

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
August 11, 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.*

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of
Public Health *

Dr. Muntu Davis, Health
Officer **

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
<u>I. Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order remotely at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Dorian</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves. August minutes	<i>Information only.</i> <i>Approved</i>
<u>III. Public Health Report</u>	Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health DPH is very appreciative of all the support and the work the Commissioners have been doing in the communities for the last 3+ years. The BOS has announced a motion that allows commissions, and other entities, to continue meeting virtually. However, DPH will support the Commission on their decision to either continue the meetings virtually or change to in-person. DPH is having their annual Employee Appreciation event, which will take place at Grand Park on November 9 th . Christina Vane-Perez, Chief of Staff, is the lead in organizing this event that will not only recognize but be an inspiring day for staff. More information to come but the Commission could SAVE the DATE and advise if they will attend. DPH is welcoming Dr. Priya Batra to the team. Dr. Batra is the new Medical Director for the Health Promotion Bureau. She is a board-certified OB/GYN and has a Master's in Health Policy and Management.	<i>Send "Save-the-Date" flyer to Commissioners when available</i>

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	<p>Her role will be advancing the work of the Bureau on coordination and integration with our managed care and third-party payers.</p> <p>LAC continues to see cases, hospitalization, and deaths. DPH is reporting 1,700 new cases and an average of 12 deaths a day. The seven-day average proportion of staffed inpatient beds has dropped to 4.6% and the hospital admission rate is at 8 weekly admission per 100,000 people. The low case rate has dropped below 200, which put LAC in the low community level. Early Alert signals are in low concern. To date, there is not a new variant of concern circulating. BA.5 dominates LAC at about 89%.</p> <p>CDC has reported an increase in BA.4.6 sub lineage of Omicron BA.4 and seen a 9% of sequence specimens across the country. There is a higher percentage in the Midwest but in LAC the sequence specimens only account for 1.4% of what is seen, which is very small. Although there is a likelihood of having a mutated virus circulating that can dominate and crowd out BA.5, there are no trends that would indicate the upturn because with the BA.5 there is a decrease in cases.</p> <p>Fall and winter are approaching and there is usually an increase of cases and increase in hospitalizations and deaths when looking at the past two years. DPH has the new bivalent boosters that will help in preparation for the upcoming seasons. The boosters are administered at DPH's sites and other pharmacies. DPH has over 1000 providers that are positioned to offer vaccines as soon as they get them. LAC has received and distributed about 100,000 doses. LAC encourages people who are eligible to the vaccine, which is about 7 million people, to get it. The goal is to get as many people vaccinated and boosted by November. The vaccines are still holding up well without the new bivalent booster, but protections wane over time. People who are vaccinated are four times less likely to be hospitalized and seven times less likely to die.</p> <p>The Pfizer vaccine is available to those 12 and older who are at least two months out from having their last dose. Moderna is available to those 18 years and older, at least two months out from having their last dose. CDC will consider people up to date on the vaccines who have received their initial plus the bivalent booster. Everyone 12 and older have no access to the old booster dose. Only kids between the ages of 5-11 years of age are eligible to the previous booster. As the holidays</p>	

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	<p>and the colder months near, hopefully LAC residents will receive that extra layer of protection by getting boosted. There are over 900 sites across the County that are open to administer the vaccines and booster for free.</p> <p>With over 100 countries reporting, there are over 500,000 cases of Monkeypox around the world. There are more than 200,000 cases in the US and California reports the largest number of cases of about 3,900. Of the 3,900, 1,700 are based and identified in LAC. As of September 6th, 97% of the cases reported being male and 93% of the case where sexual orientation is known reported being LGBTQ. There were 56 hospitalizations among people with monkeypox. There was a peak of 239 new monkeypox cases on August 6th, but since then the numbers have plateaued and see a small decline week to week. DPH continues to rapidly distribute and administer vaccines. Under federal allocation, LAC received 113,000 doses of the vaccine. As of Sept 6th, 53% of those doses have been administered. Residents can call DPH's call center 24/7 to access the monkeypox vaccine as well as therapeutics for monkeypox. This is a two-dose vaccine and DPH has completed over 10,000 second doses.</p> <p>Data has shown some early signs of disproportionality. 43% of monkeypox cases were found in the Latinx population and 12% among Blacks. Of those who receive their first dose, 32% are Latinx and 9% are Blacks. DPH has expanded their efforts to do outreach to the two communities.</p> <p>To reduce the stigma, DPH has expanded the eligibility criteria to make the higher risk groups eligible that engaged in higher risk activities. These groups may include bisexual men, men who have sex with men, transgendered people who have sex with men. Supply was limited before but there are more vaccines now and for those who may have more exposure based on being in a particular group. These can include commercial sex workers, regardless of their sex or sexual orientation.</p> <p>LAC will continue to prioritize their outreach efforts, not only to Blacks and Latinx, but also those who are immunocompromised, those with HIV. There are about 45% of folks who are infected with the monkeypox are also co-infected with HIV. 90% of these people were in care and had low viral loads. For those diagnosed with HIV are both in care for their</p>	

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	<p>HIV disease and aware of potential for increased risk and getting vaccinated for monkeypox.</p> <p>There is no approved booster for Novavax yet because it's relatively a new vaccine. Those who come in for the Novavax will have some protection for a while. The J&J is not a recommended vaccine and is no longer administered. The only booster doses that are available are the mRNA boosters. People should talk to their providers and get some answers about their concerns around vaccines.</p> <p>For more information click on http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/index.htm</p>	
<u>IV. Presentation:</u>	<p>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</p> <p>Sonya Vasquez, Director for the Center for Health Equity, gave an overview and update of the COVID-19 funding investments that the Center oversees.</p> <p>The Center of Health Equity (Center) officially launched in October 2017 and has collaboratively worked to advance racial, social, economic, and environmental justice in partnership with committed county partners, local organizations, and community members.</p> <p>The Center has an action plan but due to the pandemic, some items were delayed. However, many items were still active and has been completed. The action plan is located at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/centerfortheequity.</p> <p>The work of the program is categorized around the five main principles of increasing organizational competency, amplifying community voices, building community capacity, forging partnerships to enhance and promote efforts that result in equitable outcomes and aligning current resources to work that eliminates inequities.</p> <p>The Center oversees a few COVID-19 community investments that includes the Community Equity Fund, which is a community-driven outreach and education and system navigation. It draws on a tailored</p>	

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	<p>culturally resonant approach from CBOs who have the best understanding of the community needs and know how to get information out into the community needs. There are organizations that are connecting residents who had COVID-related needs to support for quarantine an isolation, vaccination resources, testing, and referrals for medical and mental health support as well as social services (food access, domestic violence relief, financial health, etc.). There have been over 15,000 outreach events and have reached over 3.5 million people. The current cohort supports 43 community partners. DPH has a host of outreach and education grants and system navigation organizations that serve multiple communities.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Equity Community Contract is intended for proactive and responsive investments where additional disparities are found and addressed. Initial funding will support up to 15 organizations to address rates in pediatric vaccinations. DPH will have organization that can serve and engage a broad spectrum of organization, that serve children and their caregivers to provide COVID outreach education, access to testing and vaccination opportunities, linkages to supports and services and information about our ambassador programs. Additional investments may support: Individuals living with disabilities, LGBTQ+ population, racial/ethnic disparities, and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs).</p> <p>DPH has partnered with Southern California Grantmakers and Center of Strategic Partnerships to develop a mini grant program to allow FBOs and Small CBOs to host vaccine clinics. This iteration is with funding from Sierra Fund. FBSs are as asked to host vaccine or booster clinics or conduct information session during their existing activities. There are about 40 funded FBOs but the hope is to get 90+ funded.</p> <p>DPH continues to see gaps throughout the County. Many children six months to 11 are not getting vaccinated, 5-11 years of age are at 40.6% and 8% for kids six month to 4 years old. The rates are even lower when looking at African American and Latinx population. Overall, LAC is at 80% being vaccinated, there is still disparities. African Americans are 60.2%, Latinx is 63.8% and in other regions some are as low as 59%. The Center is asking for help in identifying organization or coalitions that can contacted to help with the work.</p>	<p><i>Commissoners will submit names of organizations or Coalitions to the Center in an effort to include all FBOs and CBOs</i></p>

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	<p>For more information go to http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/centerforhealthequity</p> <p>If you would like to receive the Center for Health Equity Newsletter go to https://lachealthequity.substack.com/</p>	
<u>V. New Business</u>		
<u>VI. Unfinished Business</u>		
<u>VII. Public Comment</u>		
<u>VIII. Adjournment</u>	<p>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 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>