



**Delaware County Health Department  
Board of Health Meeting  
March 27, 2025**

**ATTENDEES**

Rosemarie Halt, Chair  
Lily Higgins, MD, Vice Chair  
Oni Richards (via Teams)  
Annemarie Hirsch  
P.J. Brennan, MD

**Meeting Minutes**

- I. There being a duly convened quorum, Chair Rosemarie Halt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Chair Announcements
  1. Board of Health Executive Session was held on March 20, 2025
  2. Had a very successful meeting with 60 participants at yesterday's Maternal Child Health meeting.
- III. Public Comment - None
- IV. Approval of minutes – motion made by Rosemarie Halt, P.J. Brennan approved, Annemarie Hirsch seconded.
- V. Director Updates
  1. Crozer Health System
    - a. Another Prospect Medical Holdings' bankruptcy hearing is scheduled for tomorrow (March 28, 2025); still in a period of uncertainty as negotiations continue. The DCHD Wellness Line is open for the community.
    - b. On Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 12pm to 2 pm, the DCHD will be hosting a panel discussion on how to navigate the health system during these trying times. Information on how to register will be posted on the website. The event will take place in the Yeadon Center as well as virtually.
  2. Lead Campaign
    - a. DCHD had a kick-off last month with billboards, education materials, and posters. The goal of the campaign is increasing lead awareness and lead screening and mitigation in Delaware County. The material is available in different languages.
    - b. Developed videos from the parent's perspective and the municipalities' role in primary prevention. Presentation shared.
  3. Expansion of Public Health Kiosks
    - a. There are three Test & Go kiosks; one is located at the entrance to the Government Center Building, one is located at Keystone First in Chester and one at the Yeadon Wellness Center. In mid-April, DCHD will be ready to launch one at Delaware County Community College and another at the 69th St. Terminal in partnership with SEPTA.
  4. DCHD's 3rd Anniversary

Anniversary date is April 2, 2025. Developing a video, "where we've been and where we're going" which will be released via social media during National Public Health Week, April 7-13, 2025.
  5. Federal Grants

The news is reporting executive orders at the federal level that impacts DCHD since DCHD is primarily grant-funded. COVID funding via the Epidemiological Laboratory Capacity (ELC)

grant and supplemental funding in the Immunization Grant may particularly be impacted. DCHD is working on plans to be resilient and carry on.

**Question: What percent of the DCHD budget comes from grants?**

~70% of funding for DCHD comes from a variety of federal and state grants.

**Question/Comment: When the pandemic was going on there was limited local public health capacity, including for laboratory and epidemiological capacity.**

As a result of the investments in public health in response to the pandemic, capacity has increased. With all the infectious diseases out there, this is not a time to make cuts; advocacy is needed.

VI. New Business

1. Epi Update – Lora Werner, MPH, Director DCHD

- a. As of March 20, 2025, the CDC reported nationally 378 confirmed cases of measles in 16 jurisdictions, including PA. This includes cases nearby in Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Bucks counties.
- b. 17% of the measles cases are being hospitalized. Preventable with vaccinations, but vaccinations are decreasing in most SE PA jurisdictions. Working hard to address this decline.
- c. Flu, RSV, Norovirus, and Avian (bird) flu are still circulating. Human flu deaths this year were higher than COVID-19. No known human transmission of H5N1 bird flu in Delaware County.
- d. There is pressure on health systems and emergency room wait times are high as we enter the spring.

2. Measles, Pertussis and Vaccine Updates - Meagan Sheikh, Interim Administrator, Personal Health and Carol VonColln, Public Health Nurse Manager and Victor Rullan, Epidemiologist.

- a. Statistics from the Pennsylvania Department of Health on the number of measles and pertussis cases in Delco as of 3/10/2025 were presented.
- b. Pertussis rates are currently in decline. These rates are cyclical; every three to five years pertussis cases go up, and then go down for a couple of years. CDC changed pertussis contract tracing to only those living in the household and significant others.
- c. Local health departments follow a standard measles investigation process. Majority of cases in 2025 PA outbreak are from Philadelphia. First dose of vaccine is 93% effective. Families traveling with infants can have an infant six months or older given the first dose.
- d. DCHD sponsored walk-in school-based vaccine clinics were held for 7th and 12th graders in three school districts and the Yeadon Wellness Center.
- e. Vaccines for Children (VFC) Clinics were held around the community as well as at the Yeadon and Chester clinics.
- f. Required school reporting has increased due to the excellent outreach and education by DCHD immunization consultant, Marie Dore.

**Question: How do you get parent consent during school clinics?**

Consent forms are sent out ahead of time for parents to sign.

**Question: Does the school give you a list of patients who are not vaccinated?**

This is an effort between the school nurses and the state.

**Question: Are you prepared if you had to give measles vaccines quickly?**

Getting the vaccine would be the issue. DCHD would need to negotiate this with the state and/or pharmacies/providers. DCHD has a well-oiled machine and is ready to institute emergency vaccination clinics as needed.

VII. Public Comment – None.

VIII. Motion to adjourn made by Chair Rosemarie Halt; approved by Annemarie Hirsch, seconded by P.J. Brennan.

Next meeting is June 12 at the County Council Room, 201 W. Front St., Media PA. There will be public notice of the location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Werner, DCHD Director