

February 23, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

City_Clerk@westcovina.org

City of West Covina
1444 West Garvey Avenue South
West Covina, CA 91790

Attention: Letty Lopez-Viado, Mayor
Dario Castellanos, Mayor Pro Tem
Brian Tabatabai, Councilmember
Tony Wu, Councilman
Rosario Diaz, Councilwoman
David Carmany, City Manager

Re: Oral Communications – February 23, 2021 – Emergency Resolution
Terminating LA County Health Officer’s Services Effective July 1, 2021

Dear Mayor Lopez-Viado and City Council Members:

I write on behalf of the West Covina Unified School District (“District”) and its nearly 10,000 students and 1,000 employees to respectfully oppose the City Council’s adoption of Resolution No. 2021-15 and Urgency Ordinance No. 2476 to terminate the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (“LACDPH”) provision of services to the City of West Covina effective July 1, 2021. The District’s opposition is based on its concern that the City’s proposed health department may not be capable of providing all of the services LACDPH currently provides to the District.

Because of the importance of this matter for the West Covina Unified School District, I am submitting this letter in writing to your Honorable City Council and City Manager.

As you know, 17 CCR § 1276 requires that the proposed health department must offer at least the following services in the City, which would include services on behalf of students, families, and staff of the West Covina Unified School District:

- a. Collection, tabulation, and analysis of all public health statistics;
- b. Health education programs;



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- c. Communicable disease control (including availability of adequate isolation facilities);
- d. Medical, nursing, education, and other services to promote maternal and child health;
- e. Environmental health and sanitation services/programs (food, housing and institutions, radiological health, milk and dairy products, water-oriented recreation, safety, vector control, waste management, among others);
- f. Laboratory services;
- g. Services in nutrition;
- h. Services in chronic disease;
- i. Services directed to social factors affecting health;
- j. Services in occupational health;
- k. Appropriate services in the field of family planning; and
- l. Public health nursing services to provide for preventative and therapeutic care.

LACDPH provides essential direct support services and resources to District students, families, and staff. These include the following, all of which fall squarely within the requirements of 17 CCR § 1276:

- Resources for students without medical/dental insurance;
- Guidance and consultation related to communicable disease when an outbreak occurs at a school site;
- Strategies for infection control and prevention;
- Guidance to our local community with up to date information regarding health and safety;
- Health education training and webinars to staff and community members;

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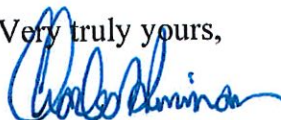
- Crisis hotlines at the local and national level;
- Updates related to immunization requirements for students;
- Emergency preparedness response safety plan and toolkits;
- Cardiovascular guides and education materials; and
- Adolescent health guides (e.g., reproductive health, teen parenting resources, avoidance of youth and gang violence, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual health information)

For example, in the area of outbreak prevention and containment, school nurses contact LACDPH whenever there is an outbreak. LACDPH in turn immediately provides the schools with a comprehensive sanitizing protocol. In the area of mental health, LACDPH provides ongoing suicide prevention resources and training to District staff. In addition, District nurses take part in LACDPH webinar trainings throughout the year so that best practices can be implemented throughout the District. In providing resources for students without medical/dental insurance, the District makes calls directly to LACDPH on behalf of parents to facilitate enrollment in these insurance programs.

These services are integral to the operation of the District and are expertly provided by LACDPH. If the City terminates its relationship with LACDPH, the District fears that the City's proposed health department will not be able to provide the District with the services needed to protect the health and service of District students, families, and staff.

Thank you for your consideration of these very important health services provided by LACDPH when you deliberate the proposed resolution and ordinance. As you can see, there are very significant and ongoing health services relied upon by the District in providing a safe and healthy environment for the students, families, and staff of West Covina.

Very truly yours,



Charles D. Hinman, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: West Covina Unified School District Board of Education