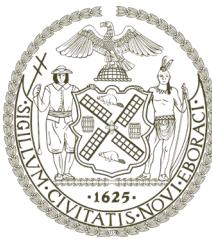


**Valerie S. Mason**  
Chair

**Ian McKnight**  
District Manager



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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
*Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee*  
*Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 6:30pm*  
*This meeting was conducted via Zoom*

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Bill Angelos, Elizabeth Ashby, Meryl Brodsky\*, Wilma Johnson, Barbara Rudder, and Dayne Slay.

*\*Public Member*

**Approximate Number of Public Attendees:** 7

**Item 1: Discussion of importance of vaccines, and NYC's guidelines**

Presenters:

- **Dr. Roy M. Gulick**, Professor in Medicine and Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases at Weill Cornell Medicine
- **Dr. Denise Benkel**, medical specialist with the Immunization Infrastructure and Clinical Support Unit, Bureau of Immunization, NYC Health Department.

Dr. Roy Gulik and Dr. Denise Benkel discussed the importance of vaccines for older adults as well as children. There much misinformation about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, and NYC Department of Health issued a statement stating CDC under Robert F Kennedy Jr.'s overhaul of the childhood vaccination schedule will have deadly consequences.

Vaccinations have the greatest positive effect on our health. Globally, over 150K people have avoided death and many millions of dollars have been saved. Many deadly diseases have been mostly eliminated, but because of the intentionally deceptive news, measles is on the rise in some states where vaccinations are low.

Vaccines are safe, with less than one percent side effects. Flu has been very serious this year, and Covid is still active. Both vaccines should be given yearly. RSV affects young children and seniors mostly, and the vaccine is given only once. In addition, seniors should have shingles, pneumonia, and whooping cough vaccinations, and Tetanus should be repeated every ten years.

NY State is committed to continue the vaccination in its recommendations of the vaccination schedule and still require all school and daycare children to be vaccinated, but the fear is the federal government will cut funding. The hope is the State will be able to fund the program.

**Item 3: Old Business** – None discussed.

**Item 4: New Business** – None discussed.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:46 pm.

**Wilma Johnson and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs**