

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

Thursday, October 13, 2022

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a public meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2022. The meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform in order to facilitate access by the public via computer or other device and 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 6:33 PM and performed a roll-call.

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

MINUTES

Dr. Ibrahim moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from August 4, 2022.

SECOND 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 the Amendment to the Board.

Within the Definitions, Covered Healthcare Workers now exclude individuals who work exclusively in private homes, but have no other contact with patients at another location. Covered Higher Education Individuals now only applies to those 18 and older and excludes contractors who only work at a Covered Higher Educational Institution sporadically.

The rest of the Regulation's changes remove accommodations for those with exemptions, including masking and testing requirements. While asymptomatic testing is no longer required, positive test results should continue to be reported, per previous Amendments. Similarly, masking is still required for healthcare workers in patient-facing positions, per previous Amendments.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a desire to move on the Regulation.
Dr. Ismail moved; Dr. McNeal seconded.

Motion for approval of the Regulation approved unanimously.

Dr. Bettigole directed the Board to review comments from the public in the chat.

FOURTH CONSOLIDATED AND RESTATED SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 (REVISED SAFETY MEASURES AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY)

Ms. Rosenberger-Altman reviewed the Consolidated Regulation, first reviewing the existing Regulations that are not affected by the Fourth Consolidated Regulation.

The Third Consolidated and Restated Emergency Regulation Governing the Control and Prevention of COVID-19, the Emergency Regulation Governing the Control and Prevention of COVID-19 Mandating Vaccines for Individuals Working and Dining at Indoor Dining Locations, and the Emergency Regulation of the Board of Health Governing the Control and Prevention of COVID-19 Pertaining to Fines and Penalties have been superseded and repealed.

The Delegation of Authority statement given to the Health Commissioner is still in effect.

Attachment A of the Regulation contains information on COVID-19 safety measures, which have been modified and relaxed by the Health Department. Businesses and organizations are still required to allow masking in their business. Face coverings are still required in two places: in patient facing settings in healthcare organizations and in all healthcare settings following a high-risk exposure or testing positive, and in congregate living facilities. Exceptions to the masking requirements are the same as before.

Businesses and organizations must allow any worker who tests positive for or is diagnosed with COVID-19 to remain absent from any in-person workplace in accordance with Health Department or healthcare worker guidance. Businesses and organizations should encourage workers who are close contacts of positive cases to mask in accordance with Health Department guidance.

Businesses and organizations are liable for noncompliance by employees regarding allowing masking in their establishment and regarding worker isolation requirements.

Dr. Ibrahim asked how workers would know what the Health Department guidance is. Dr. Bettigole noted that current guidance is available on the City's phila.gov/covid website.

Dr. Bettigole directed the Board to review comments from the public in the chat.

Dr. Bettigole asked if there was a desire to move on the Regulation.
Dr. Gold moved; Dr. Ibrahim 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 ACUTE FLACCID MYELITIS**

Jessica Baptiste, Policy Coordinator in the Health Department, presented on this Amendment, including reviewing the Whereas statements that describe the history of this condition. She noted that the Health Department has been asked to add this condition to the list of Reportable Diseases as it has been connected with poliovirus infections.

The Amendment would add Acute Flaccid Myelitis as an immediately reportable disease, meaning that, upon detection, it is reported within 24 hours to the Acute Communicable Disease Program of the Health Department. Isolation and quarantine would not required, and disinfection and cleaning should be standard.

Only healthcare workers with documented immunity to poliovirus should care for the patient.

Dr. Bettigole directed the Board to review comments from the public in the chat.

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

Dr. McNeal moved; Dr. Ibrahim seconded.

Motion for approval of the Regulation approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bettigole adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.