

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
March 11, 2021**

APPROVED

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**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
<u>I.</u> <u>Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order remotely at 10:36 a.m. by Vice Chair Dorian</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II.</u> <u>Announcements and Introductions</u>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves. January minutes February minutes	<i>Information only.</i> <i>Minutes approved</i> <i>Minutes approved</i>
<u>III.</u> <u>Public Health Report</u>	Dr. Ferrer, Director and Christina Vane-Perez, Chief of Staff gave Public Health Updates. It has been one year since the World Health Organization marked COVID-19 a pandemic. It is also our one year anniversary of the first COVID death. Although things are improving, there is still a lot to do. Right now, COVID is the leading cause of death in LAC. There have been 22,213 total deaths in LAC as of 3/10/21. Today, there are 1,100 people who are hospitalized. Last month 30% of those hospitalized needed to be in the ICU. Unfortunately, a large number of those in ICU are still passing away.	

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To date, almost 6 million people have been tested and test results reported in LAC. The cumulative test positivity rate is 19%, but the daily test positivity rate has dropped to 2%.

The County has done a really good job over the last couple of months to slow down transmission and we hope to continue to see numbers decline but there are other things we must be cautious about such as variants.

The County has variants and an increasing number of specimens are testing positive for variants. To date, Public Health has tested 755 specimens of COVID-19 virus in the labs for the presence of mutations. More than 450 of the genetic sequencing tests were performed as of January 1st this year. Public Health has found in total 47 cases of the UK variant, 9 cases of the New York variant, and 1 case of the P2 variant. Also of note, there have been 262 California variant cases that have been identified since December 1, 2020. There has been an increase in the sequencing data of the UK variant, which means it is circulating more widely.

The vaccines Public Health is currently using, including J&J, are fairly effective against the variants. It is crucial to have as little community transmission as possible so that the variants have less opportunity to become more dominant. Public Health will work hard to slow or reduce community transmission using standard public health measures, which include wearing masks, distancing, infection control, and lots of hand washing. Keeping these standards on the forefront will help as Public Health continues to get more people vaccinated.

LAC will soon transition from the purple tier, with all the restrictions, to the red tier this upcoming weekend. The State has created an acceleration clause in the movement from tiers by counties. Once LAC hits 2 million doses of vaccine administered in hard-hit communities, it can use the threshold of less than 10 cases per 100,000, which have been met.

Last week, the case rate was 702 new cases per 100,000 and this week it is 5.6 new cases per 100,000. Once the state announces

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	<p>Public Health has hit the 2 million doses mark, then the county can move to red and allow reopenings. Public Health will meet that threshold in the upcoming weeks.</p> <p>Health Officers orders are being prepared right now and LAC is aligned closely with the State. However, there are additional safety modifications for sectors that are reopening, but no sectors that the state permits to reopen will be closed. There are adjustments on capacity. For example, all personal care, hair salons are to maintain a 50% capacity and masking for all services. LAC will align with permitted activities in the red tier with reduced capacity. Outdoor sport events for professional sports and outdoor live entertainment at 20% capacity, and amusement parks and theme parks can reopen on April 1st with 15% capacity.</p> <p>LAC will remain in alignment with the State under the red tier although with protocols emphasizing the specific requirements around masking, distancing, and infection control.</p> <p>Red tier will also allow the reopening of schools. Once LAC moves into the red tier, schools are allowed to open for in-person learning for student in grades 7 – 12th. Schools were already allowed to open under the purple tier when the threshold was met for acceleration for students in grades TK-6th. Although in alignment with the state, Public Health will make recommendations with the 7-12th grade students to have stable groups. Although not a requirement, it is a strong recommendation that limits the transmission within the entire school and hopefully keep down the number of outbreaks in the school environment. A school guidance will be released soon.</p> <p>The State named Blue Shield as The Third Party Administrator. Public Health is working with Blue Shields and the state on our roles. LAC has been highly effective with quickly getting the vaccine to the public in the hardest hit communities. Public Health has over 375 partners that help with this effort and it could not be possible without them.</p>	
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	<p>LAC has vaccinated over 2.5 million and will be over 3 million by the end of the week. Of those people, 1 million are fully vaccinated. For people 65+ 58% of people have received their first dose and 30% would have received their second dose as of last week. Although, there is still a gap by race and ethnicity, there has been improvement in the percentage of Blacks and Latinx residents and Native Americans who are 65+ that have been vaccinated. As Public Health moves out more of the vaccine to mobile strategies and to give more vaccine to federally-qualified health centers and community partners, we will continue to see success.</p>	
<p><u>IV. Presentation:</u></p> <p><i>Public Health's</i></p>	<p>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</p> <p>Dr. Seira Kuria is helping to lead the LAC vaccination efforts.</p> <p>As of March 4th, there were about 2,415,000 doses administered and 814,593 were fully vaccinated with their second dose, but as of today the numbers are probably much closer to the numbers mentioned by Dr. Ferrer.</p> <p>LAC will expand eligibility to other populations but as of right now eligibility is for healthcare workers, resident and staff at long-term care facilities, and 65 and older. Vaccines are now available to Education and childcare workers, as well as food and agricultural workers, emergency service workers and law enforcement.</p> <p>The Healthy Places Index (HPI) shows the location of vaccine providers. The state set a requirement that at least 40% of vaccine doses in the county this week have to be distributed to communities that were within the lowest scores in the HPI. LAC not only met but exceeded the goal because there were more than 55% of doses that were distributed in the county going to sites where people were living in the hardest-hit communities such as South, Central and East LA, and Antelope Valley. Public Health has been working with partners and providers in those areas to assure that there was a variety of vaccination sites available for residents in areas with lower access to resources. There were over 100 sites available.</p>	

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This week a total of approximately 312,690 doses were received by the County. We have over 375 vaccination sites that are receiving allocations from Public Health. These numbers do not include doses that are directly dispensed by the federal government to some of the pharmacies or federally qualified health centers. Nor does it include those dispensed through Cal State FEMA vaccination sites, UCLA or Kaiser.

64,300 doses are being administered through the seven county sites, 54,000 doses going to the City of LA sites and 60,000 to federally qualified health centers and 40,000 to pharmacies. It is crucial to increase the allocations to these community sites to make sure providers are serving the hardest-hit communities. Of this week's allocation, 48,000 doses went to mobile teams that will go into the neighborhoods where people might have more limited mobility.

The county has the capacity to vaccinate 626,000 but we only had 312,000 doses for appointment. Public Health's mega POD has the capacity to provide 195,000 doses if there was a sufficient supply of vaccines coming into the County. So, low supply is the biggest limiting factor. Of the 312,000 doses the county received this week, 38% went towards 2nd doses. The remaining went to 1st dose appointments.

21% of the first dose supply went to the education sector, 24% went to the emergency response sector and 24% went to the food and agriculture sector, 26% to 65 and older and 26% was allocated for open appointments. 54,000 J&J one-dose vaccines came in this week and were distributed across community clinics, pharmacies, city, and county sites.

Some other concerns include reaching homebound individuals. Public Health is working with City Fire departments to identify ways to get to these individuals who are homebound and have no other option for vaccination.

Public Health will continue collaborations with unions, various professional associations, and will continue to work with community

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	<p>and faith- based organizations to reach out to individuals. Public Health had sector specific days at the mass vaccination sites and will coordinate with various worksite clinics and mobile teams to reach workers while at their jobs.</p> <p>There are a lot of challenges around verifying eligibility for individuals, especially individuals who may be working jobs where they are not getting a paycheck or maybe paid in cash. Public Health has established various ways of verifying eligibility for folks in the sector and will not require a government issued photo ID. Other than a government issued ID, other documents include a self-attestation letter which can be found on the website.</p> <p>New sectors that have opened up include janitorial services, those who are working in transit, which include individuals who provide ground service in airports. Corrections have already vaccinated inmates that meet existing criteria and they already have an infrastructure in place.</p> <p>Conversations have started with Public Health and partners in the substance use disorder and mental health facilities to provide strategies that allow vaccination opportunities.</p>	
<p><u>V.</u> <u>New Business</u></p>		
<p><u>VI.</u> <u>Unfinished Business</u></p>	<p>2021 Public Health Commission Annual Report</p>	<p><i>Dawna to outline all the activities conducted throughout the year and then send the report to Commissioners to review.</i></p>

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<p><u>VII.</u> <u>Public Comment</u></p>		
<p><u>VIII.</u> <u>Adjournment</u></p>	<p><i>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</i></p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 12:02 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Commission Dorian called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and was seconded by Commissioner Rodrigues. All in favor.</i></p>