

Mayor's COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

March 20, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)

- Confirmed Illinois COVID-19 Cases increased from 288 to 422 (47%)
- Confirmed Evanston Cases increased from 10 to 14 (40%)
- Priorities in place as of today are:
 - Housing and Transportation for self-isolated individuals
 - Assisting extended care facilities
 - Continued coordination with local hospitals and monitoring their capacity
 - Maintaining proper supplies for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
 - Protecting Residents and providing timely COVID-19 information
 - Continuing to track COVID-19 to slow the spread
 - Monitor call volume for City services

Public Health Update (Greg Olsen, Health and Human Services Dept.)

- The Evanston Health Dept. notifies each confirmed case of an Evanston Resident, the staff is deployed to interview and confirm close contact. Outreach is done for close contacts. We check that the overall welfare information is set up in the Illinois "Red Cap" database system for active monitoring twice daily. For large group facilities, isolation from the rest of the population away from others in the facility is strongly recommended. Have appropriate PPE, looking for other options of long-term isolation (i.e. hotels)
- Handwashing stations and portable toilets will be made available for homeless populations. City staff is currently identifying locations.

Sector Updates

- Legislators/Aides - Schakowsky/Fine/Gabel/Comm. Suffredin
 - In early March, a "Supplemental Appropriations Bill" was signed allowing \$8.3 billion for emergency relief funds. \$100 million will be dedicated to community health centers. Illinois is an applicant.
 - SBA Program Loans are available for small businesses to take advantage of low interest loans. Rates are 3.5% for small business and 2.75% for nonprofits.
 - Congress signed into place additional resources for people struggling the COVID-19 fallout. This includes relief for extended unemployment benefits, testing and paid sick leave.
 - We are waiting for direction from the Governor's office on what the Shelter in Place will look like for businesses and people.
 - [Coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov) is a website from the Governor's office to provide links and answer frequently asked questions.
 - Cook County is working closely with the City for housing for COVID-19 self-isolation.

Senior Living Center

- Standing meeting with ten Long-Term Care providers
- City will assist with an app to share update information and questions
- A few current urgent needs are:
 - COVID-19 testing
 - Virtual meeting with hospital representatives
 - Critical shortage of PPE
 - Staff shortages
 - EMT personnel screening before entering the locations

PNPs (Monique Jones)

- Meeting twice a week
- Concern for the homeless population
- Need clear information on hospital capacity
- Need handwashing stations and portable lavatories for the displaced population

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Created three Taskforces to address issues
 - Communications Taskforce to monitor helpful legislation
 - Best Practices Taskforce concerning employees
 - Contingency Planning for business loans

Hospitals (Doug Silverstein and Kenneth Jones)

- Drive-thru center open this weekend for patients to get tested. Hoping to perform 200 tests within a 12-hour shift.
- Labor pool has also started to become positive. Working on a contingency plan to have staff in place to continue to care for patients.
- There will be a mobile unit in place limited to those with a doctor's order to be tested only at NorthShore
- St. Francis continues to coordinate with NorthShore. Tents in place for screenings.
- Continuing temperature monitoring for staff, inventory for equipment is on-going and conserving PPE
- Sending patients home who can be self-isolated

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Facilities have moved to essential staff only
- Preparing for changes regarding Shelter in Place
- Will have a student population count by the end of the weekend

Schools (Eric Witherspoon)

- Vigor message to the students about gathering in groups continues
- Continuing e-learning
- **Potential issue:** workers can't come in to prepare meals if the Shelter in Place takes effect. Need potential workaround. Students will be unable to pick up food provided.
- Deep cleaning of schools is continuing

Faith Leaders (Rev. Nabors or Rabbi London)

- Received houses of worship list from the City active. There are 95 houses of worship and all emails and contact information are obtained
- Working on establishing standard calls
- Offering information on best practices and services online
- **Potential issue:** unable to visit hospitals for sick and shut-in people, and need guidance/direction on funerals
- St. Mark's hospitality center is still open every morning

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24 at 1:30 pm