

**PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL**  
**Bronx Community Board No. 8**  
**Minutes of the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee**  
**Held on**  
**Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm**  
**Via Zoom Conference Call**

**Present:**

Omar Murray  
 Lisa Daub  
 Steve Froot  
 Julia Gomez  
 Robert Kaplan  
 Karen Pesce

**Affiliation**

Chair – Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee  
 CB8- Committee Member  
 CB8- Committee Member  
 CB8- Committee Member  
 CB8- Committee Member  
 CB8- Committee Member

**Absent:**

Martin Gluck

CB8- Committee Member

**Guest (s)**

Bob Bender Vice-Chair, Bronx Community Board No. 8  
 David Gellman Chair, CB8-Budget Committee  
 Dr. Celine Gounder Infectious Disease Specialist/Biden-Harris Covid-19 Advisory Board  
 Anita Reyes Acting Assistant Commissioner NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
 Abigail Martin Community Resident  
 Laura Spalter Chair, Bronx Community Board No. 8  
 Robert Spalter Community Resident  
 Sam Liedtka Office of Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz

The committee meeting is called to order at 7:05 pm. The Chair opens with welcoming all to the February 2021 HHSS meeting. The December meeting minutes were approved:

Yes	6
No	0
Abs	0

Currently the covid-19 infection rate is decreasing the US and the Biden-Harris Administration has been sworn in. President Joe Biden has authorized his administration to purchase additional vaccines from both Moderna and Pfizer. The Chair states the Health Committee will be hearing from two important guest speakers tonight, Dr. Celine Gounder and Miss Anita Reyes. Dr. Gounder was a member of the Biden-Harris Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board, Dr. Gounder has been rank by people magazine as one of the 25 women in the world that is making a change. Dr. Gounder is an infectious disease specialist by profession. Miss Anita Reyes is the Acting Assistant Commissioner at the NYC Department of Health and will be speaking about the Covid-19 vaccination process.

Dr. Gounder explains that the Biden Administration has committed to hire 100,000 healthcare workers and has secure the purchase of 200 million vaccines (100 million Moderna and 100 million Pfizer) to increase vaccination, under the Obama administration there was wide range investment to predict an outbreak however such plans were dismantled under the Trump administration. The Biden administration will be working with health clinics, mobile clinics and hospitals to ensure that all receives a vaccine.

### **Important Points from Dr. Gounder**

1. Covid-19 has begun to mutate producing the variants, one from South Africa, Brazil and the UK. The UK variant is more troubling as it spreads from person to person more easily and will cause more deaths. by March this strain will be the dominant infections.
2. Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are very effective against the UK strains.
3. Both Vaccines contains MRNA not a weak or dead virus and the vaccines are very fragile and requires cold storage.
4. There is less trust for covid-19 vaccines amongst Latinos, blacks and indigenous people based on racial history and misinformation.
5. Very hard to determine how long the covid-19 virus lives within the air.

Dr. Gounder made a power point presentation. Please refer to [www.justhumanproductions.org](http://www.justhumanproductions.org)

The committee thanks Dr. Gounder for coming and for her hard work and sacrifice to save lives.

Miss Reyes begins to explain the covid-19 rates has begun to decrease and NYC is in Phase 1A and 1B of vaccination, and more groups of New Yorkers are becoming eligible for the vaccine all the time.

Right now, healthcare workers, people 65 and older, and a growing range of frontline essential workers and at-risk New Yorkers are eligible to get the vaccine. This includes:

- home health aides
- teachers and education workers, including childcare staff and first responders
- public safety workers
- public transit workers, including TLC licensees
- food and grocery store workers, including restaurant workers, convenience store workers, bodega workers, and food bank and food pantry workers
- New Yorkers experiencing homelessness who reside in congregate settings as well as staff
- staff at COVID-19 testing and vaccination locations
- public-facing hotel workers
- New Yorkers of any age who experience certain underlying medical conditions

## Steps in getting covid-19 vaccines

- 1. Determine eligibility and schedule an appointment.** Visit [www.vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](http://www.vaccinefinder.nyc.gov)
- 2. Complete the Vaccine Form.** Once you have a confirmed appointment, you must complete This form should be filled out online and you will receive a submission ID indicating completion. You will need to bring the submission ID to your appointment. If you cannot submit the form online, it will be available at the vaccination sites.
- 3. Bring proof of eligibility to your appointment.** Depending on your eligibility category, proof can include an employee ID card, a letter from an employer or affiliated organization, a pay stub, a driver's license, passport, or any legal proof of your date of birth and residency. See full list below. At the time of your appointment, you'll be asked a series of clinical questions to ensure readiness for a vaccine. You will be asked for insurance information BUT the vaccine is free and there will never be a charge to you. This information is for administrative use only.
- 4. If you received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, your second dose appointment will be scheduled automatically when you receive your first vaccine dose.** Your second appointment will be scheduled for the same time and at the same location, three weeks following your first dose. You will receive a card onsite with the date and time indicated and a confirmation email will follow a few days later. Please keep in mind when scheduling your first appointment that your second appointment will occur at the same time of day. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires one dose.

### Acceptable forms of proof of eligibility

If an individual is eligible due to their employment status, they must prove they are employed in the State of New York. Such proof may include:

- an employee ID card or badge
- a letter from an employer or affiliated organization, or
- a pay stub, depending on the specific priority status

If an individual is eligible due to their age, they must produce proof of age and proof of residence in New York. To prove New York residence, an individual must show:

- One of the following: State or government-issued ID; Statement from landlord; Current rent receipt or lease; Mortgage records; or
- Two of the following: Statement from another person; Current mail; School records

For age, such proof may include:

- Driver's license or non-driver ID
- Birth certificate issued by a state or local government
- Current U.S passport or valid foreign passport
- Permanent resident card
- Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship
- Life insurance policy with birthdate; or
- Marriage certificate with birthdate

Among adults, the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. For example, people in their 50s are at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s.

In addition, people of any age with the following underlying health conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Miss Reyes states New Yorkers should continue to practice safety procedure by:

1. Stay home if you are sick
2. Keep physical distance
3. Keep your hands clean
4. Wear a face covering
5. Avoid Travel
6. Get Tested

Miss Reyes states residents should continue to check the DOHMH website for updates on vaccines and testing information. Meeting is adjourned at 9:12pm.

Recorded and Submitted By:  
Omar Murray