

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Frank Ehrlich, MD, Norman Weinberger, MD, Kenneth Lalime, RPh, Anthony Santella, DrPH.

OTHERS: Brian Weeks, Program Director of Epidemiology & Informatics, Theresa Argondezzi, Assistant Director of Health, Community Health, Aniella Fignon, Project Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. D'Amore called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. D'Amore called the roll.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: October 28, 2025

**** DR. EHRLICH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

****DR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

V. EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

Mr. Weeks provided an update on respiratory illnesses. Connecticut continues to experience low activity for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. Wastewater monitoring has resumed following the federal shutdown and confirms the presence of all three viruses at low levels in lower Fairfield County.

He noted the expected seasonal increase following Thanksgiving and reviewed current national surveillance, including trends in rhinovirus/enterovirus and parainfluenza. He also reported on the recently identified influenza A H3N2 subclade K and a single human case of H5N5 in Washington State, both of which continue to be monitored.

Mr. Weeks reminded the Board of CDC recommendations for vaccination, staying home when ill, and general respiratory virus prevention. He also provided a brief update on measles activity and shared information about available vaccinations and the Health Department's travel clinic.

VI. FOOD ACCESS UPDATES

Ms. Argondezzi reported on recent activities of the Norwalk Food Alliance. The Alliance continues to coordinate more than 30 partner agencies and maintain the Norwalk Food Guide, updated regularly and available in multiple languages.

She shared that staff are conducting intercept interviews and focus groups at local food pantries to better understand client experiences and identify service gaps. She also highlighted the Alliance's rapid response to the recent temporary pause in SNAP benefit distribution, including communication with partners and support provided during the city's press event.

The department and partners are reviewing upcoming changes to the SNAP program under HB1 and assessing local impacts.

VII. 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. D'Amore reviewed the need to submit the 2026 meeting schedule to the Mayor's Office and City Clerk. Board members present agreed to continue meeting at 8:00 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Ms. D'Amore will follow up with absent members and circulate proposed dates.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Ms. D'Amore reported that the department is preparing its operating budget submission and working with Community Services leadership during the budget review process. No new capital requests will be submitted this year as ongoing projects; including security upgrades, exam room improvements, first-floor updates, reception area work, and roof upgrades will remain in progress.

Board members asked about possible changes under the incoming mayor. Ms. D'Amore explained that Mayor Rilling will complete the current budget phase, with Mayor-elect Smyth providing input after taking office in January. No specific guidance has been issued regarding department-level changes.

Board members suggested exploring opportunities to brief the incoming administration. Ms. D'Amore will consult with Mr. Daniels and update the Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jada Caballero