

## NOTICE

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# DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

**Wheaton, Illinois**

**February 11, 2021**

Board Members Present                      Lori Bottoms, Mindy Finch, Janice Guider, Dr. Nadeem Hussain,  
Dr. Uzma Muneer, Dr. Lawrence Schouten, Robert Spadoni,  
President Tornatore, Dr. Weeks, Dr. Wilson

Board Members Absent

State's Attorney                              Lisa Smith

Leadership Staff Present                      Karen Ayala, Lori Carnahan, Dr. Rashmi Chugh, Adam Forker,  
Andrea Gargani, Chris Hoff

Health Department Staff Present              Luke Banzyck, Dennis Brennan, Penny Chanez, Pat Flaherty,  
Mike Kiep

Public Present:

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The February 11, 2021 meeting of the Board Health was called to order at 6:21PM. Ten members were present. Quorum was met. The meeting was conducted by ZOOM meeting and public live streaming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Board Member Finch joined the meeting after roll call at 6:30PM. President Tornatore read into the minutes the following:

*Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-07 (2019 IL EO 20-07), issued March 16, 2020, during the duration of the COVID-19 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, requiring or relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body are suspended. Specifically, the conditions in 5 ILCS 120/7 limiting when remote participation is permitted are suspended.*

*The DuPage County Health Department is the lead agency for DuPage County in response to the global pandemic and as such is currently closed to the public except by appointment, in adherence to public health guidelines and for the protection and safety of the public and staff.*

*Tonight's meeting is being conducted remotely and is being livestreamed for the public's viewing on the agency's You Tube channel which can be accessed at the live stream link on the Health Department's website. Members of the public had the opportunity to submit written comments in advance of the meeting. The method for public participation is publicized on the Health Department's website. Public comments will be read and recorded in compliance with the Open Meetings act.*

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### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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A copy of the public comments can be found at the end of the minutes.

### **3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

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President Tornatore welcomed everyone and shared the following comments.

- The Health Department recently had a virtual visit with the Joint Commission for reaccreditation.
- The agency received positive feedback on the annual Federal Fiscal Audit with no findings, no concerns, and adequate controls.
- The department passed the accreditation visit for the Healthy Families- Illinois program designed to reduce child abuse/neglect in vulnerable families.

### **4. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES**

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Executive Director Ayala provided an update on the agency's COVID-19 response as well as update on the agency's vaccine distribution efforts including prioritizations, approved vaccine locations/providers, allocation process and challenges with the limited vaccines available for distribution. A copy of the PowerPoint is posted with the minutes.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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Dr. Weeks motioned for the approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting of the Board of Health. Seconded by Ms. Finch.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Dr. Weeks, Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer, Dr. Schouten, Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore

**Motion Passed**

### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

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Mike Kiep presented the December 2020 Treasurer's Report. President Tornatore asked for a motion to accept the December Treasurer's Report as presented.

<b>TOTAL Health Department Funds:</b>
Beginning Balance as of 12/01/2020: \$ 40,634,005.85
Total Receipts: \$ 7,533,685.25
Total Disbursements: \$ 9,130,446.13
Total Ending Balance as of 12/31/2020: \$ 39,037,244.97
FY 2021 Interest Earnings for December 2020: \$ 4,146.87 YTD: \$ 4,146.87

Dr. Weeks motioned to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Ms. Guider seconded the motion.

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A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Dr. Weeks, Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer, Dr. Schouten, Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore

### **Motion Passed**

## **7. CONSENT ITEMS**

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### ***7:1 Human Resources Transactions – Business Operations Services***

Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the Human Resources Transactions as presented. Seconded by Dr. Schouten.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer, Dr. Schouten, Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore, Dr. Weeks

### **Motion Passed**

All employees hired and changing status are filling vacant budgeted positions. The Changes of Status have not caused any increase in the budget.

### **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the hiring, changes of status, and separations as listed, falling within the dates of 12/11/2020 and 02/26/2021.

## **8. ACTION ITEMS**

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### ***8-1 Grant Acceptances:***

President Tornatore asked for a motion to combine the grant acceptances as presented. Mr. Spadoni motioned to combine the grant acceptance as presented. Seconded by Dr. Wilson.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore, Dr. Weeks, Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer, Dr. Schouten

### **Motion Approved**

President Tornatore asked for a motion to approve the grant acceptances as presented. Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the grant acceptance as presented. Seconded by Mr. Spadoni.

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A roll call vote was taken.

Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer, Dr. Schouten,  
Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore, Dr. Weeks

**Motion Approved**

### **ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION – ORAL HEALTH CAPACITY – DCHD COVID-19 AND ORAL HEALTH PROJECT**

Public Health Services wishes to accept a grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation in the amount of \$ 90,194. This funding will provide Personal Protective Equipment for DuPage County Health Department dental staff and make necessary physical changes to fixed and mobile clinic areas to prevent transmission of Covid-19. A portion of these funds will also be used to support a DuPage County Health Department Dental Hygienist to assist community pediatric dental providers in guidance related to preventing transmission of Covid-19, as well as, case management to ensure that children's access to oral health services is maintained during the pandemic. The grant period for this agreement is November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021.

This grant was not included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget.

### **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation as presented.

### **ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – SASS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE**

Behavioral Health Services wishes to accept a grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation in the amount of \$ 149,940. These funds will be used for personnel costs to support increased staffing of Crisis Services through the pandemic. The grant period for this agreement is October 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

This grant was not included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget.

### **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation as presented.

### **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES - CRISIS STAFFING**

Behavioral Health Services wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services for Crisis Staffing in the amount of \$ 14,625 for a 2% COLA increase. The annual funding level is now \$745,872. These funds will be used to provide staffing for responding to mental

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health crisis situations 24 hours/7 days per week. The grant period for this agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This grant is included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget at \$ 731,247.

**MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services as presented.

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH - BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER PROGRAM**

Public Health Services wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) in the amount of \$ 176,000. The funding level is now \$1,331,930 (\$642,965 in SY20 and \$688,695 in SY21). This grant provides comprehensive breast and cervical cancer services for all qualified women screened in IBCCP including screening and diagnostic services to detect breast and cervical cancer at the earliest stages. The contract period for this agreement is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

This grant was included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget at \$ 512,965.

**MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Public Health as presented.

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – OUTPATIENT FITNESS RESTORATION**

Behavioral Health Services wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services for Outpatient Fitness Restoration in the amount of \$325 for a 2% COLA increase. The annual funding level is now \$16,566. These funds will be used to provide for outpatient mental health services and fitness education to non-dangerous defendants who are adjudicated unfit to stand trial. The grant period for this agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This grant is included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget at \$ 16,241.

**MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services as presented.

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES - COMMUNITY INTEGRATED ASSISTED LIVING (CILA) PROGRAM**

Behavioral Health Services wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Community Integrated Assisted Living (CILA) Program in the amount of \$14,775

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for a 2% COLA increase. The annual funding level is now \$753,506. These funds will be used to provide twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week supervision to clients in a variety of residential settings from independent sites to clustered apartments with staff support available. The grant period for this agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This grant is included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget at \$ 738,731.

## **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services as presented.

### **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – SUPPORTED RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM**

Behavioral Health Services wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Supported Residential Program in the amount of \$7,986 for a 2% COLA increase. The annual funding level is now \$407,286.

These funds will be used to provide recovery oriented residential support services to assist homeless persons with mental illness in maintaining housing in the community. The grant period for this agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This grant is included in the FY 2021 Health Department Budget at \$ 399,300.

## **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services as presented.

### **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES – SUPERVISED RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM**

Behavioral Health Services wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Supervised Residential Program in the amount of \$5,144 for a 2% COLA increase. The annual funding level is now \$262,353. These funds will be used to provide recovery oriented residential support services designed to provide twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, supervision, skills training and supports within a community residential setting. The grant period for this agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This grant is included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget at \$ 257,209.

## **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services as presented.

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### **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES - CRISIS RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

Behavioral Health Services wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services for Crisis Residential Services in the amount of \$5,692 for a 2% COLA increase. The annual funding level is now \$290,269. These funds will be used to provide twenty-four hours a, seven day a week crisis beds, and residential support activities designed to provide short-term continuous supervision. The grant period for this agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This grant is included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget at \$ 284,577.

### **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services as presented.

### **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – ILLINOIS PREVENT PRESCRIPTION/OPIOID DRUG OVERDOSE-RELATED DEATHS**

The DuPage County Health Department, Illinois Prevent Prescription/Opioid Drug Overdose-Related Deaths (IPDO) Program wishes to accept a grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services in the amount of \$ 225,000 for Narcan purchase. The annual funding level is now \$ 603,200. The purpose of this program is to reduce the numbers of PDO-related deaths in DuPage County. The grant period for this agreement is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This grant is included in the FY 2021 Health Department Current Budget at \$603,200.

### **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the acceptance of the grant amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services as presented.

### ***8:2 – Purchasing Agenda***

President Tornatore asked for a motion to combine the purchasing agenda items as presented. Dr. Weeks motioned to combine the purchasing items as presented. Seconded by Dr. Wilson.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Dr. Weeks, Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer, Dr. Schouten, Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore

### **Motion Passed**

President Tornatore asked for a motion to approve the purchasing agenda items as presented. Mr. Spadoni motioned to approve the purchasing items as presented. Seconded by Dr. Wilson.

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*Discussion:* Item 2(d): Professional services - Vincent Keenan

Ms. Guider questioned if there is an evaluation process that will guide the Health Department/vendor to determine if the effort is successful in addressing health inequities in the County.

Ms. Ayala and Mr. Hoff shared that Mr. Keenan focus will be on addressing health inequities based on the vaccine allocation framework, and he will work within specific geographic areas to recruit more vaccine providers in those areas who may not be enrolled in ICARE. His work will also include assisting providers with requests for vaccines. The Health Department's Health Equity and Response Team (HEART) are also working to determine what barriers there are in communities in addressing vaccine distribution. Ms. Ayala shared that a framework/model for evaluation has not been established yet as the process is just on the cusp of being launched.

*There was no further discussion.*

A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore, Dr. Weeks, Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer, Dr. Schouten

**Motion Passed**

## **PURCHASING**

- a.) S-BRS-02-11-281 – Change Order to Dell for Microsoft Unified Support in accordance with Article 4, Part D, Section 4-405 of the DuPage County Health Department Procurement Policy. The Change Order form is included, and staff recommends approval of the expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$71.48.
- b.) C-PHS-02-11-282 – Emergency Procurement to Impact Networking to purchase and warehouse nitrile gloves for COVID-19 vaccination clinics in accordance with Article 4, Part A, Section, 4-106 of the DuPage County Health Department Procurement Policy. The Procurement Approval Checklist and Decision Memo are included, and staff recommends approval in an amount not to exceed \$440,000.00. This expenditure is fully covered by CARES funding.
- c.) S-BRS-05-08-266 – Change Order to CDW-G for Smartnet Services in accordance with Article 4, Part D, Section 4-405 of the DuPage County Health Department Procurement Policy. The Change Order form is included, and staff recommends approval in an amount not to exceed \$5,371.69.
- d.) P-BAS-02-11-283 – Professional Services to Vincent D. Keenan to provide consulting services for coordination with healthcare vaccination partners to assure effective distribution to meet the Department's vaccination priorities in accordance with Article 4, Part A, Section 4-108 of the DuPage County Health Department Procurement Policy. The Procurement Approval Checklist and Decision Memo are included. Staff recommends approval of the expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$111,150.00. This expenditure is fully covered by CARES funding.
- e.) S-BRS-02-11-284 – Emergency Procurement to purchase Qualtrics, LLC, licensing and implementation services in accordance with Article 4, Part A, Section, 4-106 of the DuPage County Health Department Procurement Policy. The Procurement Approval Checklist and Decision Memo are included,



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and staff recommends approval in an amount not to exceed \$852,200.00. This expenditure is fully covered by CARES funding.

## **MOTION**

The DuPage County Board of Health hereby approves the Purchasing Agenda

Items A – E as presented.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business before the board.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

President Tornatore discussed with members exploring the possibility of amending the Board of Health by-laws to limiting public comment to 30 minutes but allowing for flexibility if needed. The current by-laws do not address public comment limitations. Members were in agreement on the importance of public comment, but also agreed to explore how to address virtual public comments which are repetitive in nature and can lead to hours of the same public comment being read multiple times. This issue was also recently addressed at the DuPage County Board and President Tornatore expressed exploring a similar approach as taken by the DuPage County Board. Board of Health members agreed to this approach and President Tornatore will work with Lisa Smith from the State's Attorney's office to present language and an amendment for the board's consideration at the next meeting.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Health is March 11, 2021

## **12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was not a need for an Executive Session

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

President Tornatore asked for a motion to adjourn.  
Dr. Schouten motioned to approve. Seconded by Dr. Wilson

A roll call vote was taken.

*Ayes:* Dr. Schouten, Mr. Spadoni, President Tornatore, Dr. Weeks, Dr. Wilson, Ms. Bottoms, Ms. Finch, Ms. Guider, Dr. Hussain, Dr. Muneer

**Motion passed.**

***The meeting was adjourned at 7:22PM***

First Name	Last Name	Comment
Heather	Beck	More & more experts are coming forward, claiming that the misuse of the PCR test is resulting in a vast # of false positives. Many are denouncing the test as fraudulent & illogical, that it shouldn't be considered diagnostic. These are the very tests used to justify restrictions. I'm a Dupage resident. I am asking your board to invalidate & retract #s that lead to deception. Fraudulent reporting during a state of emergency is a felony. A cycle threshold of 34 cycles or more means the test is useless as a measure of a true positive case. The test MUST be run @ 17 cycles, otherwise accuracy is increasingly questionable as cycles increase. The chance that a false positive result is received above 35 cycles is 97% or higher. Im asking DuPage Health to ONLY count results that are run @ 30 cycles or less. Publish the PCR cycle threshold for DuPage county testing. Retract any and all case #s that are based on cycle thresholds above 30. Accuracy is of UTMOST importance in a public crisis.
Rebecca	Harpster	o the DuPage County Board of Health and Executive Director Ayala, I am writing this on January 31, 2021. As of the time of this writing, the DuPage County Health Department has STILL not changed their stance on in-person schooling. Despite reams and reams of data that show in-person school is safe, you continue to stay quiet and say you recommend remote learning but "it's up to the individual districts." I am severely disappointed in your lack of leadership. I suggest you take a page from the Chicago Health Department playbook and their amazing leader in Dr. Arwady. She is advocating for the children that are under her care in Chicago. You should be doing the same. Please advocate for the children of DuPage County. If you don't, I suggest the Board of Health consider hiring a better leader for the children and families of DuPage County.
Mia	Allen	To the DuPage County Board of Health and Executive Director Ayala, I am writing this on January 31, 2021. As of the time of this writing, the DuPage County Health Department has STILL not changed their stance on in-person schooling. Despite reams and reams of data that show in-person school is safe, you continue to stay quiet and say you recommend remote learning but "it's up to the individual districts." I am severely disappointed in your lack of leadership. I suggest you take a page from the Chicago Health Department playbook and their amazing leader in Dr. Arwady. She is advocating for the children that are under her care in Chicago. You should be doing the same. Please advocate for the children of DuPage County. If you don't, I suggest the Board of Health consider hiring a better leader for the children and families of DuPage County.
Cecelia	Grebs	Dear Director Ayala, Why has the DuPage County Board of Health's recommendation still not changed regarding in person school? I am sure you are familiar with study after study showing that in person school is safe with layered mitigations such hand washing and face masks. The CDC published a study last week showing almost no spread in school even in areas of high community covid transmission. As a public health official, I surprised you aren't more concerned with the mental health and loss of academic and social emotional learning affecting our children. Our district is pointing it's finger at you as to why our children aren't in school full time. Please take leadership change your recommendation to supporting full in person instruction for our children. Thank you, Cecelia Grebs
Kim	Balice	IDPH, What more will it take to see our children need in person learning, full time & at full capacity? Not remote. Not hybrid. IN PERSON. The science is there. The data is there. Health officials from the CDC, WHO, AAP, and many other respected organizations have provided sufficient statistics that have proven schools are not Covid super spreaders. Tell me, are you not concerned about our children's mental health? Have you looked at the youth suicides? Have those stories not affected you?! THE VIRUS HAS A 99% SURVIVAL RATE!!!! There is a vaccine available!!!! We pay high taxes to provide our children the education they deserve and they sit in their dark rooms, videos off, on mute & all for what?!?! Definitely not an education!!! Enough is enough!!!! Get them in school!!!!

Benjamin Widrevitz I understand that there currently is a shortage of vaccine doses. That said, I and many other people in my neighborhood are running around trying to get appointments and status if we had 'signed up' in one place or another. This certainly ties up the phone lines etc. I know you have sign up web facilities, as do places like OSCO etc. BUT all too often once signing up, or reading updates (try to find any!) people just see zip, nothing, nada. I don't mind waiting, I know we must do that. What I mind is not knowing if we having a slot in the future (albeit no definite date) and I need to get some reasonably regular emails to let me know I (and my wife) are on some list and not forgotten.

A typical issue too is that companies like OSCO have sites for getting appointments, and at least around us (Downers Grove) I have the sense that OSCO is not giving injections. But to be honest, I just don't know.

So some greatly improved communications please.

Nicole Pekarek Please reconsider your recommendation of the 6 ft distance for elementary school children. Our kids need to return to the classrooms for full days. Two and a half hours a day is not cutting it for these young children. A 3 foot guideline would allow our children to attend full time.  
Thank you,  
Nicole

Sara Forster 63 days ago, over 200 people commented on the havoc that has been wreaked by the DCHD guidance that directs schools to stay "all-remote" due to COVID, or, at best, requires in-classroom 6-foot distances between children, even when COVID positivity rates are below 5%. The CDC is updating its schools guidance, which should be aligned with the WHO's, which states that 1-meter distancing is enough, for schools with adequate ventilation. Does the DCHD care about the mental health crisis, created by closed schools, due to DCHD's overly restrictive school COVID guidance? 63 days. That's 9 weeks. 9 weeks with no DCHD action. 9 weeks longer that DuPage County school kids have had to suffer. It is time to update the guidance. Remove the suggestion of protracted remote learning. Reduce the in-school distancing to 1 meter (3 feet). Admonish districts to keep schools open, 5-days-a-week, for the health & safety of the kids, whenever possible. For kids' health, require the schools to reopen now.

Chad Treisch This is a federally funded vaccine and the recommendations by ACIP should be followed and the guidance should only be allowed to be added too, not allow for a single group to be erroneously removed. ACIP has specific guidelines for 1B priorities which places Higher Ed in that group and should have not been removed and the science be followed. Higher Ed includes many services outside of just classroom instruction. Higher Ed is very robust operation and includes communal living dorms, nursing services, 24/7 building operations, grocery stores, COVID testing operations, support services for actively infected COVID-19 students, COVID-19 quarantine and isolation coordination (including food service and custodial), police, housekeeping services, and so much more that places staff at higher risk. There needs to be immediate specific guidance from DCHD to support the essential workforce who happen to work in Higher Ed and are eligible in 1A or 1B without the Higher Ed specific designation.

Gracia Livie Please carefully consider the recommendations you are making for schools at this mtg. I feel the health department has minimized and ignored the importance of the mental health of our youngest citizens. My husband and I are raising 4 children under aged 10 in Naperville. When we saw that our school district would not be opening in the fall, we chose to homeschool our children and give them a piece of normalcy. However we have all grieved the loss of our beloved public school and recently enrolled our children back again so that they could attend for 2.5 hrs/day 4 days/wk (The maximum offering our district is providing). The district has told us that our school will not fully open until the 6 foot spacing issue is changed. We have all seen across the country schools operating successfully full-time. It is safe and it is important that we bring back our children to school full-time and give them as much normalcy as possible. They are carrying too much of this burden unnecessarily.

Jean	Hogan	<p>Please update your return to school framework. I have spoken with the analyst of the Northwestern Covid Data Tracker by Zip and he says that due to the volume of testing, we need to focus on positivity rate instead of cases per 100K, which, because of the testing volume, will always put us in "substantial transmission". Please update your quarantine guidelines to match with the CDC. Please take a look at the research that shows 3 feet suffices for children with masks. At this point, the DCBH is the reason our public schools can't return to full in person school. Why do you continue to do this to our children who are NOT at risk of serious illness or death from Covid? Our teachers are being vaccinated. Who are we protecting anymore with this outdated guidance? Please make our children and their education the priority! Please stop recommending remote learning on your website.</p>
Amy	Nelson	<p>You need to review and revise your return to school framework. It has not been updated in 6 months! We have so much more data on this virus and you can certainly make more scientific and educated recommendations at this point. Mental health is equally as important as physical health, and should be considered accordingly. Kids need to get back to school and many are not based on your DCPH recommendations!</p>
Kate	Feutz	<p>I am writing to express my concerns with the back to school plan. My 3 children are struggling at home on zoom and especially my 6th grader, is struggling emotionally and mentally. She is withdrawn, unmotivated and unable to make social connection with their peers or teachers. She attends a new middle school, new teachers, new friends. I am extremely concerned about her mental health and that of the other students. She is seeking therapy once a week but I worry about her moving forward. I am asking you to please update your back to school guidelines to allow our students to get as much in person learning as possible. Now that teachers are being vaccinated, and have proper masks etc, it is essential we put our kids first and get them back in school full time. Thank you for your time and efforts.</p>
Rachel	Mikula	<p>To Whom it May concern:</p> <p>The current DuPage County framework for returning to school has not been updated since 8/28/20. The current framework does not follow up to date CDC guidelines which explains that distancing can now be 3 ft not 6 ft, eating in the building is safe and a full day in person model is safe and achievable immediately. Please, the children of this county, the community you serve and represent, are suffering as they continue fall subject to a lack of up to date scientific models that make it easy for districts to continue with a remote, hybrid model. This model continues to fail the academic, social and mental well being of the children of this county. Please roll out the most up to date framework that will help get our children back where they need to be: in the classroom full time with live instruction. Thank you.</p>