

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

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a special public meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020. 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 6:08 PM.

MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from October 28, 2020.

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

Jo Rosenberger-Altman, of the Law Department, described that if any part of this regulation conflicts with previous regulations governing the control and prevention of COVID-19, it is understood that this regulation will supersede those regulations in the case of the conflict.

The Order defines the term “gathering” as a pair or number of individuals from different households who are in close proximity to one another for more than several minutes. The term “indoors” refers to any location enclosed by three or more walls or impermeable barriers, and has an enclosing roof.

Section Three of the Order prohibits gatherings indoors in a residence or other private location, except in limited circumstances. Anyone who is allowed to enter a private indoor location must comply with state and City guidance on masking and distancing.

Outdoor social gatherings are also limited. No more than 10 people per 1,000 square feet of space and no more than 2,000 people total. No food and drink service is allowed at these gatherings and masking and distancing guidance must be followed. There is a limited exception to this prohibition in the case of 10 or fewer people.

Section Four deals with educational settings. In this Order, secondary education, colleges and universities, and all other classroom-based educational programs are prohibited from conducting in-person instruction. Exceptions to this prohibition include childcare and early education programs, elementary and middle schools, the City's Access Centers, and certain health care clinical training as noted in guidance from the Health Department.

Section Five deals with restaurants and catered events. In this Order, indoor dining, on-site food service business, and catering service is prohibited. Outdoor dining may continue, but the maximum allowed number of people at a table is reduced to four. Takeout and delivery service continue to be allowed.

Section Six deals with retail stores, personal care services, and office-based settings. All non-restaurant retail and personal care services businesses must operate with density limits of no more than 5 people per 1,000 square feet and follow all masking and distancing guidance. All office-based settings that do not directly provide services must continue to be conducted remotely, if able. On-site businesses must adhere to density limits of no more than 5 people per 1,000 square feet and follow all masking and distancing guidance.

Section Seven deals with religious, cultural, recreational, sports, and entertainment activities. Operations are prohibited at many indoor gathering places listed in the Order. The Philadelphia Zoo may only operate outdoor facilities, and libraries may not operate, other than to provide curbside book pickup and dropoff. Religious institutions and funeral homes may continue to operate, but with density limits of 5% of the posted occupancy limit; if no occupancy limit is posted, only 5 people per 1,000 square feet.

All outdoor religious, cultural, recreational, entertainment and sporting events are allowed to continue with the following restrictions: facilities that have defined seating capacities can utilize no more than 10% of that capacity, facilities that do not seats or a defined capacity are allowed no more than 10 people per 1,000 square feet, no facility or location is allowed more than 2,000 people total.

Section Eight deals with physical recreation and activities. Gyms and indoor exercise activities are prohibited. Trainers may operate classes outdoors if they comply with state and City guidance on masking and distancing. Formally organized games and sports are prohibited, except for outdoor professional and college sports, which must have health and safety plans specifically approved by the Health Department.

Section Nine deals with additional responsibilities for masking, density, and signage requirements. The owner, operator, or host of any business is responsible for the application of this Order and can be held liable for anyone in their business not following the Order. The owner, operator, or host must also post signage advising of the health and safety requirements.

Section Ten deals with additional mask requirements. The Order reiterates that people are required to properly wear well-fitted masks whenever they are around people from other households. The Health Department still recommends the use of higher quality masks. The Order

also provides a change to the June 26 Mask Order, lowering the age of children exempted from that Order from eight to two, consistent with the state Order.

Ms. Rosenberger-Altman confirmed that the regulation before the Board adopts the emergency Order signed by the Mayor, which expires January 1, 2021.

Dr. Gold moved; Dr. Ibrahim seconded.

Motion for approval of regulation approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Farley adjourned the meeting at 6:29 PM.