

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
May 11, 2023**

COMMISSIONERS

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

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health **
Dr. Muntu Davis, County Health Officer*

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS

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

Present **Excused *Absent*

TOPIC	ACTION/DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/FOLLOW-UP
<u>I.</u> <u>Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Rodrigues</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II.</u> <u>Announcements and Introductions</u>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves. Action for March minutes with noted changes.	<i>Information only.</i> <i>Approved</i>
<u>III.</u> <u>Public Health Report</u>	Dr. Muntu Davis, County Health Officer DPH acknowledges the many important role that mothers have within their families and communities. DPH wishes all mothers a Happy Mother’s Day filled with joy and happiness. DPH would like to invite the Commissioners to attend LA Pride, the parade on the morning of Sunday, June 11 th . This is an opportunity for us to support our LGBTQ+ staff and the broader community. Reducing the risk of transmitting MPox at upcoming festivals and private events. DPH recommends people who are at higher risk for Mpox get fully vaccinated. There have been three confirmed cases of monkeypox reported since March 1 st in LAC. Mpox can spread through direct skin to skin contact with an infected person during intimate physical contact. Note that the CDC has determined that some infected people who have no symptoms	<i>Department Update</i>

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	<p>can still spread the infection up to four days before they develop symptoms. High risk groups include any man or transgender person who has sex with men or transgender person, persons of any gender or sexual orientation who engage in commercial and/or transactional sex or have sex in association with a large public event. Also, persons living with HIV disease and sexual partners of people in any of those groups. Mpox vaccine works very well and is about 70% to 85% effective in prevention.</p> <p>The vaccines remain free and available to anyone regardless of their insurance or immigration status and without having to disclose information. There are just two doses needed right now. Vaccine boosters are currently not recommended. Vaccine sites can be found through the State site that was used for COVID vaccines and monkeypox (myturn.ca.gov). To find a location near you and make an appointment, visit ph.lacounty.gov/mpox. General information on Mpox, COVID, vaccines, testing, and treatment can be accessed by calling 833-540-0473 (Open 7 days a week from 8am-8:30pm).</p> <p>HANDS-ONLY CPR</p> <p>Hands-Only CPR campaign was recently launched called Heart Heroes 2023. DPH has a goal of training 500,000 Los Angeles County residents and workers in hands-only CPR by December 31, 2023. Hands-Only CPR focuses on chest compressions to help move oxygen and blood through the body to keep the brain and the vital organs alive, which buys some time until an ambulance comes, or other emergency help can arrive. The trainings are being held across LAC. They can be found at sporting events, entertainment venues, churches, colleges, school campuses, worksites, and malls. More info can be found on our website. If organizations have a minimum of 150, they can request a DPH team who will go to their sites to train.</p> <p>COVID</p> <p>DPH is reporting weekly data. As of Monday, May 8th, there were 2,266 new COVID cases reported for the week. This is a</p>	

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	<p>decrease of 11% from the 2,500 reported last week. There have been 46 new deaths reported this week, that is nearly a 10% decrease from 51 deaths reported last week. Hospitalizations are about 250 for people with COVID, which has been stable.</p> <p>COVID Variants</p> <p>XBB.1.5 remains the dominant strain locally. Since early February, XBB. 1. 5 accounts for about 71% of tested specimens. CDC estimates for Region 9, that includes California and neighboring states, show that this strain accounts for 65.8% of sequenced specimens. Arcturus or XBB.16 according to the most recent data is delayed by two or three weeks. This new strain accounts for 1.3% of sequenced specimens in LAC. Nationwide, it's about 12.5%. In Region 9 is 10.1%. There has been conjunctivitis as a symptom for the COVID infection along with the traditional symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath.</p> <p>Last month the FDA and the CDC approved changes to the vaccine schedules, including changes to the Emergency Authorization for the bivalent vaccine. This changed the authorization for Pfizer and Moderna monovalent vaccines and was rescinded. Those cannot be used. There are changes in the dosing depending on whether someone is unvaccinated or has completed a primary series. Everyone 6 months and older should receive at least one bivalent vaccine. Adults 65 and older or immunocompromised people are eligible to receive a second bivalent vaccine. Older adults can get their second dose four months after their first.</p> <p>The White House recently announced they will revoke Executive Order 14043 that requires vaccination of federal employees that ensures adequate COVID safety for federal contractors effective 12:01 am on May 12th.</p> <p>Comments/Recommendations:</p>	

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	<p>Comm. Dorian – At UCLA, a virtual Training Academy was funded for a Mpox training for the local health jurisdiction or anybody doing case investigation at no cost. Will send the information to DPH to share where helpful. Also, intend to sign up the Armenian schools across LAC on Heart Heroes. What is being said about higher education around vaccinations?</p> <p>Dr. Davis – Schools can choose to make it a requirement, especially in a particular setting where there are lots of close contacts. It’s a high risk of spread and now with the new strain. DPH still recommends that people stay up to date with their vaccines because it has not gone away.</p> <p>Comm. Dowling – What is the mortality rates for COVID in different populations and the relation to what was done in the history on experiments?</p> <p>Dr. Davis – Some of the patterns still have been the same. In terms of death, there is still more elderly population dying. We still have difference in terms of lower income communities, certain income communities have higher death. Overall, there are still disparities.</p> <p>Chair Rodrigues thanked Dr. Davis for his report, acknowledging and extending the Commission’s appreciation for DPH’s (and all) Nurses in this National Nurses Week which is celebrated between May 6 and 12.</p>	
<u>IV. Presentation:</u>	<p>Dr. Nichole Quick, Deputy Bureau Director, Health Protections gave a brief overview of the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health.</p> <p>The goal of Environmental Justice and Climate Health is to look at exposures in our community that are probably disproportionately felt by various groups. Low-income communities and communities of color face a higher burden of environmental issues in the county.</p>	

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	<p>A primary underlying truth in environmental and climate justice is that some people are impacted more than others by environmental and climate threats.</p> <p>While environmental pollution and climate change impact all of us in some ways, the neighborhood we live in plays an important role in determining our exposure to these potential health threats.</p> <p>The most vulnerable communities are those in closest proximity to industrial pollution. These communities tend to be poorer communities of color, and they have the fewest resources available to cope with environmental and climate threats.</p> <p>When homes, schools, and daycares are sited near industrial facilities, their immediate environment can be impacted.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Health Impacts of Long-Term Exposure to Environmental Pollution</p> <p>There are health impacts of long-term exposure to environmental pollution, even when there are no emergencies, fires, spills, leaks, etc.</p> <p>In communities that are burdened by exposure to environmental pollution, long-term health effects can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exposure of pregnant women is found to affect to fetal brain growth. Also impacts mental and physical development in children and cognition in adults. Some exposures have been associated with premature birth and low birth weight. -Suppresses normal lung growth in children. Accelerates lung function decline (ageing lung) in adults and a known cause of lung cancer. Also linked to onset of asthma. -Heart disease rates increased with a compounding decline in outdoor exercise due to smells, irritations, etc. - Eye, nose, throat irritation. Communities are burdened by environmental threats and sources of pollution in ways that vary across the County. CalEnviro screen is a tool used to identify communities that are highly burdened with pollution. The red 	

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	<p>areas scored in the top 10 percentile and are the highest pollution burdened census tracts in the State.</p> <p>Examples of Environmental Justice Work</p> <p>Exide – door to door outreach; blood lead testing; interagency collaboration to understand hazards and risks to residents and work to remediate</p> <p>Lead-free Homes LA – administering lead paint settlement funds to remove lead hazards from hundreds of homes, particularly in vulnerable communities and those impacted by Exide</p> <p>Aliso Canyon Disaster – in addition to protracted emergency response, administer settlement funds to develop and solicit a comprehensive and independent research study of the health impacts of the blowout on residents’ short- and long-term health</p> <p>Oil and Gas Ordinance Revision – worked closely with community partners and sister agencies to promote health protective regulations and enforcement around oil and gas development happening in proximity sensitive receptors</p> <p>Baldwin Hills Health Assessment and Environmental Justice Study – conduct a study into the potential health impacts of living near the Inglewood Oil Field and identify groups disproportionately impacted</p> <p>Hexavalent Chromium in Paramount and West Rancho Dominguez – assess health risk due to chrome 6 emissions and work with metal plating and anodizing facilities to reduce and/or eliminate emissions</p> <p>Cogen Landfill – investigate soil gas and ambient air levels of a variety of air pollutants; outreach and education to community about health impacts and how to protect health</p> <p>Health impacts of climate change in LAC include but not limited to hotter temperature, Worse air quality, wildfires, severe droughts, flooding and water quality and more mosquitoes.</p> <p>Over the last decade-and-a-half, we have been seeing the health impacts of heat increasing. Here we see heat-related emergency department visits in Los Angeles over the period 2005 – 2019, with a distinct upward trend.</p>	

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	<p>These impacts have significant disparities. From death records, Black residents of California are affected by a significantly higher rate of heat-related deaths.</p> <p>During California’s 2006 heat wave, there were not only more than 650 deaths, but also 16,166 more emergency room visits than usual, and 1,182 more hospitalizations than usual, due to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, acute kidney failure, and other conditions.</p> <p>DPH is working on implementing solutions and doing a lot to effect local change:</p> <p>Next Steps for the Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire a Strategic Planning and Community Engagement Consultant • Conduct community engagement and analyze input • Write, review, and publish Strategic Plan • Ensure appropriate staffing • Develop data and other tools and products • Implement and evaluate, review, and optimize performance annually 	

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<u>V.</u> <u>New Business</u>		
<u>VI.</u> <u>Unfinished Business</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation Letter 	A motion to approve the letter. All in favor to move forward with recommendation letter. Comm. Dorian abstained from the vote.
<u>VII.</u> <u>Public Comment</u>	<p>Member of the public, W.P., asked about coronavirus. He advised he hears a lot about lessons learned especially in commissioner meetings. He asks how there can be better documentation about the failures and make these lessons learned available to the public. He advised the benefit of this would be highlighting what was learned. He also mentioned that budgeting was dedicated to this, and if unused, it would go to waste.</p> <p>Comm. Rodrigues acknowledged public member's comments and stated Public Health's website has been a depository of lessons learned over time and over the years and will continue to post information as things continue to evolve.</p>	
<u>VIII.</u> <u>Adjournment</u>	<p>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 11:53am.</i></p>	<i>Commissioner Rodrigues called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and was seconded by Commissioner Crawford. All in favor.</i>