

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION**

June 10, 2021

COMMISSIONERS

Kelly Colopy, M.P.P., **Chairperson** *
Alina Dorian, Ph.D., **Vice-Chair** *
Crystal D. Crawford, J.D.*
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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 **
Megan McClaire, Deputy Director*

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. Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order remotely at 10:35 a.m. by Chair Colopy</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves. April Meeting minutes May Meeting minutes	<i>Information only.</i> <i>April and May Minutes were approved</i>
<u>III. Public Health Report</u>	Los Angeles County remains in the least restrictive yellow tier in the State’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy framework. L.A. County’s adjusted case rate remains at 0.7 cases per 100,000 people, and the overall test positivity rate remains at 0.4% across the county and in areas with the fewest health affirming resources. LAC’s unadjusted case rate is 1.3 cases per 100,000, which ranks lower than NYC, Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco. And the overall test positivity rate remains at 0.4% across the entire county. Factors that contribute to the low case rates are the availability of vaccines coupled with natural immunity that many people are still carrying from the winter surge. Along with adhering to the protocols that are in place, high compliance and	

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safety modifications all resulted in low case rates, low hospitalizations, and very low death rates.

The vaccine has proven to be the most powerful tool for keeping cases down and for protection. As of June 4th, LAC has administered more than 9.6 million doses of vaccine. Of these, more than 5.5 million were first doses and nearly 4.1 million were second doses. This means that more than 5.4 million or 65% of our residents 16 and over have received a first dose, while more than 4 and a half million, or 54% of our residents 16 and over, are fully vaccinated.

Black and Latinx communities continue to lag behind. The gap has narrowed significantly among all communities but remains stark when looking at younger age groups of 12-15 year-olds. People need time to feel comfortable getting the vaccines and they need easy access especially those in the hardest hit areas.

On average there are 765 sites offering vaccinations including pharmacies, clinics, community sites, and hospitals. 63 schools are also running vaccination sites. This week, there will also be 237 County-supported mobile vaccination sites – the highest number of sites available in a one-week period to date. Sites are open with no appointments, with many open evenings and weekends as well. Mobile vaccinations are increasing services as well as pop-ups at metro stations, retail stores, community/faith-based organizations and other events throughout the community.

LAC is improving accessibility by resolving transportation issues. Everyone has a free ride to vaccination sites. Language services are provided and vaccinations are always free and will not impact immigration status. Those interested in a mobile team to vaccinate can visit our website to submit a form of interest. LAC is creating vaccination strategies for home-bound people and other people with medical conditions that are not able to leave their homes.

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LAC invested over \$65 million in community partners who are trusted providers and trusted messengers to assist with the COVID-19 response. These are organizations that have not only done contact tracing but are now helping with vaccinations. They employ Community Health Workers who are our main strategy to build confidence in the vaccines as well as relationships and give good information, and to tell their personal stories.

LAC has had highly visible “Thank you” opportunities such as sweepstakes and other give-a-ways thanks to the generosity of sports teams and venues. These opportunities build excitement amongst County residents, but building confidence in the vaccine is what will bring in the unvaccinated. LAC is hoping to maintain giving out at least 100,000 doses a week to first dose residents. If this can be maintained, we could get to 80% of the population being vaccinated by the end of Summer.

LAC may have the issue of expiring doses of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. LAC currently has 100,000 doses of J&J and hope to get them into the arms of LAC residents by the end of the month. The federal government is looking at the possibility that the shelf life can be extended but waiting for more information. The J&J vaccines cannot be redistributed.

LAC is working with San Diego County to see if support is needed in their efforts to vaccinate folks crossing the border. Also, LAC has done pop-ups, with the City, at LAX and the ports, offering travelers, some of whom are coming from countries where there is no vaccine accessibility..

Public Health has an upgraded website on “How to Get Vaccinated.” The improved vaccine dashboard makes it easier for the general public to access information. The website also makes it as simple as possible to find a vaccine by allowing people to search for a vaccine by zip code, vaccine type, hours, and

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	<p>location type. All sites in LA County, including pop-up, locations where an appointment is not needed, and mobile sites are now listed on the webpage.</p> <p>June 15th is marked as the full reopening of the State and LAC will issue a new Health Officer Order that will align with the State. Most of the sector-specific protocols will be retired. It is recommended for businesses to become familiar with the best practice guidance we will issue for sectors and to adopt these best practices where possible to maximize safety for their staff and for residents.</p> <p>Masks are no longer required for people who are fully vaccinated. However, masks are required for everyone, including fully vaccinated people, in public transit, indoors, in K-12 schools, childcare and all other youth settings, such as camps, healthcare settings, correctional facilities and detention centers, homeless shelters emergency shelters and cooling centers. Additionally, masks are required for all unvaccinated people at indoor public settings and businesses such as retail, restaurant, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings and government facilities.</p> <p>There may be some unevenness which can cause some confusion amongst the businesses. However, no person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business. People still have the right to wear a mask even if they are fully vaccinated. The exemptions to the masking requirement remain the same for children under the age of 2 and people with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent them from wearing a masks. Unvaccinated people are not required to wear a mask outdoors with the exception of an outdoor mega event. Social distancing is still in effect.</p>	
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IV. Presentation:

*Closing the Gap with
Vaccinations*

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Megan McClaire, Deputy Director

LAC has seen some stark inequities particularly in the Black and Latinx population when it comes to vaccination. LAC is making a concerted effort to increase vaccine availability amongst the 18 – 49-year-old Black and African-American residents and the 18 – 29-year-old Latinx residents.

LAC is using the Healthy Place Index Plus to identify and target communities that are not on the State’s priorities list. Some strategies include leveraging existing community events and activities, to increase Public Health’s presence at high traffic locations, enhancing engagement with priority sectors, and hosting community events in coordination with local organizations. People want to wait and see. There have been some misconceptions on the vaccine regarding infertility and the length of time with the turn around.

A lot has been learned through faith-based organizations partnerships and Black-serving CBOs who want to see an increase in representation of clinicians and providers and SMEs that actually can speak to the representative population. Public Health is working with partnerships with medical associations to provide train-the-trainer programs so that they can respond to the growing number of requests to engage in town halls.

LAC convenes weekly with various congregations to elevate emerging trends and hear feedback on strategies to be able to advance our work. LAC is partnering with several organizations across the County, including Long Beach, and multiple churches and the Valley. Public Health is working with Supervisor Mitchell to do a Juneteenth event at Leimert Park and working with NAACP in Pomona to commemorate the emancipation of Black slaves event to connect people with health resources.

Public Health is taking advantage and working with our Nutrition Program during food distribution. It is important to be there and present in a place where people are getting their basic needs met. This will hopefully increase people’s vaccine uptake and have a positive affect with residents regarding the vaccine.

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	<p>Public Health is working with other departments, including County Libraries to offer vaccination services that are linked to some of their reopening in their harder hit communities, as well as the Music Center and Museums. There are also partnerships with youth and recreational sports events like football and soccer tournaments where families come out and spend the day as spectators. These are great opportunities for Public Health to be a presence. Public Health hosts Town Hall meetings that have been tailored towards parents and youths.</p> <p>Public Health have had weekly sweepstakes for LAC residents for various sporting events. Through many partnerships and the generosity of the Lakers, Clippers, LAFC, Galaxy, Rams and Chargers as well as event venues, LA residents were able to have the opportunity to enter a sweepstakes to attend a free event from one of the aforementioned.</p> <p>Public Health is looking at other high traffic locations to increase its presence like the Pomona Swapmeet several times a week, the fashion district, Santee Alley in DTLA and Northgate Market. Public Health would like to increase its presence where men are located like car part shops or hardware stores.</p> <p>Public Health received \$65 million through the CDC Health Disparities Grant, which will bolster some of our community based efforts such as train-the-trainer efforts like the Community Ambassador Program, which Christina Vane-Perez, Chief of Staff, leads. The efforts will make sure the Ambassadors have accurate information, help to make flyers, and to basically make sure they are supported.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Equity Fund is a partnership with the Department of Health Services that funded over 51 Community Based Organizations. It was focused on testing, contact tracing, and systems navigation particularly those in isolation in the beginning, but have now turned towards vaccine opportunities and provides tailored transportation with access to the Uber Health Account.</p> <p>Public Health is working with the Public Health Worker Council that was started with CARES Act funding, in partnership with Liberty Hill, as a fiscal intermediary. This partnership collaborates with their workers organizations and industries that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID outbreaks. This includes food</p>	
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	<p>manufacturing, garment manufacturing, warehousing, storage and restaurants. Public Health will do outreach education to these sectors.</p> <p>Public Health is currently working on a Micro Grant Program (MGP) that will fund 150 to 300 CBOs and FBOs to be able to do vaccination promotion efforts, either by helping to link them to established vaccination partners or to actually start having some of those critical conversations. Anyone is welcome to apply but they cannot already be a recipient of a grant.</p> <p>State Vaccine Equity Grant: Public Health has coordinated with CDPH to identify FQHCs, CBOs, FBOs, and other mobile vaccination groups to raise vaccination rates within our hardest hit communities. It is a five month grant opportunity that is fiscally managed through the Public Health Institute. We will work with the labor sectors to try to increase capacity and linking them to vaccination opportunities</p> <p>The Divine Nine is made up of historical Black Greek Fraternities and sororities. As a strategy, DPH will connect with the Regional director in LA as opposed to going to chapter by chapter. Also, Mindful Beauty is a partnership with Kaiser and Janae Oliver, who is an professor at Charles Drew. She is involved with good mental health and destigmatizing mental health using beauty salons.</p> <p>DPH will consider reaching and expanding out to youth organizations such as the YMCA, AYSO, and day camps. It would be a great opportunity when parents drop off their kids and having events ready on the first day.</p>	<p><i>If Commissioners know of any programs that can benefit from the MGP contact Megan/Dawna</i></p>
<p><u>VI.</u> <u>New Business</u></p>	<p>Discussion on Return to In-person Meeting: As of now County buildings are not open to the public. Commissioners agree to continue meeting by teleconference for July and August and possibly prepare to physically meet in September, if CEO allows it.</p>	<p><i>SD1 – Yea</i> <i>SD2 – Yea</i> <i>SD3 – Yea</i> <i>SD4 – Yea</i> <i>SD5 - Yea</i></p>
<p><u>VI.</u> <u>Unfinished Business</u></p>		

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<u>VII.</u> <u>Public Comment</u>		
<u>VIII.</u> <u>Adjournment</u>	<i>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</i> <i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 11:49 a.m.</i>	<i>Commission Colopy called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and was seconded by Commissioner Rodrigues. All in favor.</i>