

Chicago Board of Health
January 20, 2021
Virtual Meeting
By Remote Means

Pursuant to applicable law, the President determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent. Accordingly, attendance at this meeting was via remote means only.

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Juan M. Calderon
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., DDS, MPH
Victor M. Gonzalez
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Joseph B. Starshak

For the Department

Allison Arwady, M.D., Commissioner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:01am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December 2020 meeting were approved by the Board.

Commissioner's Update: Dr. Arwady presented Board members with an overview of the City's efforts on COVID-19 and provided an update on Tier 2 reopening. Dr. Arwady also provided Board members with an update on the Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) COVID-19 vaccination distribution rollout in Phase 1a, and plans for Phase 1b on January 25th.

Board Member Comments: Dr. Smith inquired about how individuals that are not part of a healthcare system would be able to access a vaccine appointment. Dr. Arwady informed Board members the City and CDPH will be announcing a detailed plan on January 25th that on ways Chicagoans in hardest hit communities will have access to COVID-19 vaccinations. Mr. Starshak inquired about mitigation measures and reopening metrics. Dr. Arwady informed Board members the City's reopening metrics are posted online at [Chicago.gov/reopening](https://chicago.gov/reopening), and updated the board that there are currently no national mitigation and reopening metrics, however locally the City's emergency travel order measures under 15 daily cases per 100,000 residents as a positive containment metric. Dr. Rothschild inquired about the City's vaccine registration process, and whether online systems would be a barrier for vulnerable communities. Dr. Arwady informed Board members in Phase 1b CDPH will be announcing a centralized system for registration of vaccine appointments. Dr. Rothschild also inquired whether a surveillance system was in place to track equity with vaccine distribution. Dr. Arwady informed Board members CDPH has developed a vaccine data portal, and is working to ensure providers are reporting data on race. Dr. Rothschild also inquired about the vaccination plan for teachers. Dr. Arwady informed Board member CDPH is working closely with CPS on a plan ensure teachers will have direct access to vaccinations as part of the schools reopening plan. Rothschild also inquired about a vaccine plan for Cook County Jail. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that CDPH is working directly with Cook County Jail to offer vaccinations.

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Mr. Calderon inquired about the City's plan for vaccine distribution to safety net hospitals. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that safety net hospitals are considered as all other hospitals during the initial vaccine rollout, and CDPH will continue to distribute vaccine based on requests received. Mr. Calderon also inquired about the use of CDPH mental health clinics as vaccination sites. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that CDPH mental health clinics are not setup to be vaccinating sites, and also indicated many CDPH staff are being assigned to work at City central points of dispensing. Dr. Arwady also informed Board members that some locations that house CDPH mental health clinics also have federally qualified health centers within the building which will be offering vaccinations. Mr. Calderon also inquired about the City's role with vaccine freezers. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that CDPH has built infrastructure to store 135,000 doses of vaccine in ultra cold freezers. Mr. Calderon also inquired about how the City is working with low income seniors in Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) buildings. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that CDPH is partnering directly with CHA buildings to offer vaccinations on-site to residents. Mr. Calderon also inquired about programs and services the City was offering to individuals that are suffering from long hauler symptoms of COVID-19. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that CDPH is working on a referral system to offer individuals a link to follow up care. Dr. Dreher inquired about the City's plan to help older residents in buildings get immunized. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that CDPH will be announcing a detailed plan on January 25th that will offer older residents various ways to access to COVID-19 vaccinations. Dr. Evans inquired about mutations in the COVID-19 and what that may mean for the future. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that with every new mutation detection there is rapid work to study and share information in a worldwide database. Dr. Arwady indicated that the UK strain is believed to be more contagious, so there is less margin for error, and we should double down on mitigations strategies (wear a mask, social distancing). Dr. Arwady also indicated that because of mutations, there will be a need to vaccinate a higher percentage of the population to reach herd immunity, and this is why for CDPH it is important to ensure vaccine is reaching the hardest hit communities and settings (long term care facilities and congregate settings). Dr. Cobbs inquired about the City's future planning, and whether there had been any thoughts to use emergency rooms for vaccination, for example when single-dose vaccine were to become available. Dr. Arwady informed Board members that as Chicago moves into Phase 1c, where more individuals are eligible for vaccine, emergency departments may play an important role.

Board President Comments: Dr. Lopez commended the City and CDPH on COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Dr. Lopez commented the Board has no budget, staff, or authority to promulgate rules or ordinances that are passed by the City, and indicated that any actions the Board takes must relate to an emergency. Dr. Lopez also commented that the Board cannot go beyond its jurisdiction. Dr. Lopez shared with the Board that the City and CDPH will be reviewing rules and regulations with respect to concerns regarding live markets.

Public Comments: Representatives of Slaughter Free Chicago, an organization advocating to ban live markets and make Chicago a slaughter free city, shared remarks with Board members on the group's review of City live market inspection reports. The organization also shared comments with Board members indicating they do not feel the Board has taken this issues seriously. The organization would like the Board of Health to make recommendations to CDPH based on information they have shared with Board members. The organization also shared comments with Board members recommending that the Chicago Food Code be amended with stricter enforcement measures for businesses with multiple violations.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM.