



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

Vanessa L. Gibson, **Bronx Borough President**

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

MEETING MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS, & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (HHSS)

DATE	October 11, 2023	START TIME	7:00 PM	END TIME	20:14pm
MEETING HELD AT	BXCB8 OFFICE – Conference Room				
ADDRESS	5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471				

ATTENDANCE			
Present	Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Margaret Della, Barbara Kail, Josh Land	Total	4
Absent	Omar Murray, Kimberly Ally (CCM)	Total	2
Extraordinary Circumstances	Steve Froot, Sebastian Chittilappilly	Total	2
Guest			

- We reviewed and approved the minutes of the September 13th meeting.
- The committee heard an update on the issues of vaccines for Covid-19 and RSV. This update was presented by Kenneth Johnson- Community Liaison, The Bronx Office of External Affairs for NYCDOHMH.
- It was reported that the latest version of the Covid-19 vaccine is now available for all ages and for those that have had all previous iterations of the vaccine as well. It is now primarily available in pharmacies as opposed to the wider public distribution that older vaccines had. The vaccine is highly recommended for those over 65 years of age and for those with health issues that make them more vulnerable to the effects of Covid-19. The new shots are designed to protect against XBB.1.5 should also protect against more recent virus strains, including EG.5 and BA.2.86.
- The RSV vaccine is likewise available locally at pharmacies however has had a slower rollout and is steadily becoming more available. The vaccine is highly recommended for 65+ and immune compromised. A respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, or RSV vaccine, is a vaccine that protects against respiratory syncytial virus. RSV affects an estimated 64 million people and causes 160,000 deaths worldwide each year. The RSV vaccines Arexvy, and Abrysvo, are approved for medical use in the United States.
- The Committee reviewed some of its priorities and noted that it will not be meeting in November . The next meeting will be December 13th , 2023.

Minutes drafted and reviewed by Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Chair