

54 Meadow Street, 9th Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519 • 203-946-6999

Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

**Board of Health Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2022**

Present: Dr. James Hadler, Dr. Frank Mongillo, Heather Reynolds, Dr. Darnell Young, Dr. Gregg Gonsalves, Dr. Alice Forrester

Absent: None

Staff: Maritza Bond, Director of Health

Call to Order:

Commissioner Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:28 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Mongillo moved to approve the minutes from April 13, 2022. Commissioner Gonsalves seconded. Minutes were approved with no edits or objections.

Public Comments or Statements:

No members of the public.

Updates:

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

COVID-19 Situational Awareness & Response Efforts

- Covid-19 weekly rate assessed at the local, county, and state level. Cases in New Haven are starting to trend downward, and the city is now in the medium risk category for community levels according to CDC guidelines.
- The Department is now looking at local and county-based sewage wastewater concentration data. Funding for Yale university sewage/wastewater testing for Covid-19 will be ending at the end of June.
- WPCA agreed to participate with CDC in surveying water at the county level.

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- The Department is still monitoring Covid-19 cases withing the schools, overall mitigations strategies have been adhered. Of significance this week, a daycare had most of the classroom test positive for Covid-19, so the classroom was closed.

Monkeypox

- NHHD is the first department participating in a monkeypox surveillance with Dr. Sosa, Deputy State Epidemiologist.
- One New Haven resident is being monitored due to secondary exposure from being on a plane, next to someone who had it. This individual has been monitored for over one week and still does not present symptoms at this time.
- The Department is working on messaging using toolkits from CDC and a hospital in Massachusetts as resources.
- For local response The Department is doing 21-day monitoring (every other day as recommended by CDC) of the exposed individual.

Covid Vaccine Updates:

- NHHD is still working on risk communication efforts with partners DPH and Griffin Hospital.
- Actively promoting COVID vaccine clinics on the Green (M-S from 12-6pm)
- New Haven has reached 81% vaccination rate for first dose and >70% for second dose.
- Still working hard on offering vaccines 7 days/week around the city
- Vaccination for children ages 3-5 will soon be available according to federal updates. The Department's clinic is ready to provide vaccines to 3–5-year-olds as soon as approved.

Admin Updates:

- Director Bond has continued to advocate for raises for clinical staff in order to attract qualified candidates, as it is currently very difficult to compete with much higher salaries in the private sector.
- Director Bond recommended vetting a pediatric APRN through our temporary agency so that the department can resume services—for that position has been unable to be filled for a year.
- New Hires / Transfers: Stephanie Reyes transferred to COVID Immunization Outreach Worker from Home Visitor.

Nursing



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External investigator just submitted their report regarding the Pfizer temperature excursion to the mayor, Dr. Dalal, and Chief of Staff Sean Matteson.

- The report was complimentary to the same exact recommendations that Director Bond had given and the corrective action plan that she had recommended. The director and the mayor will be making a public announcement of the external investigation concluding consistent with the findings that she had already announced and recommended.

TB Update:

- One active TB case.
- One potential pending appointment with Winchester to determine treatment needs-The Department has not received any further information about this case so far.

Epidemiology

- Commissioner Hadler mentioned that there were 2 new Covid Omicron variants out of South Africa—B4 and B5, that have reached the United States and now represent between 9 and 10 percent of all cases in the country.
- Director Bond shared an overview how CT Against Gun Violence (CAGV) is working on a blueprint on gun violence. The Department already provides support to CAGV in analyzing gun violence data and reports, working with the GIS at the police department.
- Director Bond is scheduled to be interviewed by CAGV on gun violence from the public health perspective, focusing on the policy recommendation to declare gun violence a public health crisis.
- Commissioner Reynolds asked whether there was any data collected on the types of guns observed being used for gun violence, such as what percentage of guns used were ghost guns. Director Bond replied that the Health Department is working with the NHPD to broaden the areas of data collected to include this information.
- Commissioner Reynolds noted that the APHA had talked about gun violence as a public health issue and raised the ongoing local concerns.
- Commissioner Forrester mentioned that she was awarded a Department of Justice grant for threat assessment and said there is a strong potential for partnership with the Health Department.
- Commissioner Gonsalves mentioned the call with national partners for addressing accessibility to testing, vaccines, and community education surrounding Monkeypox.
- Commissioner Gonsalves mentioned that he will introduce Director Bond to New Haven LGBTQ Leaders, such as the New Haven Pride Center, so that they can help the Health Department with population-specific monkey pox messaging for the LGBTQ community, to ensure that the messaging strategy has been vetted.



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
Health Department



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Commissioner Hadler moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Gonsalves and Commissioner Young seconded it. Commissioner Mongillo noted he was in favor of adjournment. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Attest:

Thomas O'Sullivan

06/23/2022

Thomas O'Sullivan
Special Assistant to the Director of Health

Date

Approved:

James Hadler, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

Date

