

# Tacoma-Pierce County

## Board of Health



### Study Session Minutes

March 17, 2021  
3 -5 p.m.

3629 South D Street, Tacoma, WA 98418  
Board of Health Clerk, (253) 649-1502

### Remote Attendance Only

**Dial in: 253-215-8782**

**Passcode: 312329**

**Meeting ID: 992 2546 6650**

### Call to Order

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Members Present:** Derek Young, Catherine Ushka, Bruce Dammeier arrived 3:45 p.m., Patricia Johnson, William Hirota, Dave Morell, Alternate Board Members Ken Farmer, and Jani Hitchen.

**Members Excused:** Keith Blocker, Marty Campbell

**Also, present:** Anthony L-T Chen, Director of Health; Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director; Nigel Turner, Communicable Disease Control Division Director; Stephanie Dunkel, Communicable Disease Control Assistant Division Director; Denise Stinson, Communicable Disease/EPI Program Manager; Len Adams, Strengthening Families Program Manager.

**Proclamation 20-28** temporarily prohibits in-person contacts with the public that are required by the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) (RCW 42.30) and the Public Records Act (PRA) (RCW 42.56), suspending some statutory language that would require such contacts. It is effective from March 24, 2020 until midnight, April 23, 2020, unless extended beyond that date.

### COVID-19 Update

Anthony L-T Chen, Director of Health, Kayla Scrivner, Communicable Disease Control Program Manager, Nigel Turner, Communicable Disease Control Division Director advised board members on vaccine updates and disease trends.

Ms. Scrivner reviewed Washington's COVID-19 vaccine phases. She advised on expanded availability in Washington state and mapped out a look ahead for tier 2, 3, and 4. We are in Phase 3 of Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery.

Ms. Scrivner advised on coordination with schools and schools vaccine taskforce. She shared information on federal retail pharmacy partnership and prioritization vaccination of school staff.

Johnson & Johnson is here. Ms. Scrivner reviewed doses administered in Pierce County, Pierce County disease trends and demographic vaccination data. She updated board members on outreach to populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Brief discussion followed on hesitancy by gender.

# Tacoma-Pierce County

## Board of Health



Ms. Scrivner advised on clinics ran by the Health Department and Department of Emergency Management by legislative district, total clinics, and total doses. Discussion followed on the low number for some of the districts. She shared a map of clinic locations.

Discussion followed on eligibility and diversion of vaccine. Ms. Scrivner advised that the vaccine rollout in Washington state will continue to be a trust-based system for eligibility. The health department works closely with the compliance unit at the state Department of Health. Further discussion ensued around Johnson & Johnson vaccine and tracking data for single dosage. Does it go into the first dose tracking data and then immediately into the second dose? Nigel Turner advised yes it does.

Mr. Turner advised board members on disease trends. He shared data is consistent with what they are seeing. He advised we are seeing case rates declining. Positivity for testing is stable. He shared the overall test being done in the community is dropping. Mr. Turner emphasized the need for people to get tested. Deaths and overall hospital trends have been declining. He advised they have seen some variation from day-to-day.

He advised board members on Phase 3. The first evaluation of Phase 3 is April 12. Mr. Turner emphasized the importance of maintaining things we know are effective in controlling COVID in our community. Discussion followed on home testing, testing for variants and penetrance, and trendlines.

Discussion ensued around schools and low-level spread.

### **What Happened to the Flu?**

Denise Stinson advised board members on why we monitor influenza, surveillance, communication to healthcare providers, public information, and services. She shared flu season 2020-2021 preparation, advised on influenza activity 2020-2021 and percentage of emergency and urgent care visits with influenza-like illness. Ms. Stinson responded to questions from board members.

### **Smoking, vaping and COVID-19: Not good for your lungs.**

Len Adams, Strengthening Families Program Manager advised on their strategic plan: chronic disease, social connections, and health equity. He discussed why tobacco and vaping. Mr. Adams advised board members on smoking, vaping and COVID-19. He shared data from the 2018 Healthy Youth Survey.

Mr. Adams provided board members with history on ordinances and smoking in public places. He shared educational campaigns, community funded projects, smoke-free places, and current work.

# Tacoma-Pierce County *Board of Health*



## **Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

## **ATTEST:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Darden".

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**Patricia Darden**  
*Clerk, Board of Health*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derek Young".

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**Derek Young**  
*Chair, Board of Health*

**April 7, 2021**  
Date Signed