



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
54 Meadow Street, 9<sup>TH</sup> Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519



**Board of Health Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 11, 2021**

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

**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:**

Dr. Forrester moved to approve the May 12, 2021 minutes; Commissioner Hadler seconded; minutes were approved with no objections.

Dr. Forrester moved to approve the July 14, 2021 minutes; Commissioner Hadler seconded; minutes were approved with no objections.

**Public Comments or Statements:**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**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.

Most positive Covid-19 cases right now are Delta Variant, we are up to 250 cases: 3.9% for the city of New Haven. This particular variant is highly contagious and transmissible. Impacting predominantly those that are aged 20 to 59 years old, in particular those that are hospitalized.

Vaccination efforts are still steadily increasing per week, we have seen about 1,000 cases a week of increases. New Haven is currently at 65% for 1<sup>st</sup> dose and 59% for fully vaccinated among those age eligible.

The lowest vaccination rate in New Haven has been among youth and that is still consistently the issue. The department has just kicked off a youth campaign starting with billboards, Director Bond has started doing radio interviews and we also have youth doing interviews. The department has been working closely with Board of Education leadership and the Athletic Director who has provided athletic youth to be influencers during this campaign. Director Bond is extremely grateful for the help and support.

### Department Programs

The department has hired new Community Outreach Workers, the Epidemiology division provides them with the necessary training.

Technical webinars have re-started. This past month the department did one for the youth camps and Covid-19 recovery and technical support for nursing homes and long-term care facilities. The department supported the Board of Education presentation this past Monday by providing and supporting slide development, this will be discussed shortly in detail.

The department continues to look closely at disparity data the general Epidemiologist is working with Community Services Administration (CSA) to look at disparities and trending areas of concern so the department can then drive some initiatives currently being worked on. The Health Department has been focusing on providing technical support for CSA programs and services.

The Health Department's general Epidemiologist has been working closely with Quinnipiac Valley Health District to reorganize the suspected drug overdose Emergency Department (ED) visits dashboard from a regional perspective. The department worked with DataHaven to publish a recent report regarding the overdoses within the ED's. Staff is also working closely on child related accidents and looking at the trends around that. A dashboard has been created where the CT crash data repository is used to be able to look at that factor. In the normal Epi report other than the increased activity within the Delta variant, there is nothing else of concern to report.

The department currently does not have any flu cases to report, currently working on kicking off a flu campaign. This will be a coordinated effort with community partners.

A discussion ensued on the rising numbers of RSV infections Director Bond will ask the Epidemiology team to investigate the numbers in New Haven.

### Board of Education

The Health Department worked closely with the Board of Education (BOE) regarding safety strategies as part of a presentation on the comprehensive school reopening plan. The department worked together with BOE leadership to update and talk about topics such as CDC guidances issued on July 27<sup>th</sup> about the recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals using masks, changes in contact tracing for fully vaccinated individuals, new recommendations around contact tracing from children-to-children infections versus adult to

child infections and hand washing techniques. The department worked with BOE to develop and revise protocols to align with the CDC and provided links to information on health and safety. Health Department staff is currently working with the building department to review ventilation reports and conducted inspections on 10 schools that were a concern during the last academic year. The department will be a part of the next principals meeting to ensure leadership at the schools are aware of the recommendations. This academic year the department will continue working closely with vaccine partners, school-based health centers and school nurses to provide vaccinations at the schools. A recommendation was made to limit access to visitors into school buildings and to continue using video conferencing to hold meetings.

The schools cleaning and disinfection plan was developed by the Health Department in conjunction with the BOE working closely with the maintenance staff and being monitored by the Covid Task Force Team to ensure safe reopening. Workflow guidance developed to identify the need to isolate or quarantine. Information was shared about a state funded pilot that will provide Covid-19 testing support in conjunction with offering the vaccines in schools. The Health Department is not encouraging symptomatic testing at the schools.

The school bus company is instituting and maintaining the safety plan that was recommended last year by the Health Department.

Director Bond reported because New Haven is currently at high transmission of Covid-19 the state is going to scale up free testing within the next two weeks. The Health Department will also have a testing site at the Health Department for staff. A discussion ensued on tracking Health Department and Board of Education employee vaccination status and testing. The Health Department and Board of Education have been working very closely and collaborating to ensure policies and procedures around Covid-19 are based on science and data.

Commissioner Chair Hadler moved to adjourn; Commissioner Young seconded; meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:16p.m.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

Attest:

*Damaris Velez*

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Damaris Velez  
Office Manager

9/8/2021

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Date

Approved:

09/08/21

*James Hadler*

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James Hadler, Chair  
Board of Health Commissioners

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Date