

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
December 10, 2020**

**APPROVED**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Patrick T. Dowling, M.D., M.P.H., **Chairperson** \*  
 Kelly Colopy, M.P.P., **Vice-Chair** \*  
 Alina Dorian, Ph.D. \*  
 Crystal D. Crawford, J.D.\*  
 Diego Rodrigues, LMFT, MA \*

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health \*  
 Dr. Muntu Davis, Health Officer \*\*

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS**

Christina Vane-Perez, Chief of Staff \*  
 Dawna Treece, PH Commission Liaison\*

**\*Present \*\*Excused \*\*\*Absent**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP</b>
<b><u>I.</u></b> <b><u>Call to Order</u></b>	<i>The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m. by Chair Dowling, at the Central Public Health Center.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b><u>II.</u></b> <b><u>Announcements and Introductions</u></b>	The Commissioners, DPH staff, and guests introduced themselves.  March, June and September meeting minutes	<i>Information only.</i>  <i>March, June and September meeting minutes were Approved.</i>
<b><u>III.</u></b> <b><u>Public Health Report</u></b>	Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director provided the Commission with with Public Health reports and COVID updates since our last meeting on September 10, 2020.  <b>Dr. Ferrer's Report</b>  In Memoriam: Dr. Ferrer acknowledged the passing of former Commissioner Dr. Jean Champommier. Dr. Champommier was the CEO and president for Alma Family Services in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Supervisorial District and served the public for over 40 years. He was an incredible community leader and a friend to many.	

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
December 10, 2020**

Public Health has filled some essential vacancies with highly skilled staff to continue the work of the County: Christina Vane-Perez as the Chief of Staff, Megan McClaire as the Chief Deputy Director, John Connolly as Chief Strategist, Rob Ragland as Chief Compliance Officer, Jaclyn Balkam as the Chief Operating Officer for the Alliance for Health Integration, Dr. Gary Tsai as the Division Director of SAPC, and Lisa Finkelstein as Director of Vital Records.

**COVID-19 Community Equity Fund**

The Community Equity Fund is a joint effort with the Departments of Health Services and Public Health along with Community Partners, which is a nonprofit organization that coordinate with our local community-based organizations (CBO). The CBOs are part of the COVID response and prevention activities in their communities and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services in what would historically be considered underserved communities. The CBOs will provide education and outreach, connect people who need social and medical services, and provide some support for case investigation, contract tracing and system navigation particularly in those communities that have been hardest hit by the virus.

COVID-19 Community Ambassador Program will be launched at the end of December 2020. The program will create and empower community members to understand the directives and to be a ground source of information for people in the community. Ambassadors will complete a training program, receive supplies and an exclusive face covering identifying them as a community ambassadors. Public Health is also partnering with LACOE to provide a Health and Safety Ambassador Program for students and parents. DPH has contracted with Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA) to offer multiple trainings for students and parents to develop their knowledge of infection prevention and Public Health's school-related guidance.

Public Health's Community Health Worker Program began in October and will run until the end of December 2020. The program was supported by CARES Act fund for a limited time. Public Health is currently looking for more funding to continue the work of more than 700 Community Health Workers that are doing in-person and virtual

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
December 10, 2020**

	<p>outreach in targeted communities to connect them to needed resources.</p> <p>LAC has reported over 10,000 new cases today and this surge is probabaly due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Unfortunately, LAC will only continue to see higher case rates in the coming weeks if folks refuse to stay home and not take the necessary steps to quarantine once they return from their holiday. The winter holiday season is approaching and lots of schools will be out for winter break. Families may choose to travel and/or intermingle with those outside of their household. People must understand the importance of following the stay-at-home orders. Both County and State orders are in effect now until December 27<sup>th</sup>. The County have permitted retail, but at very low capacity and no overcrowding.</p> <p>We are seeing reduced capacity in our intensive care units, which are the results from case numbers a couple of weeks ago. Hospitals will be making the very difficult choices with postponing what are not absolutely considered essential services.</p> <p>For daily updates, data trends and other COVID-19 information, visit Public Health's website:</p> <p><a href="http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/">publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/</a></p>	
--	---	--

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
December 10, 2020**

<p><b><u>IV. Presentation:</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Vaccine Response</i></b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>Dr. Seira Kurian, Director of Medical and Dental Affairs shares updates on vaccine response</p> <p>Los Angeles County is expecting the first allotment of vaccines from both Pfizer and Moderna soon. The first allocation will be from Pfizer in the upcoming weeks. The FDA will approve the vaccines to be used under emergency use authorization. The FDA is meeting today and will have an answer by this afternoon about whether they will approve the Pfizer vaccine. The ACIP, the body that recommends vaccines and their usage to the CDC, is going to meeting tomorrow to make recommendations around which populations should be vaccinated.</p> <p>Both vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, are vaccines that require storage in freezers. The Pfizer vaccine requires storage a much colder or ultra-low temperature freezer. When the Pfizer vaccine is ready for use, it gets removed from the freezer, thawed, then it's reconstituted, which means it has to be mixed with a dilutant, and then the vaccine has to be administered within about 6 hours after it goes through the process.</p> <p>The Moderna vaccine does not require ultra low temperature freezers. It can be maintained in a standard freezer. This is ideal for facilities that do not have the capability of an ultra low temperature freezers.</p> <p>Both vaccines do require a second dose. For Pfizer, it's within 21 days of receiving the first, and for Moderna it's within 28 days. The efficacy of the vaccine is looking very promising. Both the vaccines have about 94% efficacy under ideal conditions. More information about how these vaccines perform under real-life conditions will come as they roll out. Information is being collected from the UK as they have already started to vaccinate individuals. LAC is partnering with a state registration system that will help keep track of individuals who</p>	
--	--	--

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
December 10, 2020**

receive the first dose and who will then be required to come back for the second dose.

There are pretty minimal side effects. Most folks that received the vaccination have experienced fatigue, some muscles aches, some locals issues around the vaccination site but most have been resolved within a week.

Public Health understands there are some vaccine hesitancy in our communities, but working closely with various stakeholder groups and community partners to understand some of the concerns that might exist so we know how to appropriately message residents.

LAC is in instense collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies in efforts to roll out and distribute. All prioritization group that are targeted are aligned with the recommendations that the ACIP and the state are outlining for Public Health. They have a structured way of determining how the population is selected, based on equity, the science and other various implementation factors.

LAC is expecting 3 shipments in December for an approximate total of 500,000 doses. These doses will be going out to nine pre-positioning site, then redistributed to the other acute care facilities. LAC will try to keep the public updated on the vaccination efforts.

*Comm. Crawford:*

*There's been outcry from South LA communities regarding hospitals in their communities not being one of the initial list of 9. This is a community that's used to getting left out and historically excluded. So, messaging is important so resident can understand the process. How is this being addressed?*

-It is important to note those sites are just early sites that were identified that had ultra-low temperature freezer capability. So, these were sort of a holding site. As soon as there is approval from ACIP, the expectation is within roughly 24 hours we can start vaccinating. The holding sites will redistribute to all other acute care facilites in the county. The communication team will be informed regarding clear messaging on the distribution to the community.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
December 10, 2020**

*Comm. Rodrigues:*

*There's a great deal of misinformation out there about the vaccines and the vaccination process. Although the Community Ambassadors and Community Health workers are in place, is the department planning any other type of broader community engagement or community education campaigns to address this misinformation specifically to minority groups and priority groups?*

-There is a communication plan because of the myths and hesitancy. There is a need to provide actual facts about the vaccine, about vaccine efficacy, and the safety. The information will be communicated on our public facing web page and will be available to community health workers. In addition, there will be workgroups with multiple county and community stakeholders for feedback and to discuss the issues to understand the specifics around how to best communicate out to these communities.

*Comm. Dowling:*

Over the years vaccination rates for influenza by SPA areas and some of the communities of underrepresented people are on the highest list, but if you look at the data of people seen in the public health clinics, etc., the rates of refusal are much higher than other areas of the city which means they have access, but they are suspicious of what this is and why they should take it. That's why outreaches are so important.

Comm. Crawford commented on a social media conversation with hip hop producer, Jermaine Dupri. The conversation circled around the hesitancy about the vaccine when so many other things that are particularly at high risk. It was not trying to advocate for the vaccine, but trying to address people's different standards, and some of it was around sexual behavior. It brought up the questions of the dangerous things people do to their bodies versus taking a potential life saving vaccine.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
December 10, 2020**

<p><b><u>V.</u>    <u>New Business</u></b></p>	<p>Election of 2020-21 Chair and Vice-Chair:</p> <p>Kelly Colopy was nominated as Chair and Alina Dorian was nominated and Vice-Chair.</p>	<p><i>All voted and in favor to approved nominations:</i></p> <p><i>SD1 - Yea</i></p> <p><i>SD2 - Yea</i></p> <p><i>SD3 - Yea</i></p> <p><i>SD4 - Yea</i></p> <p><i>SD5 - Yea</i></p>
<p><b><u>VI.</u>    <u>Unfinished Business</u></b></p>		
<p><b><u>VII.</u>    <u>Public Comment</u></b></p>		
<p><b><u>VIII.</u>    <u>Adjournment</u></b></p>	<p><b><i>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</i></b></p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 12:04 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Commission Dowling called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Vice-Chair Colopy and seconded by Commissioner Dorian. All in favor.</i></p>