



**Delaware County Health Department**  
**Board of Health Meeting**  
January 6, 2022

**Meeting Minutes**

**ATTENDEES**

Rosemarie Halt, Chair  
Lily Higgins, MD, Vice Chair  
Patrick Brennan, MD  
Annemarie Hirsch  
Oni Richards

There being a duly convened quorum, Chair Rosemarie Halt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

There was no public comment on the agenda items.

Doing hybrid meeting tonight; 2 Board members are in-person and 2 are virtual. Approval of minutes; Rosemarie moved to accept the December 3 meeting minutes, seconded by Dr Higgins. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board update**

Review of PADOH presentation by Grace Gorenflo. Public Health 3.0 and Public Health Services are the basis of the DCHD. Benchmarks are for June 2022; due to State's fiscal year. Covered Personal Health, Population Health, Environmental Health, and three phases. Do not have a date for final approval.

Board of Health had no questions.

**Covid Update**

- Cases of Covid have doubled since December 23<sup>rd</sup>; 28% positivity rate. Delco numbers are significantly higher than Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.
- Press conference today with PA Secretary of Health at testing site at Mercy Fitz Hospital.
- Covid Response Team working very hard opening up vaccination and testing sites; posted on County website. Yeadon, Chester, 69<sup>th</sup> St., pop ups and community sites doing vaccination clinics as needed.
- Delco Covid cases in **school age children identified 937 through PCR testing; total in County is 4671.**
- Omicron is taking hold in our communities overwhelming out ER's and hospitals; all are on divert.
- Anticipate other testing sites opening in the County.
- Surrounding counties have adopted CDC recommendations including masking in public and in school settings.
- Dr. Brennan stated that the numbers are significantly higher due to home testing; anticipates numbers being three to five times higher than reported.
- Encourage following CDC guidance on quarantining. If sites do both types testing, only reporting PCR; DOH only using PCR at this point. Board of Health not in a position to make official recommendations until fully approved by DOH; can only make strong recommendations.
- Dr. Brennan endorsed what Rosemarie said; lots of positivity in schools and overwhelmed hospitals. Board of Health strongly recommends this position.

Chair Rosemarie Halt asked for any comments on vaccinations. As a county, we've provided 157,000 vaccinations; 70% of county estimated to be vaccinated. PA Secretary of Health noted that the majority of people throughout the counties in hospitals are not vaccinated; some are young. Vaccinations, as well as masking, is priority.

Tracking impact of hospitals being at capacity. Most hospitals are having to make case-by-case decisions on which patients can be delayed on procedures, i.e., 30 days or more to postpone; others using similar types of criteria. We

know from 2020, screenings dropped dramatically; outcome of systems being overcome, plus impact of staff being impacted by Covid.

No further comments from Board of Health.

Board of Health in agreement that all schools be mask wearing. Not just any mask, but a well-fitting mask. Masking in indoor settings and schools was unanimously voted "yes" by Board of Health members.

John Lichtenstein Informed the Board that an Application of Injunction for delay of environmental health inspections. Board of Health not in a position to defend. Solicitor to keep public comment to 5 min.

Open to public for comments.

Final comments from Board members.

Dr. Brennan commented on data on school districts: District-level data has not been provided to the school districts since we have not been under Chester County Health Department. As soon as we have the data, we will share it when we are a Health Department.

Thank everyone for coming out tonight and we will take your comments under consideration.

Next meeting March 3, 2022

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Copper  
Board Secretary?