



GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

Public Comments Summary

Number of Comments: 14

Timeframe: October 18, 2021- November 4, 2021

No. of Comments	Topic	Summary
4	COVID vaccine mandates (opposed)	One Solsberry commenter opposed <i>approval</i> of COVID vaccines for children, two (Crown Point and Fort Wayne) opposed vaccine mandates for hospital or other health care employees, and one (Frankfort) opposed COVID vaccine mandates generally.
3	Healthcare Workforce and Delivery System	<p>One Indianapolis commenter advocated eliminating RN licensure barriers for foreign-educated nurses by removing the duplicative testing requirement. (See recommendations from 10/21/2021 GPHC meeting.)</p> <p>Two commenters (Auburn and Connersville) highlighted the challenges that healthcare workers in hospitals and nursing homes face (e.g., poor pay and working conditions and long hours). One of these commenters also noted the “oversaturation” of healthcare facilities in Indiana and recommended that the GPHC include persons with healthcare experience.</p>
2	Emergency Preparedness	<p>One Indianapolis commenter who works for a residential provider for persons with developmental disabilities provided pandemic-related examples (e.g., lack of PPE, inadequate testing resources and contact tracing, and poor communication) and recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure public health (PH) is accessible, well-funded, and prepared to meet the needs of all communities • Provide contact tracing more quickly • Ensure adequate staffing so that resources are available when needed • Mandate masking indoors until infections decrease • Maintain adequate supplies for emergencies • Change public messaging regarding vaccines, masks, and other health and safety practices • Ensure front-line employees/direct care staff are paid a living wage and have the resources to keep themselves and others safe • Increase grass-roots outreach and education to vulnerable communities <p>The second commenter, from Anderson, advocated providing additional funding for mobile emergency preparedness, increasing training and outreach, including the use of text messaging, and increasing PPE resources.</p>

No. of Comments	Topic	Summary
2	Indiana Department of Health Workforce	Both commenters were from Indianapolis and addressed benefits for IDOH staff or contractors: one advocated affordable health benefits and paid time off for IDOH contractors (to reduce turnover) and the other advocated for full benefits/maternity leave for all employees.
1	Public health funding	One respondent from South Bend was dissatisfied with the vote against grant funds for health information and advocacy in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties, as this does not promote health in those communities.
1	Public comment website not user friendly	One respondent from Bloomington suggested changing the "areas of focus" listed on the GPHC public comment website, as the meaning of each category is not easily understood by the public.
1	Personal complaint regarding healthcare treatment received	Numerous complaints regarding several encounters with various healthcare providers, paramedics, and the IMPD