



Summary of ISACo's Public Health Policy Committee Meeting Held on December 4, 2025 (Links are available by clicking on underlined text.)

Public Health Policy Committee

The following is a summary of what transpired during the Public Health Policy Committee meeting held on December 4, 2025.

Meeting Attendance:

The meeting commenced at 12:03 pm with Committee Chair Monica Gordon presiding. Those present included:

- Monica Gordon, Cook County Clerk- Chair
- Adam Forker, DuPage County Health Department
- Dr. Keisha E. McCaskill, Cook County
- Alma E. Anaya, Cook County
- Tchalla Ross, Cook County
- John W. Ridley, Sangamon County Public Health
- Nancy Negret, Cook County
- Nekya Hall, ISACo Staff
- Joe McCoy, ISACo Staff
- Tiffani Homer, ISACo Staff

ILLINOIS BIRTH EQUITY BLUEPRINT

Illinois Department of Public Health's Birth Equity Blueprint, which aims to improve maternal health outcomes by addressing disparities and strengthening the healthcare system. The Blueprint identifies key areas for improvement, including access to care, quality of care, workforce capacity, and social determinants of health. The group discussed the opportunity to align local efforts with statewide priorities and develop a more detailed roadmap by 2027.

The committee discussed the healthcare blueprint focused on maternal and infant health disparities, with Cook County sharing their support and local initiatives, including funding for doulas. It was agreed to add funding requirements for the blueprint to the county platform for 2026 legislative advocacy.

LEAD EXPOSURE

The committee addressed the Illinois Department of Public Health's expansion of high-risk zip codes for lead testing, which aims to move the state closer to universal childhood lead testing by 2026. They noted that children in high-risk areas must be tested at specific ages, and those identified as at risk through questionnaires will be tested further.

The committee discussed changes to lead testing levels and infrastructure replacement in Sangamon County, with John noting that while some underground infrastructure has been replaced, significant work remains and the replacement process lacks clear socioeconomic reasoning. Alma provided insights from Cook County's perspective, highlighting their Department of Public Health's lead poisoning prevention program in partnership with HUD, though federal funding remains uncertain.

RESPIRATORY VIRUS AND VACCINE

The committee discussed respiratory virus and vaccine policy, with John highlighting cost challenges in vaccine procurement and distribution. Adam praised IDPH's quick action in issuing guidelines.

IDPH's new guidance for the 2025-2026 respiratory virus season, focusing on influenza, RSV, and COVID-19, including updated vaccination recommendations and a standing order allowing healthcare professionals to administer vaccines without separate exams.

- [Governor's Executive Order Concerning Life Saving Vaccines](#)
- [Standing Order for Administer Vaccine](#)
- CDC immunization schedule for [children](#) and [adults](#).

2026 Legislative Proposals

The committee explored potential legislative agenda items, including property tax reform and Kratom regulation, with Adam noting DuPage County's upcoming legislative agenda and successful Crisis Recovery Center launch. The committee also addressed concerns about THC-infused drinks and hemp product regulation, with John and Adam agreeing that marketing to youth is a significant issue that needs addressing.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.