

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

Thursday, August 4, 2022

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a public meeting on Thursday, August 4, 2022. The meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform in order to facilitate access by 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. Marla Gold, Dr. Scott McNeal, Dr. Jennifer Ibrahim

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Health Commissioner and Board President Cheryl Bettigole, MD, MPH called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and performed a roll-call.

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

MINUTES

Dr. Gold moved; Dr. Bryant-Stephens seconded.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from June 16, 2022.

AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 MANDATING VACCINES FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND IN HIGHER EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, AND RELATED SETTINGS

Jo Rosenberger-Altman of the City of Philadelphia Law Department presented updates to the existing Regulation.

Definitions of the terms of athletic training, covered healthcare worker, healthcare institutions, and covered higher education institutions have been updated to match with other existing Regulations. This includes the change that people who were not healthcare workers but worked in a covered healthcare setting would be covered by the vaccine mandate; this is no longer the case.

Updates to the Regulated Individuals and Establishments included noting that exempted Covered Higher Education Individuals must comply with the Institutions accommodations only if less than 90% of the Individuals there are fully vaccinated.

Additionally, routine testing now only applies when the city of Philadelphia is listed as medium or high on the CDC's COVID-19 Community Level. The testing requirement will be suspended when the Community Level is low.

Covered Healthcare Workers who do not work in healthcare institutions and have an exemption are not required to test.

The Regulation now includes information on documenting testing accommodations that was previously only found in the City's guidance.

Dr. McNeal asked for clarification on the changes to the Healthcare Worker definition. Dr. Bettigole explained that the change clarifies that people who work in a healthcare setting, but do not provide healthcare services are no longer considered covered by this Regulation.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a desire to add the words, "is patient-facing at a location," to the definition of Covered Healthcare Worker.

Dr. McNeal moved; Dr. Ibrahim seconded.

Motion for the change in language approved unanimously.

Dr. Ibrahim questioned the need for the example, "such as pharmacies," in the Healthcare Institution definition.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a desire to cut the clause, "such as pharmacies," in the Healthcare Institution definition.

Dr. Ibrahim moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

Motion for the change in language approved unanimously.

Dr. McNeal questioned the removal of acupuncture, chiropractic care, and naturopathic care from the list of Healthcare Related Services.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a desire to re-add the following services to the list of Healthcare Related Services: acupuncture, chiropractic care, and naturopathic care.

Dr. Bryant-Stephens moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

Motion for the change in language approved unanimously.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a move to amend the agenda to vote on the newly updated Regulation.

Dr. Bryant-Stephens moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

The agenda change was approved unanimously.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a desire to move on the newly updated Regulation.

Dr. Gold moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

Motion for approval of the Regulation approved unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONTROL OF
COMMUNICABLE AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS,
RELATING TO MONKEYPOX**

Ms. Rosenberger-Altman reviewed the Amendment. The Amendment adds monkeypox to the list of immediately reportable diseases and conditions, and implementation of isolation, disinfection, and monitoring.

Dr. Bettigole recommended that immediate reporting be changed from, “within 24 hours of suspicion,” to, “within 24 hours of diagnosis of a probable or confirmed case.”

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a move to make that change.

Dr. Gold moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

Motion for the change in language approved unanimously.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a move to amend the agenda to vote on the newly updated Regulation.

Dr. McNeal moved; Dr. Ibrahim seconded.

The agenda change was approved unanimously.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a desire to move on the newly updated Regulation.

Dr. McNeal moved; Dr. Ibrahim seconded.

Motion for approval of the Regulation approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bettigole adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.