

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 13, 2022**

**APPROVED**

**COMMISSIONERS  
HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES**

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

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC**

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**

Judy Vasquez, Director Advisor

<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 Dorian</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b><u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u></b>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves.  September minutes	<i>Information only.</i>  <i>Approved</i>
<b><u>III. Public Health Report</u></b>	Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health  The County's Quality and Productivity Commission held their annual productivity and quality awards that recognizes innovative and exceptional County programs. There were 19 Public Health programs recognized. Some highlights include the Black Doula Project that deploys and funds a group of Black doulas that connects with pregnant Black individuals and offers professional development and promotes long-term sustainability of doula care. Reducing Food Waste and Advancing Food Recovery, which saved enough food to offer 40,000 meals from reclaimed food. Our Shot: Mobile Vaccine Team Fights COVID vaccinated over a million people in one year. Over Two Million Served project recognizes the work of the COVID call centers and received the Gold Eagle Award. Many other County departments and County partners partnered with DPH for the successful outcome.  DPH will have its 2022 Annual Giving Thanks Employee Appreciation Event on November 9, 2022, at Grand Park. The event will acknowledge	

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	<p>the tremendous talent and accomplishments of everyone at the Department of Public Health.</p> <p>DPH is reporting 1,374 new cases, which is down 8% from last week, the weekly case rate is now 29 new cases per 100,000. Also, 13 deaths, and 73 new admissions reported and 455 COVID patients hospitalized. Although these numbers have decreased or plateaued, there is still a significant amount of transmission. DPH tracks early alert signals every week, other than school outbreaks, which shows medium concern, the rest are low concern.</p> <p>LAC residents should be prepared for a possible winter surge. In the last two winters, LAC has seen surges and now European countries are starting to see an increase. With the European increase, it is anticipated that the US will follow. During the winter season, people tend to gather for the holidays and are more likely to gather indoors. Also, travel traffic. Increases in cases are usually accompanied by increase in new variants, subvariants or sub lineages that circulate. Although there are new variants circulating, they are not in large numbers. Insured residents can get up to eight tests a per month per member at no cost to the patient. Some residents are eligible for therapeutics if they test positive for COVID-19. Getting tested will give people the opportunity to receive appropriate treatment.</p> <p>The numbers for Monkeypox have been decreasing. Last week, there was a total of 35 new cases reported. This is the result of over 70,000 individuals receiving at least one dose of the vaccine. Also, there are behavioral changes amongst the gay, bisexual, and transgender community. There is still a need to educate people and get them vaccinated. 50% of people who received their first dose are eligible for the second dose.</p> <p>CDC has issued some guidance around Ebola because of Uganda. CDC announced earlier this week that they directed all passengers coming from Uganda to come through five airports in the US. There will be active screening done before they proceed to their destination. Those airports are New York, JFK, Newark, Baltimore, Atlanta, and Chicago. As passengers exit, there is an active screening for both signs and symptoms and exposure data. Passengers without a phone are given one so that local health departments can follow up with them for 21 days, watching for signs and symptoms. Ebola is not airborne and the</p>	<p><i>Commissioners will inform PHC admin if they will attend</i></p>

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	<p>symptoms for Ebola mimic the symptoms for other common diseases like malaria. There have been no reported cases in LAC; however, there are three hospitals that are trained and designated to received Ebola patients. DPH will actively track and monitor cases if any and is well prepared to manage if any comes up.</p> <p>Comm. Dowling expressed interest in the Black Doula program because of the low birth weight that has been a challenge for a long time.</p> <p>The project has been successful. Every person in the doula program has delivered a baby of normal birth weight. There is also some work around Black midwives and will figure out better ways to do that work also. Data from hospitals indicates there are some concerns in making sure that Black women have other opportunities to access the kind of support that might make a difference in birthing outcomes for themselves as well as their newborns.</p> <p>For more information click on <a href="http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/index.htm">http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/index.htm</a></p>	<p><i>Commissioners and Dr. Ferrer request more information on the Black Doula program for future meeting</i></p>
<p><b><u>IV. Presentation:</u></b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>Dr. Seira Kurian, Medical Director gave an update on vaccine boosters and therapeutics efforts in LAC.</p> <p>As of September, 81% of the LA County population has received at least one dose of vaccine, with about 73% being fully vaccinated and 41% having received at least one dose beyond their primary series. For children six months to 4 years, about 9.2% have received at least one dose and 4% are considered fully vaccinated. Boosters are not available for this age group yet. For 5-11 years old, about 41% have received at least one dose of their primary series and 36% are considered fully vaccinated. In addition, 7% of this group has also received a booster. The bivalent booster vaccine for both the Pfizer and Moderna has been approved for this this age group. For 12 to17 years old, 87% have received at least one dose and 80% are fully vaccinated with 31% receiving a booster vaccine. For seniors 65 years old and over, about 95% received at least one dose and then 92% of them are fully vaccinated and 70% having received a booster.</p>	

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	<p>Unfortunately, there is still some disproportionality in terms of vaccination rates across race and ethnicities, with Black/African American and Latinx remaining at the lowest percentage of vaccinated individuals in LAC. Currently, 81% of the Asian community is fully vaccinated, 74% of American Indian/Alaska Native, White population there is 73%, but only about 55% and 57% of Black/African American and Latinx populations are fully vaccinated. This is deeply concerning knowing how effective the vaccines are.</p> <p>Unvaccinated residents were three times more likely to get infected than fully vaccinated individuals and two times more likely to get infected than those with boosters. The current vaccines have become less effective at reducing the risk of transmission, but the bivalent booster is proving very effective.</p> <p>The vaccination priority will focus on building out and supporting the provider network, emphasizing the need to boost eligible patients with the bivalent booster, especially in the vulnerable 65+ population and continue to educate who could get boosted, which is everyone over five years of age if they meet the two-month time since their last dose. If people are going in for their regular flu shot, that is the opportunity to get the COVID vaccine as well other general health visits. Other priorities include the vaccination of children. LAC will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccine and other needed vaccines on campus through school-based health centers and mobile school-located clinics, implement strategies recommended by parents to boost vaccination rates in children.</p> <p>Public Health will also focus its effort on outreach and vaccination for the Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) communities by leveraging other wellness activities they may be participating in and use that opportunity to provide vaccination services.</p> <p>We continue to see low rates of vaccination in the Black community. Public Health would like to work with the community to understand what the barriers are and improve access and uptake to these groups. Public Health has been working with numerous community leaders including Charles Drew University, faith-based leaders, academic partners, and barber shops. The Latinx population as the second lowest rates of vaccination compared with our other race and ethnicity groups. The Latinx population seem to use pharmacies and hospitals to get their COVID-19 vaccines compared with other racial and ethnic groups.</p>	

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	<p>Public Health is also leveraging these entities to reach into the Latinx community and ensure that the resources are available in Spanish language.</p> <p>There are currently four different outpatient therapeutic agents that are available for use for the 12-18 and above category. Two are oral antivirals, which are Paxlovid and Molnupiravir (or Lagevrio), both need to be taken within 5 days of symptom onset. Bebtelovimab, an antiviral, is commercially available for purchase. Remdesivir is also commercially available and administered IV and must be taken within seven days of onset. All these are for those tested positive and are at risk for getting sick. There is medication available for immunocompromised individuals who cannot receive a vaccine. Evusheld is administered as two intramuscular injections and given every six months. These therapeutics do require prescription, which require evaluation by a healthcare provider.</p> <p>There are established sites where individuals can get access to a full range of services from testing to treatment at one location instead of multiple locations. Local jurisdictions were offered the opportunity to add the Test to Treat network to help increase access. These sites are in our most under-resourced communities. A telehealth service was established for all residents free of charge. The service is available seven days a week from 8am to 8:30pm and offers access to evaluation by a provider with the medication either shipped overnight or made available at a nearby pharmacy. The telehealth line is equally divided up between male and female callers. 50% of callers are calling from one of the HPI communities. Call Center number: 1-833-540-0473.</p> <p>Public Health will continue to try to get the messaging out there through various channels that include development of a therapeutic video that can be used in different communities' outreach and informational settings and a podcast that was developed as well as a radio PSA, which has been picked up by 152 different radio stations in both English and Spanish. In addition, Public Health has partnered with Healthvana, which is an entity that has worked alongside us around vaccination and testing efforts to get results and vaccination records out. Healthvana has access to over 5 million email accounts through various efforts and has leveraged those to help send out messaging directly to individuals about the availability of therapeutics. Lastly, Public Health will launch a pilot</p>	

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	<p>project this week that will bring therapeutics onsite through a mobile unit to long term care and comprehensive care facilities that have identified three or more cases and will continue to explore new ways to improve access and awareness about therapeutics.</p> <p>Comm. Dorian acknowledges that the state has moved to a contractor around the Test to Treat as well as the telehealth portions. However, is this something LAC is still the lead on? Yes, LAC is doing its own evaluation of the state telehealth model. Currently, there is not a lot of calls because the cases have been declining. However, 20% of callers have been sent to the state telehealth system. LAC calls back all callers to ensure they were successful in getting help.</p>	
<b><u>V. New Business</u></b>		
<b><u>VI. Unfinished Business</u></b>		
<b><u>VII. Public Comment</u></b>		
<b><u>VIII. Adjournment</u></b>	<p><b>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</b></p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 11:44 a.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Commissioner Dorian called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and was seconded by Commissioner Rodrigues. All in favor.</i></p>

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