

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

**COMMISSIONERS**

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

**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. Call to Order</u></b>	<i>The meeting was called to order remotely at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Colopy</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b><u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u></b>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves.  September meeting minutes	<i>Information only.</i>  <i>Minutes approved</i>
<b><u>III. Public Health Report</u></b>	Dr. Ferrer, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  Commissions, under the Board of Supervisors, are to maintain a virtual format. LAC had a surge last summer followed by a surge in winter. Although more people are vaccinated, LAC saw a surge during the summer and needs to prepare for the possibility of a winter surge. October 2020, the numbers had gone down very low. It's prudent to not have people come together and to remain virtual.  Public Health promoted Dr. Rita Singhal as the new Chief Medical Director and the Deputy Director for the Disease Control Bureau. Dr. Singhal has been with Public Health for many years and has spent the last 20 months taking on different leadership challenges with COVID, including POD operations. Also, Dr. Frank Alvarez retired as the	

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

Regional Health Officer for SPAs 1 and 2 and Dr. Silvia Prieto retired as Regional Health Officer for SPAs 7 and 8. The item posting was forwarded to the Commission since the last virtual meeting.

Public Health is hosting an Employee Appreciation Day on November 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be held at Grand Park downtown. This is a Giving Thanks event and a way of appreciating each other during this difficult .

LAC residents are highly encouraged to get their flu shots. The Flu shot will be available at the COVID vaccination sites starting Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Public Health has new campaign materials out there emphasizing that this is the year to get two vaccines.

Last month Dr. Kurian talked about boosters and third doses. There are about a million people that completed their two-dose series at the beginning of April with the Pfizer vaccine. There was a supply scarcity earlier this year, so most of the people that were getting vaccinated before April were essential workers and healthcare workers and those living in skilled nursing homes.

To date, there are close to 300,000 people that have gotten the Pfizer booster. The system and the network have held up to the demand. There are no long waits and everyone who wants a booster shot has been able to get it. The nursing homes mostly vaccinated with Moderna, there were only about 3,000 residents that used Pfizer.

The FDA is facing two issues. They are looking at Moderna and J&J for boosters and/or a mix and match. It is anticipated that there will be a recommendation for a booster with J&J, we are awaiting approval from CDC.

The booster proposal for Moderna is six months and the proposal from J&J is anywhere from two to four months after receiving the first dose. Public Health is pushing hard for boosters for the most vulnerable populations. Although Pfizer showed the most significant decrease in vaccine efficacy, it's still very high.

Public Health is currently running seven sites to maintain consistency in the hardest-hit communities. This is to build and maintain trust in communities. Public Health is responsible to make sure the network works across the county and approves allocation

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

and distribution. Public Health maintains a warehouse that helps to make sure larger lots can be broken down into smaller lots for distribution to small clinics.

Public Health looks forward to FDA and CDC approval regarding Pfizer vaccines for five- to eleven-year-olds. Public Health is making a huge effort in helping this age group get vaccinated and is relying on schools, pediatricians, and family doctors.

To date, there have been almost 13 million doses of the vaccine administered across the county networks. 70% of 12 and older LAC residents are fully vaccinated and 79% with at least one dose. 91% of the people who got a first dose are on schedule for their second dose. So, the assumption is LAC will reach 79% fully vaccinated soon.

Public Health has on average 350-400 mobile teams that are carrying the Pfizer vaccine. They are offering first, second, and third doses. Because of the cold chain requirements, only half of the fixed sites offer Pfizer, which is about 750 out of 1,300 sites.

There was a new Health Officer Order that went into effect last week which requires everyone who is going to bars, breweries, nightclubs, distilleries, and lounges to have at least one dose of the vaccine as of last week for entry into any indoor space. Starting November 4<sup>th</sup>, employees and customers need to be fully vaccinated. There is no test out option for patrons. Employers can manage this on their own depending on their counsel on whether they want to offer religious and medical exemptions for their employees, but this is not an option for customers. For mega sites, those require that people over 12 to either be vaccinated or have a negative test result. No citations will be issued during the transitional period, but we are providing TA to ensure people are aware and are in compliance.

The Health Officer Order that is in effect right now has a huge impact on every LAC employee. There is a mandate that went into effect stating that all County workers should be fully vaccinated by Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Public Health is at 94% but there are a lot of people that haven't signed up yet for other reasons. Public Health department is no different from other employers. We have 86% that are fully vaccinated, and some are partially vaccinated while others are either applying for religious exemptions or medical exceptions. In order to not create a risk for other staff, unvaccinated employees have been moved from the healthcare facilities. Everyone in this environment is 100%

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

	<p>vaccinated. At this point, anyone that has not entered their data into the system is subject to disciplinary actions.</p> <p>LAC has over 3000 schools open and fully operational. Although there are hundreds of cases, this is the result of having frequent and increased testing. With all the cases, there have been only 16 or 18 outbreaks. Public Health has an outbreak team that is working closely with the schools to help them figure out what essential and important practices to implement. Public Health has a call center that would help schools with who needs to be quarantined and who is eligible for modified quarantine. LAUSD has an elaborate system in place and is also starting to move staff that are not going to be compliant. Public Health is currently trying to bring in contract workers to help with the efforts in schools.</p> <p>For more information and COVID-19 updates visit <a href="http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/">http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/</a></p>	
<p><b><u>IV. Presentation:</u></b></p> <p>LAC COVID-19 Response for People Experiencing Homelessness</p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>John Connolly, Ph.D., M.S.Ed., Chief Strategist, provided some context on the progress of people who are experiencing homelessness related to COVID and discussed the different interventions and efforts that are in process.</p> <p>On a seven-day rolling average of daily cases among People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH), last winter there was a surge and reported 100 cases per day on average then came down in January and February.</p> <p>There were very low case rates in late spring and summer through June and then a recent surge, which topped at 30 cases per day. Then a decline in case mid-August through September/October. We are now at 10 cases in the seven-day rolling average.</p> <p>Outbreaks somewhat mirror the trends in the cases. The first uptick was summer of last year in late June and July. Then November, December, and January showed a pronounced surge.</p>	

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

	<p>The outbreaks were occurring mainly in encampments of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. There was transmission in unsheltered environments, in encampments, but the largest was found at homeless shelters, which is a higher risk congregate environment because of the large open spaces without walls.</p> <p>In most recent weeks, there have been three outbreaks reported but may go up if the number of cases increase. The data is showing a downward direction, but Public Health is keeping a close eye as winter approaches.</p> <p>Elements of our COVID response have always been prevention and mitigation strategies. The effort was led by the Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) Program. The experts focused on PEH and their settings. Acute Communicable Disease Control provides guidance to homeless service providers, including shelters and interim housing—developed in partnership with LAHSA, DHS, and DMH as funders of these providers.</p> <p>Public Health Environmental Health Services and ACDC lead infection prevention efforts in shelters and encampments. For the past 20 months, the program ensured mitigation measures such as universal masking, distancing, partitions, bed spacing, and spacing of chairs were in place. Ensuring compliance with Health Officer Orders, DHS Housing for Health’s COVID Response Teams provided IP technical assistance and support, screening testing, and wellness checks for PEH as well. The screening testing was to see whether COVID was circulating in these different settings. The general wellness checks for PEH were provided for possible referrals to healthcare. Public Health’s PEH Team provides Outbreak Management for all outbreaks such as Investigation of cases and transmission pathways, Contact tracing, Infection control measures, Response testing, and Link to quarantine and isolation housing.</p> <p>Public Health, through CDC funding, funds and DHS operates quarantine and isolation Sites (Q/I). There are currently 3 sites: 2 hotels and MLK Recuperative Care Center. There were more sites across the county in different hotels and The Sobering Center on Skid Row was also a Q/I site but as cases dropped during the summer, the number of sites were reduced. Public Health call center makes linkage where outbreaks are identified from community sites and arranges transportation. All PEH who are cases are eligible for Q/I housing.</p>	
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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

	<p>Project Roomkey and Homekey are hotels and motels sites for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness that are high risk and provides non-congregate housing to prevent the spread of COVID. The sites are operated by the County and City of LA. Project Homekey Purchases and rehabilitates hotels and motels, and converts them into permanent, long-term housing for PEH.</p> <p>Public Health, along with DHS, leads the Vaccination effort with over 1000 community partners. DHS funded to coordinate community effort by Service Planning Areas and provides the largest share of vaccinations, roughly 1/3 of total for PEH. Community clinics, the City of Los Angeles, and other cities also provide vaccinations through clinics, mobile units, and field-based teams. These efforts provides incentives through both State funding and philanthropy, and engages peer ambassadors for outreach and education.</p> <p>Public Health will continue to reanalyze the data to understand where coverage is and to reassess and refocus our efforts to where coverage needs to be improved. If there are particular concerns about racial equity, Public Health will refocus their efforts and communicate with partners about where to redeploy.</p> <p>Just over 46% of PEH are fully vaccinated and 56% of people experiencing homelessness received one dose based on the LAHSA annual point-in-time county of people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Public Health will continue to work with partners to engage more people experiencing homelessness and to be mindful of the importance of getting rates up with winter and colder weather approaching.</p>	<p><i>Send PPT to Commissioners</i></p>
<p><b><u>V.</u>    <u>New Business</u></b></p>		
<p><b><u>VI.</u>    <u>Unfinished Business</u></b></p>		

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

<b><u>VII.</u>    <u>Public Comment</u></b>		
<b><u>VIII.</u>    <u>Adjournment</u></b>	<b><i>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</i></b>  <i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Commission Colopy called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and was seconded by Commissioner Dorian. All in favor.</i>