



**AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**  
**2:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**  
**until the conclusion of business**

Board of Public Works Hearing  
Room 350 City Hall 200 North Spring  
Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Virtual Meeting – Join via Zoom: [bit.ly/zoom-lacdod24](https://bit.ly/zoom-lacdod24)  
Dial by phone: **1 (669) 444 9171**  
Meeting ID: **896 4264 0290**  
Real-Time Captioning:  
[bit.ly/streamtext-lacdod](https://bit.ly/streamtext-lacdod)

**Commissioners**

Akiko Tagawa, President  
Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Jorge E. Acevedo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Candace Cable, Secretary  
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner  
Myrna Cabanban, Commissioner  
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner  
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner  
Robert Williams, Commissioner

Pedestrians can enter and exit, and vehicles can pick up and drop off at 200 North Main Street (between Temple and First Streets). There is limited free parking at City Hall East on Los Angeles Street (the parking entrance is across the street from LAPD's Parker Center). To arrange free parking, contact the commission at (213) 202-2764 or TTY (213) 202-3452 at least two business days in advance of the meeting.

Virtual Instructions: Public participants may join via the Zoom link above. Participants may alternatively dial the phone number (669) 444 9171 and will then be asked for a meeting ID. Please enter 844-7583-0151 followed by the pound sign (#). Participants will be asked to enter a participant ID and may press the pound sign (#) to continue.

Comments by the public on agenda items will be heard only at the time the respective item is considered. Members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting. We request that each speaker announce their name before public comment. This is for the benefit of our captioners, interpreters, and attendees.

**All in-person requests to address the Commission must be submitted prior to the Commission's consideration of the item through physical Public Comment cards available. Comments by the public on**

**all other matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board will be heard during the “Public Comments” period of the meeting.**

**During virtual meetings all attendees are automatically muted upon entry. Please use the RAISE HAND function to indicate your wish to speak on a specific agenda item. To use the RAISE HAND function, press star (\*) and then 9. When called upon, you may UNMUTE by pressing star (\*) and then 6.**

Members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting.

When the Commission meeting starts, please silence or turn off all cell phones or other devices that make noise. If there are any written materials for distribution to the Commissioners, please submit it to the secretary. Call to order, roll call, announcements and introductions will be made.

## **ITEM (1)**

### **REQUEST FOR TELECONFERENCE OPTION PURSUANT TO AB 2449**

In accordance with AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i) members may now notify the legislative body of their need to participate remotely for just cause, if they haven't already done so, including a general description of the circumstances

relating to their need to appear remotely. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

Item is for **DISCUSSION** and **ACTION**.

## **ITEM (2)**

### **APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

The Commission will review the minutes of the NOVEMBER 2023 REGULAR MEETING and vote to approve.

Item is for **DISCUSSION** and **ACTION**

## **ITEM (3)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

For items not on today's agenda, but under the Commission's jurisdiction, members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak.

## **ITEM (4)**

### **COVID UPDATE - LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Annabelle de St. Maurice MD MPH, Unit Director, Syndromic Surveillance and Community Outbreak Team at the Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention** will present on Covid-19 and Disabilities, focusing on vaccinations, current trends, Long Covid and other relevant aspects of the response and development of Covid-19 in the greater Los Angeles area.

Item is for **DISCUSSION.**

## ITEM (5)

### COMMISSION COMMITTEE UPDATES

The four current committees: Disabled Homelessness, Policy and Legislation, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Emergency Management will provide updates, recommendations, or other news to the full commission, which the Commission may choose to act upon.

The Commission will hear from **Jorge Minor, MD** as part of the Disabled Homelessness Committee presentation to the Commission - tentative.

Item is for **DISCUSSION** and **ACTION**

## ITEM (6)

### CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BETTY WILSON

Former Commissioner, former Executive Director of the Department on Disability, and life-long advocate Betty Wilson will be remembered and honored by the Commission.

Item is for  
**DISCUSSION.**

## ITEM (7)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director and/or other department staff.

Item is for  
**DISCUSSION.**

## ITEM (8)

### NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting.

Item is for **DISCUSSION.**

## ITEM (8)

### ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment.

Item is for **ACTION**

## **NOTE**

If you wish to receive this agenda in advance of the meeting, please go to the hyperlink [www.disability.lacity.gov](http://www.disability.lacity.gov). Click the search icon, and type “commission on disability agenda,” then click “agenda.” You may also contact: Department on Disability, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or by calling the main line at (213) 202-2764 and ask to be put on the mailing list. You can also give the meeting secretary your email address to receive the agenda by email.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) services are provided at each meeting. Upon request, agenda material in alternative formats and other accommodations are available to the public for City-sponsored meetings and events. All requests must be made at least five business days prior to the scheduled meeting. For additional information, contact the Commission on Disability at (213) 202-2764 (voice) or (213) 202-3452 (TTY).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment can be made for each agenda item at the time each item is considered by the Commission



(before the action is taken), and members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting



# COVID-19 and Disability

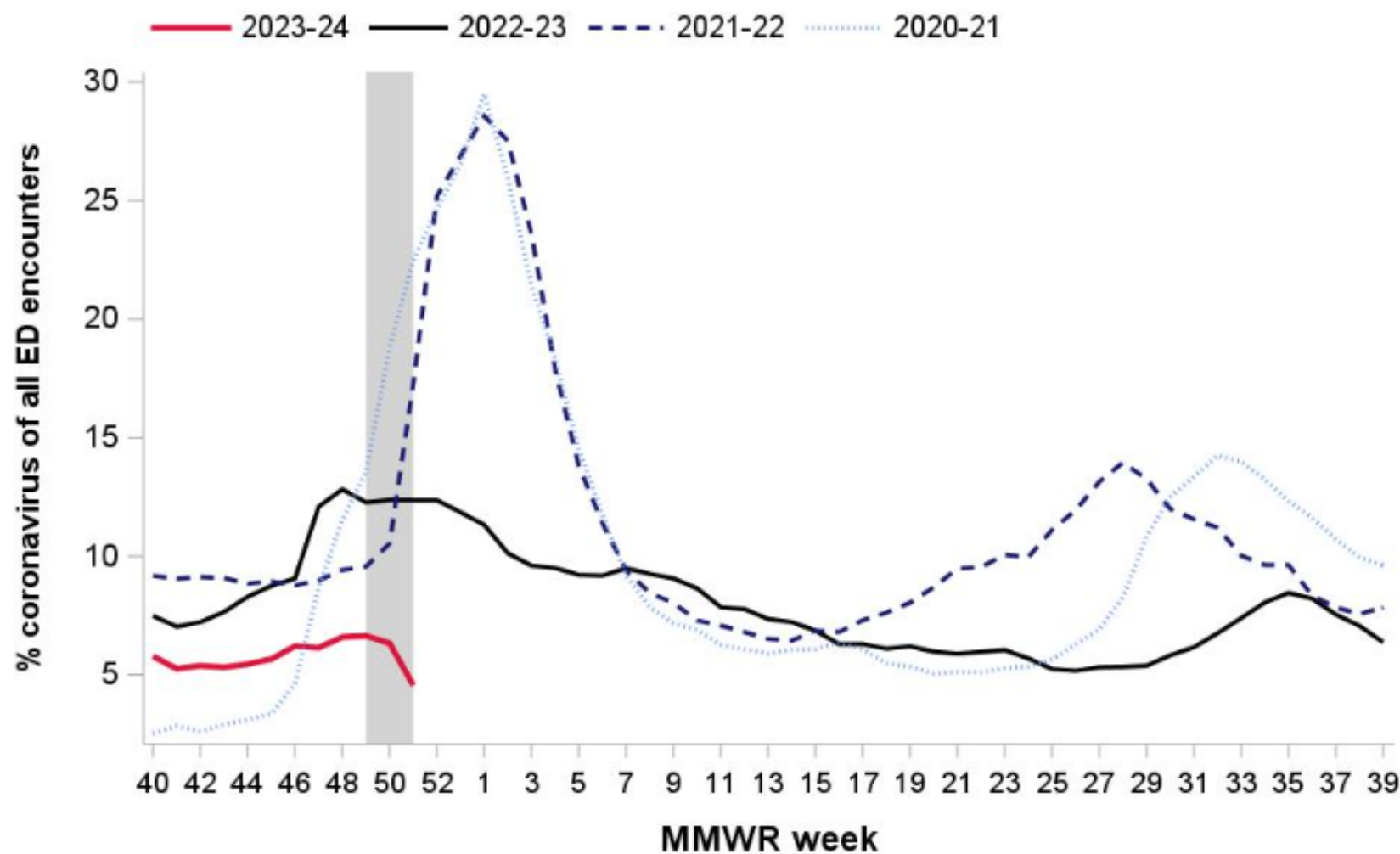
Annabelle de St. Maurice MD MPH  
Acute Communicable Disease Control  
Unit Director, Syndromic Surveillance and  
Community Outbreak Team



## Winter 2023-24 COVID-19 Updates

- Updated COVID-19 vaccine available
  - Monovalent vaccine based on Omicron XBB.1.5 sublineage of SARS-CoV-2
  - Recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older
  - Vaccine uptake has been slow; only ~10% of persons 6 months or older have received the updated vaccine in LA County as of 12/24/23
- The virus that causes COVID-19 illness is constantly evolving
  - JN.1 is the predominant COVID-19 variant circulating in the US
  - Existing vaccines, tests, and treatments are expected to be effective against this variant

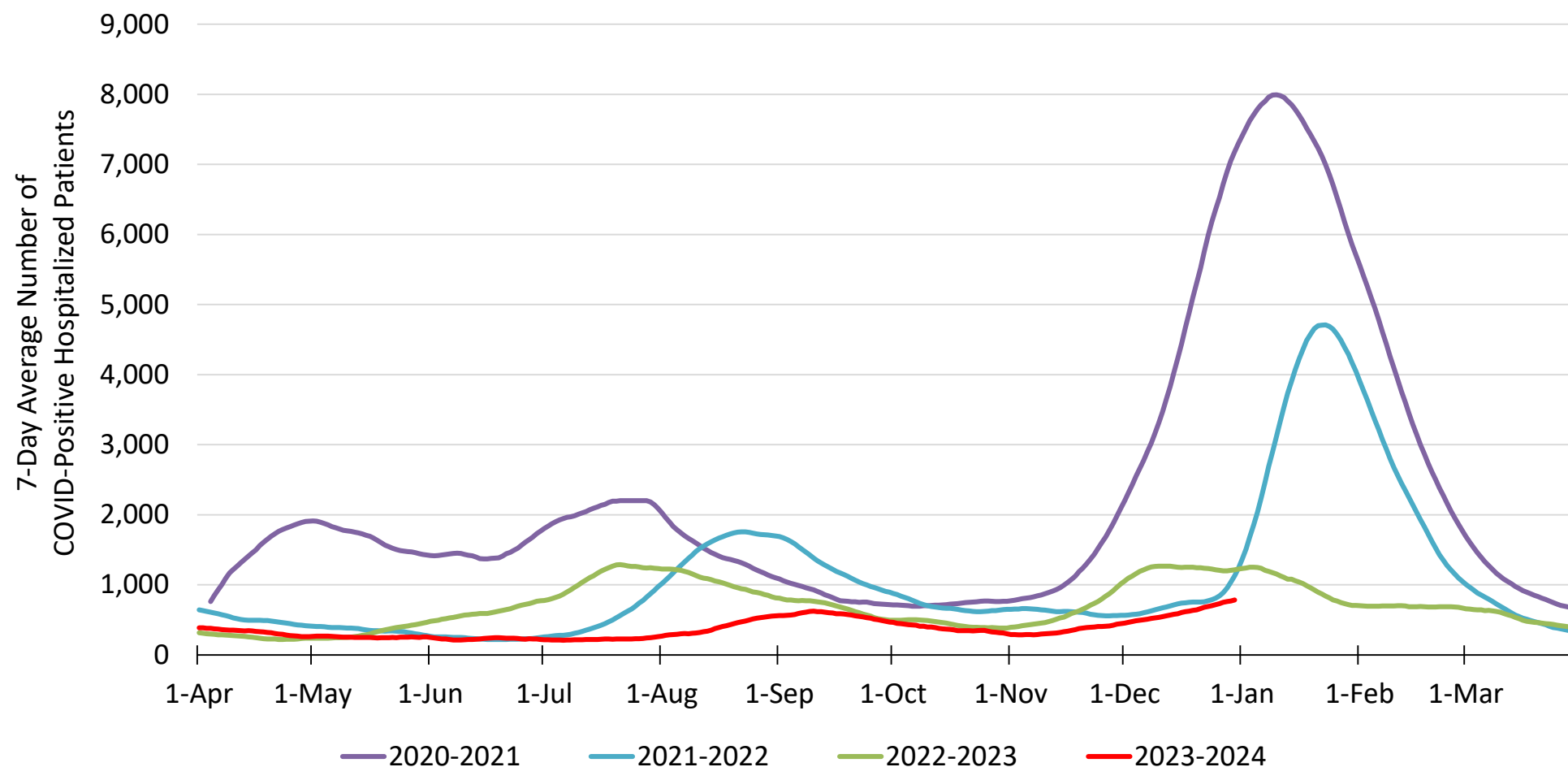
## Emergency Department Visits for COVID-19, 2020-2024 Flu Seasons



Source: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/respwatch/index.htm>; Data current as of 12/23/23



## Daily Average Number of COVID-Positive Hospitalizations in LA County





## Disability and Risk of Severe COVID-19

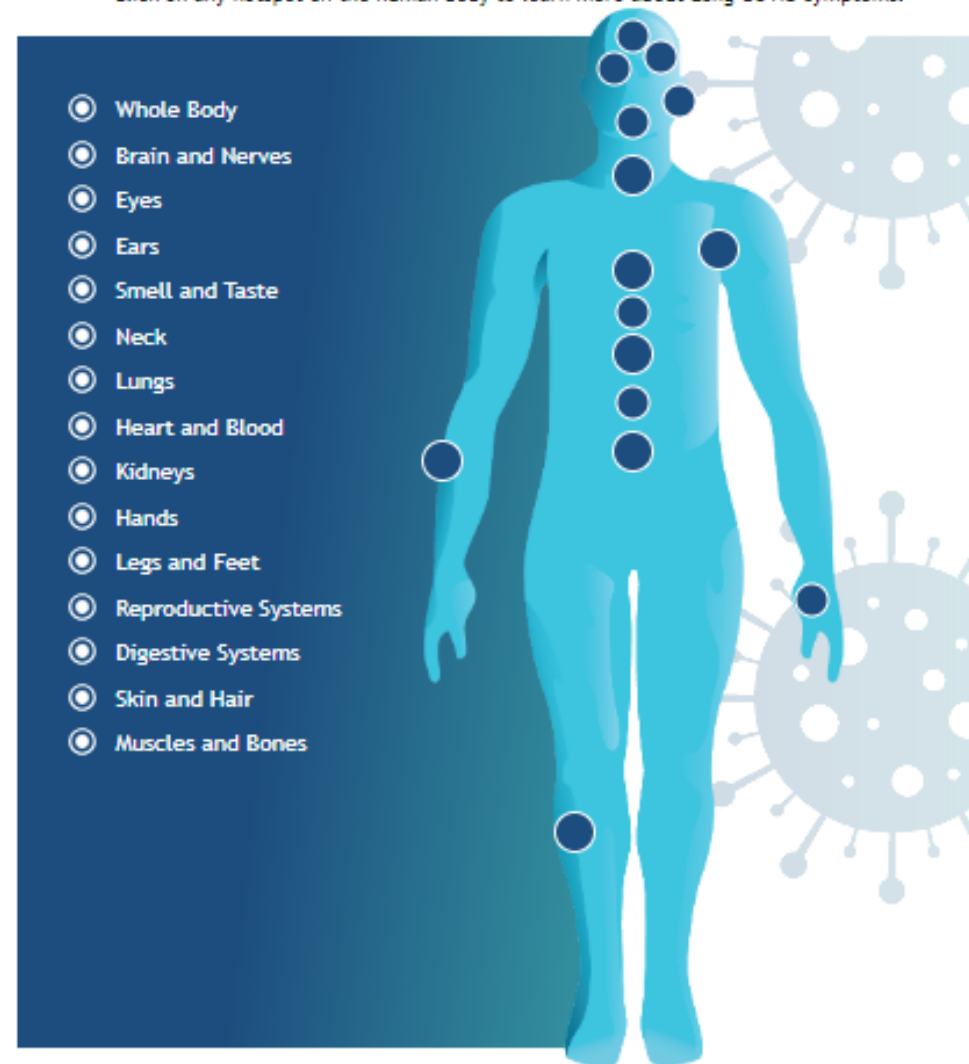
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities, learning disability, Down syndrome, spinal cord injuries, dependence for activities of daily living have been associated with an increase in mortality
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities, learning disability, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and congenital malformations, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder have been associated with an increase in hospitalization

# Long COVID or Post-COVID Conditions

- Includes a wide range of ongoing health problems
  - Fatigue, respiratory and heart symptoms, neurological symptoms
- Symptoms last weeks, months or years after developing COVID-19
  - May lead to disability
- Occurs more often in people with severe disease and those who are unvaccinated
- Classified as a disability under ADA

## Symptoms of Long COVID

Click on any hotspot on the human body to learn more about Long COVID symptoms.

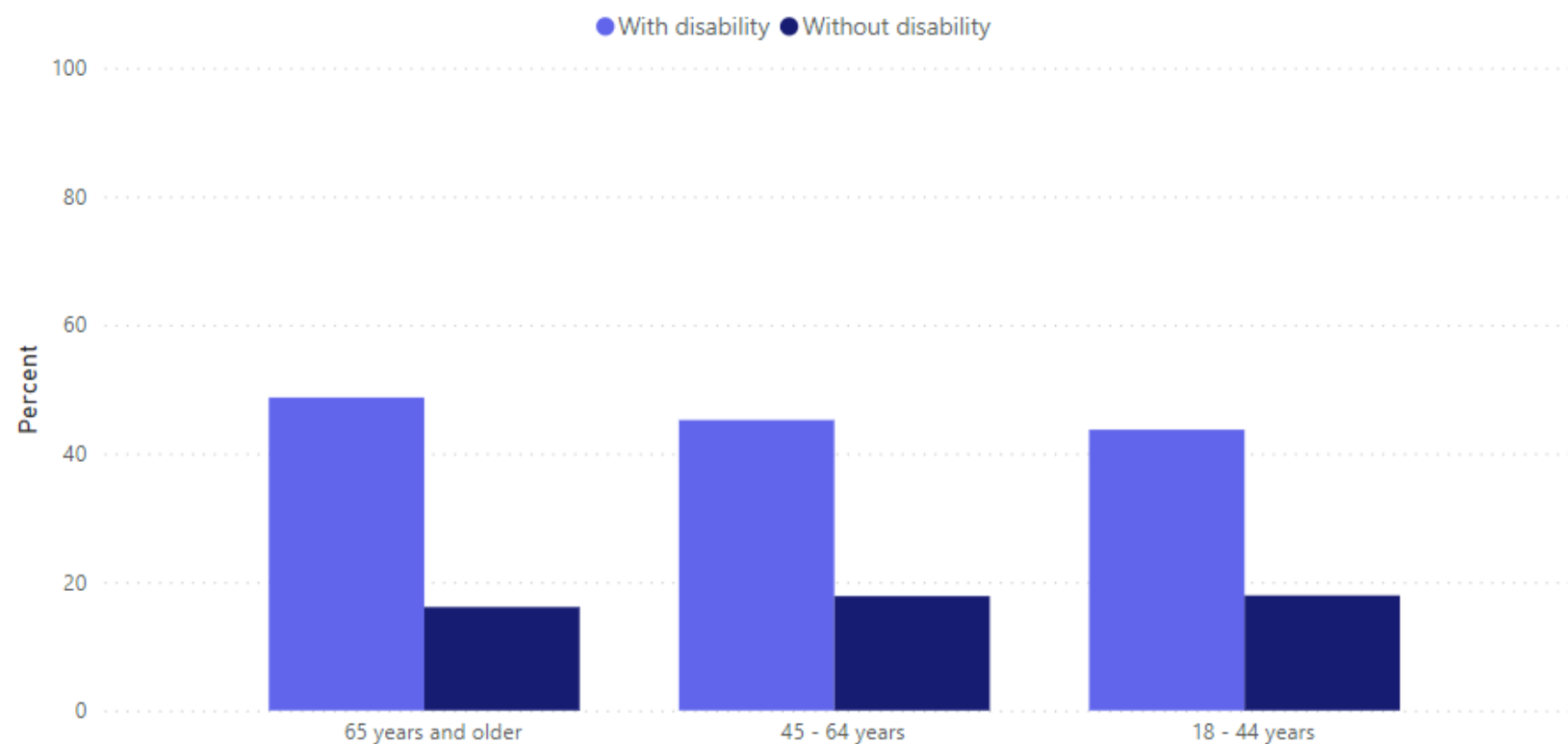


## Long COVID and Disability

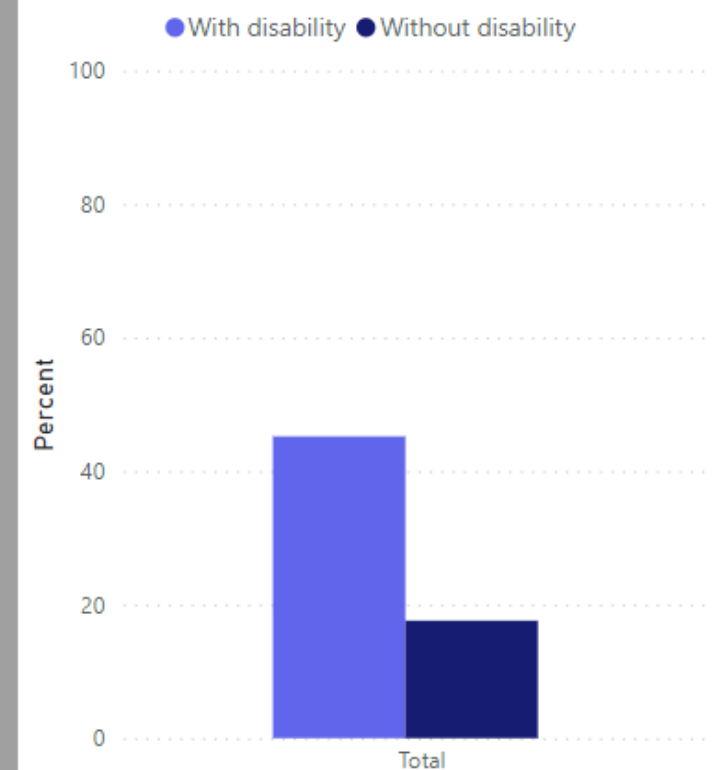
- CDC Household Pulse survey estimates from October 2023:
- 23.5% of adults with disability ever experienced long COVID
- 12.6% of adults without disability ever experienced long COVID
- 4.6% of all adults in the US had activity limitations from long COVID
  - 5% of all adults in CA had activity limitations from long COVID
- 1.6% of all adults in the US had significant activity limitations from long COVID
  - 1.5% of all adults in CA had significant activity limitations from long COVID



Significant activity limitations from long COVID, as a percentage of adults who currently have long COVID



Total

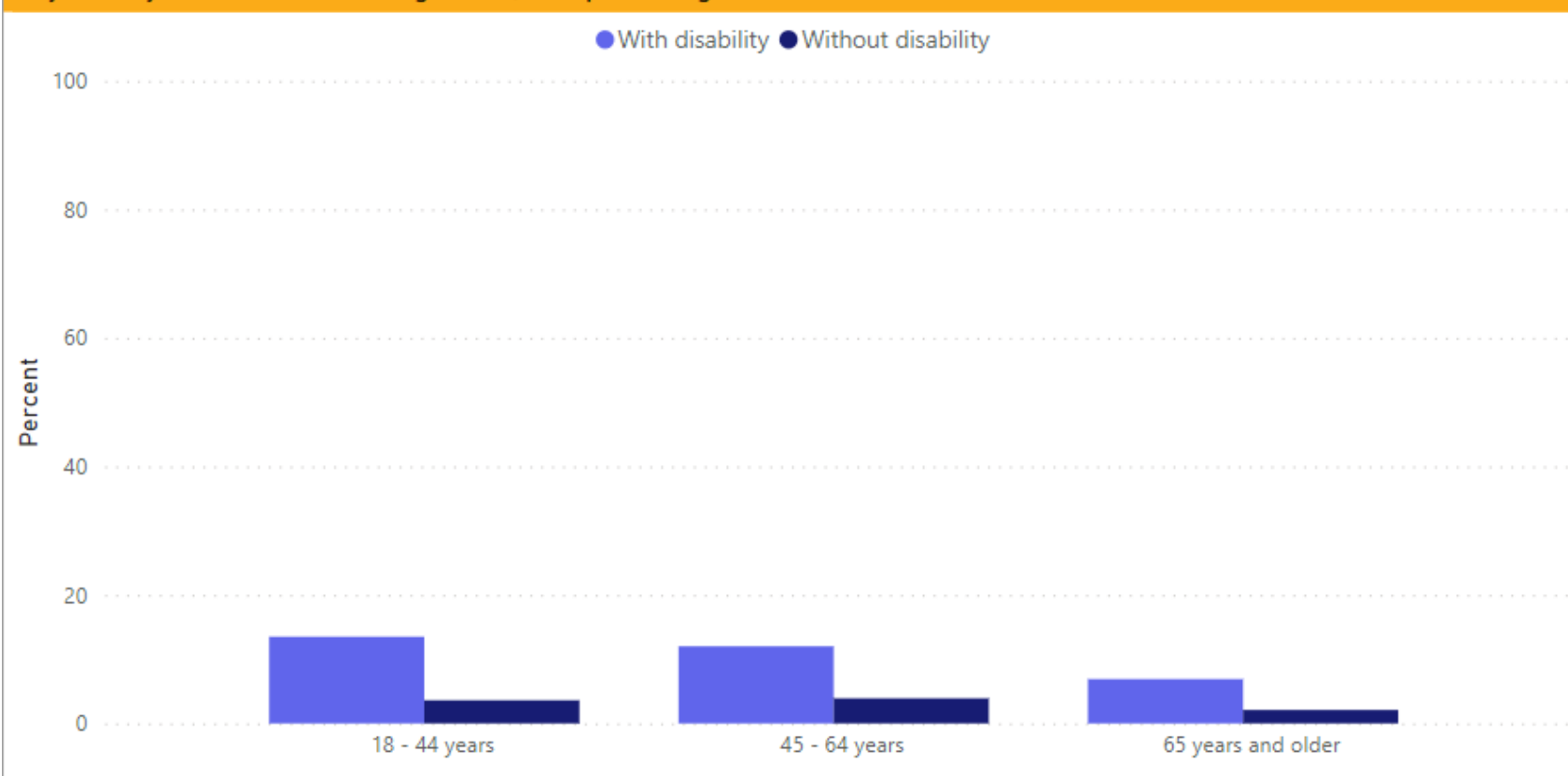


**NOTE:** All estimates shown meet the NCHS standards of reliability. Estimates that do not meet NCHS standards of reliability are suppressed and are not displayed on the chart. See Technical Notes below for more information about the content and design of the survey.

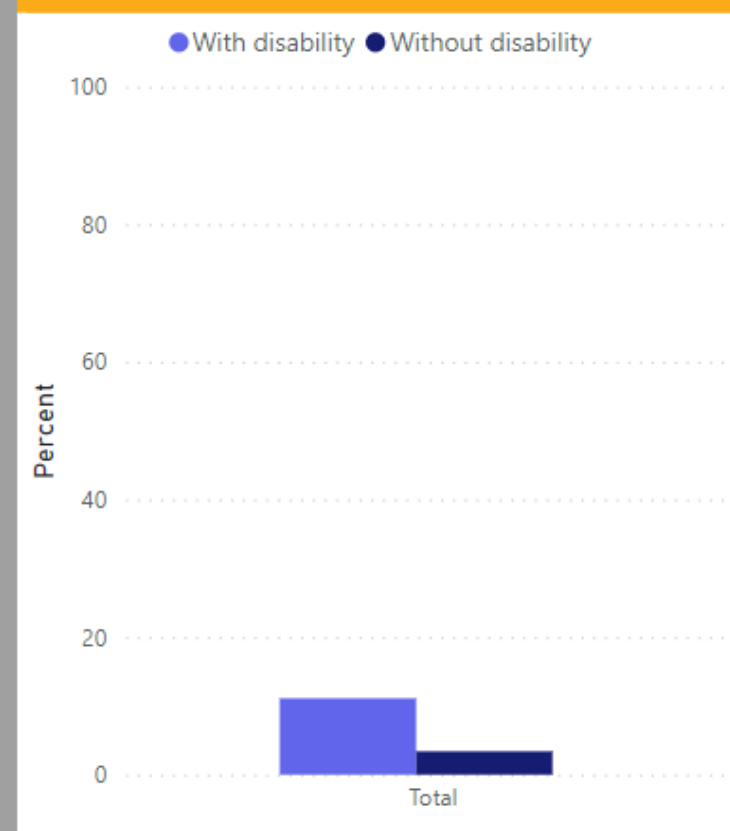
**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2021-2023



### Any activity limitations from long COVID, as a percentage of all adults



### Total



**NOTE:** All estimates shown meet the NCHS standards of reliability. Estimates that do not meet NCHS standards of reliability are suppressed and are not displayed on the chart. See Technical Notes below for more information about the content and design of the survey.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2021-2023

## Treatments for Long COVID

- Goal of treatment is to optimize function and quality of life
- Symptom management approaches
  - Physical rehabilitation
  - Gradual return to activities of daily living
- Medications to improve symptoms
- People with disabilities may require additional support due to challenges with access to care
- Ongoing NIH Initiative to better understand long COVID and develop effective treatments



**RECOVER**

Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH INFOLINE  
1-833-540-0473**

**8 AM - 8 PM / 7 Days a Week**

**Real People. Reliable Information.**



- Residents can call with questions about COVID
  - Testing, therapeutics, vaccinations etc.
- Residents can also call this number to schedule a homebound vaccine appointment

## **Commission on Disability Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Plan**

The Commission shall provide a forum for the identification and discussion of difficulties encountered by disabled persons in our society, and shall make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on measures which the Federal, State and local governments may undertake to assure that persons with disabilities may participate without any hindrance in the life of our community.

### **Powers and Duties**

1. Advise the Mayor, the City Council and the Department on Disability of the needs and problems of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles.
2. Hold public hearings at least once a year to take testimony from disabled persons and others regarding conditions adversely affecting the lives of disabled persons in the City of Los Angeles, and report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council.
3. Monitor the program mandates of the Department on Disability and make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on program and policy initiatives to improve the service of the Department to the disabled community and provide persons with

disabilities in the City of Los Angeles a better opportunity and ability to pursue activities of daily living without discrimination.

4. Review and make recommendations to the Mayor on grant proposals.
5. Maintain active liaison with citizen groups interested in the problems facing persons with disabilities.
6. Promote greater awareness of the changing life patterns, opportunities and responsibilities of persons with disabilities
7. Investigate and report to the Mayor and the City Council instances of discrimination based on disability, as well as attitudinal barriers in the areas of housing, transportation, employment and training, recreation, media of mass communications, health and social services, and legislation; and special problems of disabled persons living alone, as well as their safety and access to support services.
8. Perform specific studies and surveys on the needs of disabled persons when requested by the Mayor and/or the City Council.
9. Submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council on the activities of the Commission.

## **FY 2023-2024 Ad Hoc Committees**

[Objective #1 – Disabled Homelessness](#)

[Objective #2 - Policy & Legislation](#)

[Objective #3 - Transportation & Infrastructure](#)

[Objective #4 - Emergency Management](#)

The Ad Hoc Committees below will research, consider, and make recommendations to the full Commission, in alignment with the Commission's powers and duties.

## **Objective #1 – Disabled Homelessness**

### **Purpose**

Ensure the City's homelessness services are inclusive of and responsive to the specific needs of the disability community.

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Bitonte (Chair), Schlesinger, Tagawa, Williams

### **Action Items**

- Promote opportunities for people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness to access critical government resources and services that are provided where they are.
  - Specifically, mobile SSI
- Submit a recommendation to the Mayor supporting changes to existing legislation and programs to increase funding opportunities to serve people with disabilities experiencing homelessness
- Request a presentation on the status of the Inside Safe program.

### **Work Plan Updates**

October 2023:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Bitonte, Schlesinger, Tagawa.



## November 2023:

- The Committee roster and Chair position were approved.

## **Objective #2 – Policy & Legislation**

### **Purpose:**

Advise on policy and legislation to advance equity for people with disabilities.

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Cable (Co-Chair), Tagawa (Co-Chair), Acevedo, Cabanban

### **Action Items**

- Review draft legislation impacting people with disabilities and report to the Commission on the impacts.
- Submit a recommendation to the Mayor to add support for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to the City's legislative agenda.
- Draft a recommendation in support of the City adopting a policy allowing members of advisory bodies to participate remotely in public meetings.
- Research a possible recommendation to support implementation of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program within the City of Los Angeles.

### **Work Plan Updates**

October 2023:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Acevedo, Cabanban, Cable, Tagawa.

## November 2023:

- The Committee roster and Co- Chair positions were approved.

## **Objective #3 – Transportation & Infrastructure**

### **Purpose:**

Maintain awareness of, monitor, and advise on City of Los Angeles transportation and infrastructure projects and policies as they impact access for people with disabilities.

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Barrios (Chair), Acevedo, Cable

### **Action Items:**

- Participate in public outreach meetings related to City infrastructure projects
- Request a presentation from the Department on Disability on the status of the City's self-evaluation and transition plan
- Request a presentation on the status of the City's implementation of the Willits settlement.
- Research the feasibility of creating a media campaign promoting sidewalk infrastructure improvements in advance of LA28, then make a recommendation as appropriate.
- Request a presentation from LA28 about disability access plans for all venues.
- Conduct one or more site visits of various locations associated with the joint LAWA METRO project, the Automated People Mover (APM), and recent Downtown Los Angeles renovations and new stations.

- Collaborate with the Disability Access and Accommodation Advisory Committee (DAAAC) to address access issues at the airport.

## **Work Plan Updates**

October 2024:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Acevedo, Barrios, and Cable.

November 2023:

- The Committee roster and Chair position were approved.

## **Objective #4 – Emergency Management**

### **Purpose:**

Ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to life saving and sustaining services and support before, during, and after emergencies.

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Cabanban (Chair), Bitonte, Tagawa

### **Action Items**

- Request a presentation from LA County Department of Public Health regarding the incidence of long covid and its impact on people with disabilities

### **Work Plan Updates**

October 2024:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Bitonte and Tagawa.

November 2023:

- The Committee roster, with the addition of Commissioner Cabanban, and Chair position were approved.

## **Presentation Schedule**

FY 2023-2024

To Be Scheduled:

- No items currently waiting to be scheduled

November 16, 2023

- None

December 21, 2023

- Meeting canceled

January 18, 2024

- Long Covid Update (objective #4)

February 15, 2024

- Willits Settlement status update (objective #3)

March 21, 2024

- LA28 disability access plan (objective #3)

April 18, 2024

- Inside Safe (objective #1)

May 16, 2024

- Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan status update

(objective #3)

June 20, 2024

- To be scheduled