

Community Board 9 Health Committee Minutes
Committee Chair, Francisca Leopold
Thursday, December 3, 2020
Zoom hosted by CB 9 Board Office

Attendees:

1. Francisca Leopold - CB 9 Board Member, Health Committee Chair
2. Warren Burke - CB 9 Board Member, 1st Vice Chair
3. Melissa Severe - CB 9 Board Member, Health Committee Secretary
4. Khalid Nixon - CB 9 Board Office
5. Enid Dillard - One Brooklyn Health System
6. Ariel Sulcov - Graduate Student
7. Theresa Doherty, Deputy Director for Outreach Campaign, Test and Trace
8. Sabrina J Lewis, Ambassador of Wellness/CHW; Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patient Network; Health Committee Chair, Brooklyn NAACP; Community Resident
9. Cindy Encalada - Outreach Coordinator, NY Connects Brooklyn/Department for the Aging
10. Dr. Noel Manyindo - NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
11. Anna Shats - NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Meeting started at approximately 7:05PM and adjourned at approximately 8:40PM

Dr. Noel Manyindo - provided an update on the current state of COVID-19 world-wide and locally including here in Community Board 9. At the time of his presentation New York City was at ~5.2% positivity rate in the last seven days which crosses City and State 5% thresholds for restrictions on things like indoor dining. He shared stats from the beginning of the pandemic to the present:

- ~54.7 million cases worldwide of COVID-19
- ~318,000 confirmed cases in NYC
- ~19,600 + COVID-19 deaths
- ~86K cases in Brooklyn
- ~6K confirmed deaths in Brooklyn
- In Staten Island there are areas with 10% positivity rates as of the last seven days

He stressed the importance of getting the flu shot this season; getting COVID on top of the flu or vice versa is something we should all avoid. The combination of the two makes it difficult to recover from either illness.

He shared that a COVID-19 vaccine is very close to being available. Priority will likely be given first to people working in health care settings and other high risk settings before rolling out to the general population.

A breakdown of COVID-19 positivity rates in Brooklyn Community Board 9 revealed upward trends in 11216 and 11225; downward trends in 11213; 11233 and 11238 remained flat. While

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all rates were below a 2.6% positivity rate, better than the overall City average, we in CB9 should remain vigilant since it can take weeks to see a flare up occurring in the data.

- Regular updates on COVID data by zip code can be found on the website NYC DOHMH COVID-19 Data: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page>
- COVID-19 informational flyers and posters can be ordered by contacting 311
- Find out where to get a flu shot using the DOHMH Health Map: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/health-map.page>
- Information on the COVID-19 vaccine: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>
- The City has a 24/7 wellness resource for those who are stressed and overwhelmed during this time: NYC Well <https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us/en/> ; or call 888-NYC-WELL

Theresa Doherty - Test and Trace - presented on the resources that her team has been providing to support those who have tested positive as well as those in vulnerable populations. Each week Test and Trace runs a GetTested Tuesday campaign to highlight testing locations in the community, especially mobile testing sites. This week on December 8th central Brooklyn will host a mobile site at Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue. More information on the outreach and resources provided by this team can be found by contacting the Brooklyn Borough Director Monique Chandler-Waterman. Some other services the team provides include supporting seniors who are too often isolated in their apartments and distribution of PPE.

Theresa directed meeting attendees to learn about Core 4 Prevention:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-prevent-spread-poster.pdf>

NYC Health & Hospitals testing locations (updated by Sunday night for the following week):

<https://bit.ly/NYCweeklytestingsites>

Ariel Sulcov - presented on rates of obesity in New York City and highlighted positive steps being taken by organizations like the Lefferts Gardens Food Coop and public officials like Public Advocate Jumanne D. Williams office to promote healthy communities. The Public Advocate in particular pushed a City Council resolution 0179-2018 calling upon the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to require warning labels on sugar sweetened beverages.

Sabrina J. Lewis - presented on the work being done by the Brooklyn NAACP health committee during the pandemic, including distributing masks to faith-based organizations in Crown Heights, Bed Stuy and Ocean Hill. December is HIV/AIDS awareness month and outreach is being done with faith-based partners to host town halls and sermons to remind people about the HIV/AIDS epidemic that continues to hit Black communities at a disproportionate rate. Sabrina also shared information about Sickle Cell Disease support groups.

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Warren Berke - Testing at Kings County Hospital Center (KCHC) has been relocated to the T-building. ~ 700 COVID-19 tests are being done per day at KCHC. The hospital is readying for a second surge of patients. Currently visitation is being allowed but if we become a red zone (phase 5) visitation will have to be restricted to protect the health and safety of the hospital community. As of the meeting date 22 people at Kings County are hospitalized for COVID-19. The facility is being coded into cold zones and hot zones to limit the overlap of COVID confirmed patients with everyone else visiting the hospital.

Cindy Encalada - In the beginning of the pandemic early calls to the Department for the Aging (DFTA) were food insecurity related, right now our seniors are facing financial insecurity more than anything. DFTA works with partners like JASA and NYC Cares to support older New Yorkers throughout this pandemic and to meet their unique needs.

Enid Dillard - Reminded all in attendance of the PPE and virtual education resources available through the One Brooklyn network.

The meeting's open discussion touched on equity concerns. For example, barriers that prevented some Community Board 9 residents and similar constituencies from engaging in activities that could combat obesity. Dr. Noel accurately raised this as an equity issue faced by communities. Even venturing outdoors to exercise can pose safety concerns due to the very real instances of gun violence, stop and frisk, and general public safety concerns. Not all communities experience these public safety concerns at the same rate and therefore do not have the same freedom to exercise outdoors and take advantage of the parks and recreation facilities in our community.