

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

**Board of Health Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 12, 2022**

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

**Staff:** Maritza Bond, Director of Health

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**Call to Order:**

Commission Chair Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Hadler moved to approve the minutes for the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting; Dr. Young seconded; minutes were approved with no objections.

**Public Comments or Statements:**

No members of the public

**Updates:**

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

*COVID-19 Situational Awareness & Response Efforts*

Current response efforts are mass vaccination, communication efforts, contact tracing, compliance, sustainability, outreach, and technical support in the community.

Omicron is now the predominant variant in the United States that accounts for nearly 95% of new cases nationwide and accounts for 94% of cases hospitalized at Yale New Haven Hospital. The concern is around the fact that there is a significant number of unreported cases. The Department wants to recognize that many people are taking rapid tests and it does not account for the actual positivity rate that is happening in the community.

# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## Health Department



New Haven is doing well with the vaccination coverage regarding the first doses which is almost at 75% and fully vaccinated is at 65%. However, the 5-11 age group is only at 21% for first dose and 13.5% for fully vaccinated. The Department is working closely with The Board of Education on messaging and stressing the importance of vaccination.

Contact tracing has hit an all-time high and the department has prioritized contact tracing efforts. Director Bond has recruited medical reserve corps volunteers to help with contact tracing. The Department is responding to the workforce on both the city side and board of education side. The Department has 10 volunteers and 4 contact tracers on staff.

Covid vaccination clinic hours have been distributed in English and Spanish; they are made available in other languages as requested. Health literacy has been on the forefront of everything that The Department does to make sure that people understand what to do. The Clinic will now be closed on Wednesday's due to the high demand of homebound vaccinations. There will be rapid and PCR testing on Monday's and Tuesday's for unvaccinated city employees. The city is still offering vaccines with Griffin Hospital seven days a week to ensure the promotion of vaccinations within the community.

### Department Programs

For Public Health response efforts, The Department is working with community partners to meet specific deliverables and conduct outreach. The Department will continue working with both internal and external key stakeholders to ensure a diverse and comprehensive community response to the Public Health emergency. The Health Department has been working closely on making sure that the website and dashboard is updated with local resources. New Haven has done a mass test kit distribution with clear instructions in English and Spanish on what to do when they test positive, if they are exposed, and when to test. The department is consistently working on providing guidance and support for business owners, daycare providers, and other community members to ensure CDC compliance.

The Health Department has created the test and stay school program which will be implemented in the upcoming Monday. The test and stay model are for individuals to be able to take a rapid antigen test so individuals that are not vaccinated to remain in school. Those individuals must take a daily rapid antigen test, remain negative and be asymptomatic. If a child does become symptomatic and or test positive, they must follow the routine for quarantine. All 40 schools have received ample supplies that will be disseminated to families should they need to test.

The Health Department is still tracking the overdoses with the city dashboard, while also looking at the incident response protocols and revising the post overdose experience survey. The department is working closely with many harm reduction organizations as well as public safety to address the overdose crisis that is still occurring.

# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## Health Department



With violence being at an all-time high, the CSA division has created a position that will oversee the violence prevention and alternative prevention. CSA hired Carlos Sosa to be the director. The health department is taking on a technical role working closely with the Police department on a dashboard that will map out the violence throughout the city. This will allow the city to have targeted outreach and partnerships with grassroot organizations and community leaders.

Lead inspection is also at the forefront for the health department and there has been a live dashboard created so that there are no concerns about missing deadlines.

### Grants and Other Key Activities

Due to the increase of STI during the pandemic the department is coordinating STI data collection of lab reports in order to increase education around STI's.

GIS analyst has officially started and is working with the department to improve the layout of the website to make it easier for public to follow.

The Board of Directors unanimously voted to reappointment Director Bond for a full four-year term.

Heather Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

Attest:

*Damaris Velez*

Damaris Velez  
Office Manager

02/04/2022

Date

Approved:

James Hadler

James Hadler, Chair  
Board of Health Commissioners

02/09/2022

Date

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN**  
Health Department

