



# GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

## Public Comments Summary

**Number of Comments:** 26

**Timeframe:** May 22, 2022-June 22, 2022

| No. of Comments | Topic  | Summary   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 18              | Support for School Nurses                          | <p>Eighteen respondents, including two from out-of-state, expressed support for, or otherwise addressed, the draft recommendations relating to school nurses. None of the respondents opposed the draft recommendations. Ten respondents commented on the low salaries of school nurses, inhibiting recruitment and retention, and nine respondents cited the value and positive contributions of school nurses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five respondents commented on the disadvantageous classification of school nurse positions as compared, for example, to teachers or school counselors, leading to lower pay that is not consistent with their skills and training.</li> <li>• Four respondents commented more generally on the need for better funding for school nurses, including adequate funding for supplies such as lice treatments, first aid supplies, feminine supplies, clothing for underprivileged, and snacks for kids that do not get breakfast. One of these respondents also suggested considering whether IDOH or the local health department should be funded to provide school nursing services.</li> <li>• One respondent commented on the need for better training standards and guidelines for school nurses further noting that state mandated training requirements would also improve job satisfaction and retention. This respondent noted that training should address children with special needs and diseases – “not just diabetes but sickle cell, cardiac risks, tube feeding tube, respiratory treatments such as nebulizers, to name a few.” The respondent also suggested that each school system use standardized forms for IHPs and medication administration.</li> </ul> |
| 3               | Opposition to expansion of public health authority | <p>Three respondents voiced opposition to one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government collection of private health information</li> <li>• Not requiring parental consent when dealing with minors</li> <li>• Public health mandates and/or vaccine mandates</li> <li>• Centralization of the health board (which violates the sovereignty of individual counties)</li> </ul>  |

| No. of Comments | Topic   | Summary  |
|-----------------|---|--|
|                 |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health departments rendering clinical care</li> </ul> <p>One of the three respondents also voiced support for honest government that is a good steward of taxpayer funding and listens to the voice of the people, expressed concern about the negative impacts on children of the "new dangerous world of open sexuality" and expressed the opinion that Americans are over-taxed.</p>   |
| 1               | Local Health Officer                                | The respondent, representing the Fishers Health Department, supported allowing APRNs to serve as local health officers but stressed the need for public health training and experience. Instead of just having one regional physician to support the APRN, the respondent suggested having a medical expertise call list or network at the state level to address specific clinical issues – e.g., an OB/GYN for maternal or child health issues; an infectious disease MD for communicable disease issues; etc.   |
| 1               | Support for Municipal Health Departments            | The respondent, representing the Fishers Health Department, expressed opposition to recommendations that would eliminate current municipal health departments, prevent the creation of new ones, or require a municipal health department to have an MOU with the county health department. As an alternative, the respondent recommended that there be a required waiting period prior to the creation of a new health department in order to assure that funding streams, governance and other logistical issues are worked out prior to the creation of the new department. |
| 1               | Governance/infrastructure                           | A respondent representing the Community Voices for Health in Monroe County (CVMHC) described the CVHMC's community-based efforts to identify local health needs, promote equitable community engagement, and create tools and strategies that will offer guidance and informational resources to other Indiana communities that wish to learn about CVHMC's research, community engagement, and collaborative strategies.  |
| 1               | Support for Child/Adolescent Health Recommendations | One respondent stated that all 8 draft recommendations "appear to be adequate key points to begin evaluating child health and wellness in the school systems!"   |
| 1               | Opposed to COVID-19 vaccines                        | One respondent opined that mRNA vaccines lead to more deaths and that Indiana should prohibit their use.   |