



## **Detroit Health Department**

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**Denise Fair Razo, MBA, MPH, FACHE**

**Chief Public Health Officer**

### **CITY OF DETROIT HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY EPIDEMIC ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PER MCL §333.2453**

#### **DECLARATION OF CONTINUED EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19**

#### **TO EXTEND REMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS TO OPEN MEETINGS AND PROHIBIT GATHERINGS AT MEETINGS THAT RISK THE PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC BODIES**

#### **EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 TO MARCH 31, 2022**

- The undersigned, Denise Fair Razo, the Chief Public Health Officer of the City of Detroit, hereby extends the Local Public Health Emergency Epidemic Order (originally issued March 20, 2021) for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pursuant to §333.2453 of the Public Health Code of the State of Michigan, as it has been determined that doing so is necessary to continue to protect the public health from further transmission of COVID-19 within the City of Detroit.
- Although COVID-19 remains an imminent threat to the public throughout Detroit, government meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act (“OMA”), 1976 PA 267, must be held in-person after December 31, 2021. Those meetings must also be accessible to members of the public, vaccinated and unvaccinated. Therefore, I am issuing an emergency order to limit gatherings in public meetings and establish procedures to be followed to insure continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws until March 31, 2022, as follows:
  - All meetings of public bodies subject to the OMA shall continue to allow for remote public participation by electronic means in compliance with the OMA.
    - Members of the public participating remotely must be considered present and in attendance at the meeting and may participate in the meeting as if physically present at the meeting.
    - All members of the public must be permitted to remotely participate in any meeting of a public body, except as otherwise provided in the OMA.
    - In complying with the notice requirements of the OMA, a public body must include both detailed procedures by which the public may participate

in the meeting remotely, including a telephone number, internet address, or both, and procedures by which persons may contact members of the public body to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the public body at the meeting.

- A public body may not require a person as a condition of remotely participating in a meeting of the public body to register or otherwise provide his or her name or other information or otherwise to fulfill a condition precedent to attendance, other than mechanisms necessary to permit the person to remotely participate in a public comment period of the meeting.
- A person remotely participating must be permitted to address a meeting of a public body under rules established and recorded by the public body. A person remotely participating must not be excluded from a meeting of a public body open to the public except for a breach of the peace actually committed during the meeting.
- Members of the public otherwise remotely participating in a meeting of a public body may be excluded from participation in a closed session of the public body during that meeting if the closed session is convened and held in compliance with the requirements of the OMA applicable to a closed session.
- Except as otherwise provided by law, a public body holding a meeting subject to the OMA shall limit the number of people physically gathered in that meeting place to the extent necessary to ensure that individuals present remain at least six feet apart.
- Nothing in this order permits a public body to limit or restrict the rights of the press or other news media. Public bodies are encouraged to facilitate access by members of the press and other news media both to meetings held and to members of public bodies.

This order is based upon several facts and findings:

- Many areas of Detroit have vaccination rates below the level required to achieve community immunity to limit spread of the virus. This remains a concern as the spread of COVID-19 may result in emerging and more dangerous variants, such as B.1.617.2 (Delta) and B.1.1.529 (Omicron) becoming higher proportionally through the interactions of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, all of whom can become infected with COVID-19. Additionally, for certain individuals with mobility or transportation concerns, access to vaccinations has not been fully achieved, as programs for home-bound and other socially vulnerable populations are works in progress.
- To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable individuals, it is crucial to minimize in-person contact at public meetings. Public bodies must continue to conduct public business during this emergency, including actions to respond to COVID-19, and the public must be able to continue to participate in government decision making without unduly compromising public health, safety, and welfare.
- The ability to attend and participate in public meetings is maximized by allowing the public to remotely access public meetings. Additionally, such remote participation minimizes the risks associated with COVID-19 to the personal health and safety of both members of the public and public bodies.

- In light of these facts and findings, a local public health emergency is declared, and it is ordered that each individual public body within the jurisdiction of the Detroit Health Department must comply with the directions, limitations, and procedures described above.

This order is hereby effective as of January 1, 2022, and will remain in effect until March 31, 2022, at 11:59 p.m., unless withdrawn or replaced by further order of my office. Such measures will be enforced, and any violations are subject to citation and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code.

This order may be revised as well as supplemented with specific procedures and orders per the Michigan Public Health Code.

Dated: December 16, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Denise Fair Razo", is written over a horizontal line.

Denise Fair Razo, MBA, MPH, FACHE  
Chief Public Health Officer  
City of Detroit