

MCDONOUGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC COMMENT RULES (Adopted October 11, 2023)

Pursuant to the rule-making authority set forth in the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the rules governing public comment at all McDonough County Health Department Board of Health meetings shall be as follows:

(A) A public comment period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes will be held during every open meeting of the McDonough County Health Department Board of Health on topics that are relevant/germane to the applicable meeting agenda. The right to public comment does not apply to closed meetings/executive sessions.

(B) Anyone desiring to address the McDonough County Health Department Board of Health must sign in prior to the start of the meeting on the public comment registration form provided at the meeting site.

(C) On the public comment registration form, the person must include their full name. A person may only sign a public comment registration form on their own behalf, or for a group on whose behalf the person has been designated by a group to speak, in which case, the name of the group must be provided on the public comment registration form.

(D) Public comment shall be permitted by the presiding officer/committee chair only during the designated public comment period specified on the agenda.

(E) The presiding officer/committee chair shall recognize registered speakers in the order in which they signed the public comment registration form. A person who has not signed the public comment registration form prior to the start of the meeting shall not be permitted to speak at the meeting.

(F) Public comment is limited to a total of three (3) minutes per registered speaker. A registered speaker cannot give their allotted minutes to another person.

(G) Public comments must be directed by the registered speaker to the committee as a whole and not to an individual member of the committee. The public comment period is not intended to require members of the committee to provide responses to registered speakers. Discussions between registered speakers and members of the audience shall not be permitted.

(H) After a registered speaker has made their public comments or their allotted time for public comment has expired, they shall be seated with no further debate, dialogue, or comment.

(I) All comments must be civil and respectful in nature. Any registered speaker who makes defamatory, obscene, discriminatory, threatening, or abusive comments; or who engages in threatening, abusive, or disorderly behavior when addressing the committee may be deemed out-of-order by the presiding officer/chair. The speaker's opportunity for public comment at that meeting will be terminated.

(J) Any registered person who is not able to address the committee due to the expiration of the time allotted for the public comment period will be encouraged to attend a subsequent meeting to address the committee.