regulation approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Farley adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.