

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Thursday, July 9, 2020

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a special public meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2020. The meeting was held virtually using the GoToWebinar platform in light of restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, allowing access to the public via computer or other device and via a toll-free phone number.

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Thomas Farley, Dr. Tyra Bryant-Stephens, Dr. Marla Gold, Dr. Jennifer Ibrahim, Dr. Amid Ismail, Dr. Scott McNeal, Dr. John Rich, Dr. Ana Diez Roux

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Health Commissioner and Board President Thomas Farley, MD, MPH called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

**BACKGROUND**

Dr. Farley presented a quick update on the state of the epidemic to provide context for the emergency regulations that the Board will be voting on.

COVID-19 case counts and nursing home cases and deaths have dropped in Philadelphia through mid-June. The daily case rate has stabilized at around 115 new cases per day. Cases and deaths across the country, including in Pittsburgh, are rising. Cases in Philadelphia are younger than it has been, and there is concern that younger folks will spread the disease to older folks. As the City gradually reopened, we did not do so as quickly as other cities and states.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from April 22, 2020, April 29, 2020, and May 14, 2020.

**SEVENTH SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 (MANDATORY USE OF MASKS)**

Joshua Roper, PDPH, presented an emergency regulation regarding a mandatory mask order signed by Dr. Farley. The order requires face coverings in outdoor locations where members of the public are permitted and cannot properly distance. It also requires indoor locations, with examples. Those exempt from this order include: children 8 or younger, those with a physical disability that makes it difficult to put on or remove a mask, deaf individuals who read lips, and anyone advised by a medical professional to not wear a face covering for health reasons. Face

coverings aren't required to be worn while eating or drinking provided proper distance from others, or are alone as in an office.

Dr. Farley noted that this order differs from the Governor's order on face covering in that the Commonwealth's order applies to children as young as two.

**Motion for approval of regulation approved unanimously.**

**EIGHTH SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 (AMENDMENTS TO YELLOW PHASE AND MODIFIED GREEN PHASE)**

Lewis Rosman from the Law Department presented on an emergency regulation governing the control and prevention of COVID-19 for consideration by the Board.

This regulation is about the June 16, 2020 Yellow Phase Order allowing outdoor dining, the June 26, 2020 Yellow Phase Order allowing certain activities including swimming pools, personal services, and certain outdoor activities, and the July 3, 2020 Modified Green Phase Order which allowed shopping at indoor malls, schools, libraries and museums, outdoor sports, casinos with restrictions, and an expansion of the number of people allowed at outdoor gatherings.

**Motion for approval of regulation approved unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Farley adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.