

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

Tuesday, January 4, 2021

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a public meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 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. Cheryl Bettigole, Dr. Tyra Bryant-Stephens, Dr. Ana Diez-Roux, Dr. Marla Gold, Dr. Jennifer Ibrahim, Dr. Amid Ismail, Dr. Scott McNeal

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Health Commissioner and Board President Cheryl Bettigole, MD, MPH called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Mr. Benjamin Hartung, of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, reviewed the public comment process.

**MINUTES**

Dr. Gold moved; Dr. Ismail seconded.

**The Board unanimously approved the minutes from December 14, 2021.**

**REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING HELD DECEMBER 23RD, 2021 BY THE PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF HEALTH REGARDING RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE EMERGENCY REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 MANDATING VACCINES FOR INDIVIDUALS WORKING AND DINING AT INDOOR DINING LOCATIONS**

Ms. Jo Rosenberger-Altman of the City's Law Department presented the report. She noted that the last page of the report details one proposed change to the Regulation, which identifies a clarification that the optional testing done in lieu of requiring vaccines only applies to patrons and not staff of food establishments.

Ms. Rosenberger-Altman listed the materials in the attached Exhibits document.

In response to a comment from the public, Mr. Hartung noted that the report, if adopted by the Board, will be posted to the City's website by the City's Department of Records.

Mr. Hartung also noted that he previously emailed comments from the public to the Board members and noted that there are new comments being put into the chat window and emailed and reminded the Board members to review all of the comments.

Dr. Ismail suggested adding a reference to the report, regarding a comparison of cases and deaths for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, published on November 21, 2021. This reference is intended to support the idea that vaccines are effective, based on published data showing a higher risk of becoming infected with COVID and COVID-related death for unvaccinated individuals. This reference should replace citation 47 that Dr. Ismail previously submitted.

Dr. Bettigole called for a motion on the amended footnote.

Dr. Ibrahim moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

**Motion to include the amended footnote in the report approved unanimously.**

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a motion to approve the report with the previously approved amendment.

Dr. Gold moved; Dr. Ismail seconded.

**Motion for approval of the report approved unanimously.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Bettigole adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM.