

**Draft Minutes**  
**Committee on Infectious Diseases**  
**May 16, 2019**  
**7:30AM via Webex**

**Present**

Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst. Commissioner  
William Valenti, MD, Chair  
James Braun, DO, Vice-Chair  
Karen Myrie, MD, Vice-Chair  
Monica Sweeny, MD  
Joan Cincotta, Alliance  
**Excused**  
Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner  
Mary Ruth Buchness, MD

**Absent**

Philip Kaplan, MD  
Richard A. Schoon, MD  
Wehbeh Anis Wehbeh, MD

**Staff**

Patricia Clancy, Sr. Vice President  
Public Health and Education  
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

- 1 **1) Welcome** – William Valenti, MD, Chair  
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3 **2) Adoption of January 17, 2019 minutes** – adopted  
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5 **3) 2019 HOD Resolution 166 on Immunizations Policy** – after much discussion on the floor of  
6 the House of Delegates in April of 2019, this resolution was referred to MSSNY Council for  
7 action. There was discussion by this committee and it was decided to table further discussion  
8 until such time as Council refers the resolution back to the committee.  
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10 **4) Measles Outbreak**  
11 a) MSSNY is seeking repeal of religious exemptions from vaccinations. MSSNY has long  
12 supported the removal of religious exemptions with regard to vaccinations. The committee  
13 discussed the many ways MSSNY has been advocating on behalf of the Assembly Bill A.2371  
14 that would remove religious exemptions as a way to avoid vaccinating children. Discussion of  
15 the increase of measles cases in the state of New York. MSSNY sought support from other  
16 health organizations in the state of New York and in fact received support from over 28 public  
17 health and child advocacy groups within the state that supports MSSNY’s position on this bill.  
18 The committee discussed ways to advocate for this bill. Contacting local politicians on the  
19 senate and state health committees was suggested. An outline with links to letters and health  
20 committee rosters with contact info will be forwarded to the committee members, so that they  
21 can support this endeavor. The importance was stressed that the voice of the Infectious Disease  
22 Committee be heard. A committee member requested that any data from recent legislation  
23 from California be included for study by committee members. Pat Clancy will gather this  
24 information and forward to committee members as quickly as possible.  
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26 **5) Motion to adjourn** – Next meeting October 17, 2019