

**NEWS RELEASE
ERIE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE PHONE ECDOH
716-858-8640**

Dr. Gale Burstein, Commissioner of the Erie County Department of Health announced today, September 17, 2025, that an in person/virtual meeting of the Erie County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 3:30 P.M. at Environmental Health Office, 503 Kensington Avenue, Conference Room DD101, Buffalo, NY 14214.

Included on the agenda will be a review of the May 13, 2025 meeting minutes, update on Food Policy Council, Sanitary Code update, Commissioner's update as well as Old/New Business.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Erie County Board of Health, on the 13th day of May 2025, made a motion calling for a public hearing to be held concerning revisions to the Erie County Sanitary Code Article XXII-Regulations of Tattoo Artists and Establishments.

A public hearing will be conducted by the Erie County Board of Health meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon in the Erie County Environmental Health office at 503 Kensington, Buffalo, New York, Room DD101, to hear all persons interested in this matter.

The proposed revisions are available for public inspection in the offices of the Erie County Health Department, Division of Environmental Health located at 503 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14214. And in the offices of all Town, Village and City Clerks in Erie County.

ROBERT FREE
Chairman
Erie County Board of Health

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2025

PRESENT: Robert Free, Vice President, Food & Beverages, Bisons
Baseball/Canalside/Outer Harbor, Chairman, BOH
Gale Burstein, M.D., Erie County Commissioner of Health
Marilyn Tuberdyck, BOH Member
Dolores Funke, BOH Member
Maureen Montgomery, MD, BOH Member
Jennifer Delaney – Director, Environmental Health
Jeffrey Kowalewski, Environmental Health
Jeffrey Jurewicz, Environmental Health

GUEST: Najlan Habeeb, Fellow

REVIEW OF MINUTES February 6, 2025

Rob motioned to approve the minutes – minutes approved.

I. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL- Najlah Habeeb, Fellow

- Najlah Habeeb, Fellow, was present to speak about the Food Policy Council updates.
- The Food Policy Council reported a smooth running food grant program for families.
- FPC transitioned from monthly to bi-monthly meetings, with the next scheduled meeting for May 28th.
- Najlah Habeeb's fellowship will end on May 30th due to federal funding. We are sorry to see her go and wish her luck in her new endeavors.

II. SANITARY CODE UPDATE – Jennifer Delaney, Director Environmental Health/ Jeffrey Jurewicz, Environmental Health

- Proposed changes to Article XXII focus on modernizing language and practices in the tattoo industry.
- New regulations aim to accommodate mobile tattooing and temporary tattoo events at conventions and trade shows.
- The current code doesn't have allowances for temporary setup for handwashing and those type of things.

- A summary of the proposed changes was distributed. Any comments or suggestions should be sent to Jeff Jurewicz by Friday, June 6th. He will review the comments and send out the new draft with revisions.
- The goal is to approve changes at the next board meeting and implementation in early 2026.

III. Commissioner's Update, Dr. Gale Burstein

- Public health officials are monitoring measles cases and preparing vaccination resources amid rising concerns.
- Erie County has had known exposures to the measles but there have been no positive cases in so far.
- There have been eight (8) identified cases in New York State. Three were in Orange County with children under the age of five, one was in Ontario County, 11 months old. All the other cases were down state.
- We are notifying physician offices to call us if they suspect there is a case. Dr.'s offices can pre-order measles testing medium through NYSDOH to have on hand if a patient is suspected of measles.
- Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Programs contract ends at the end of June. The CDC has not notified anyone about a renewal, so we don't know if it will be renewed.
- Although flu season is over, Erie county is seeing some Flu B but numbers are down.
- RSV numbers are down but not gone.
- We are working on planning and scheduling vaccine clinics for school age children for this fall. Eight clinics will be held in the city of Buffalo Public Schools and five in school districts outside of the city of Buffalo. We will also reach out to other school districts to see if they need our help with vaccinating students. The school nursing programs will run the clinics.
- Erie County is meeting with UB and the Buffalo Public Schools every other week to develop a schedule for the vaccine clinics.
- Schools that are not enforcing the rules on immunizing students are reported to NYSDOH and will be audited.
- Erie County is collaborating with UB School of Management and the people that do research on messaging and advertisements, the infectious disease people and the school of public health, trying to put together a measles vaccine campaign. Dr. Burstein is attending a focus group today at 5 PM with the school management people. They work with the CTSI and they recruited parents that are not pro Vax to better understand what their thoughts are.
- The Tobacco Enforcement Program is looking for anyone between the ages of 18 and 20 to work on the enforcement program.
- There will be a disaster drill at the airport in August for anyone who would like to be a victim volunteer.

VI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- No old business
- The next meeting will be September 9, 2025, at 3:30 PM in Room DD101
- Meeting adjourned