



# GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

## Public Comments Summary

**Number of Comments:** 163

**Timeframe:** December 14, 2021 – January 11, 2022

No. of Comments	Topic	Summary
127	Role of public health (opposition to public health authority and mandates)	<p>There were 125 respondents who all voiced similar opposition to expansion of public health authority and the ability of public health officials to mandate regulations (e.g. mask and vaccine mandates) or enforce laws. These respondents recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limiting the power and control of public health departments and health officials to issue mandates</li> <li>To stop health departments from providing medical services such as administering vaccines and refer residents to medical providers to receive services and engage in care</li> </ul> <p>There were 2 respondents concerned with having politicians involved in public health and recommended that public health professionals lead public health initiatives/efforts.</p>
24	COVID vaccine and mask mandates (opposed)	<p>There were 24 respondents who are greatly opposed to vaccine and mask mandates, especially for the workforce who risk losing their job if unvaccinated, and for children.</p>
8	Emergency Preparedness/Response	<p>There were 7 complaints about the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opposition to the continuation of the statewide emergency executive order in response to the pandemic</li> <li>Opposition to contact tracing and mask mandates</li> </ul> <p>One respondent is requesting that the Janssen/Johnson and Johnson (J&amp;J) vaccine continue to be available at ISDH locations.</p>
1	COVID vaccine and mask mandates (in support of)	<p>There was one respondent supportive of allowing businesses to require their employees to be vaccinated, and supportive of mandating healthcare workers to be vaccinated.</p>

No. of Comments	Topic	Summary
2	Other	<p>One respondent from the IN Environmental Health Association is concerned with food safety and the prevention of foodborne illness in Indiana. The main concern cited was the lack of training for local health department staff, and therefore this respondent strongly encourages the Commission to recommend restoring the budget and staffing for the Food Protection Division, as food safety training is critical for foodborne illness preventions and the safety and health of Indiana residents.</p> <p>One respondent from the Lawrence County Health Department recommends using an actuary in the State Department of Health to help enhance the department of health's gathering of data, and also recommends the continuation of grants to local health departments to help with ongoing support of additional staff.</p>
1	Public health funding	One respondent advocated for increased funding for public health