

Mayor's COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

March 24, 2020

Brief Prior Day's Situation Report

- Governor's Stay-At-Home Order: essential functions and essential businesses
- No playdates are allowed. City playgrounds are closed. Signs are posted.
- Review Situation Report from Monday, March 23, 2020
 - Emergency Operations Center (ECO) Activation Level is a Level 2
 - 36 confirmed cases in Evanston
- Incident objectives
 - Assist the Long-Term Care facilities and their affiliations to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk populations
 - Develop and implement housing and transportation services for those in need of self-isolation
 - Coordinate with hospitals to expand capacity/services
 - Maintain the supply chain of personal protective equipment (PPE). Prioritize healthcare, first responders and those confirmed cases in self-isolation
 - Protect our City staff and residents by providing timely and consistent COVID-19 information
 - Track the spread of COVID-19 and identify those at risk in Evanston in order to slow the spread of the virus.
 - Develop a volunteer management plan to manage food accessibility, contact tracing, and other needs determined necessary by Unified Command
 - Implement a plan to handle increased call volume for critical city services

IEMA State Plans (Governor's Conference Call)

- Community Testing—trying to implement more testing throughout the state
- 200 hospitals in Illinois. 63 hospitals are designated for acute respiratory care
- US Core of Engineers will reopen three hospitals that were previously closed
- Booking old hotel rooms throughout the state at all levels. Friday's briefing will have more information on that topic
- Additional work happening with wrap-around services for volunteers.

Connection for the Homeless/Interfaith Action

- Connection for the Homeless expanded the number of beds at Lake Street Church and secured hotel rooms with the coordination of the City staff. Will utilize hotel rooms for overflow.
- There are 32 homeless people at the Hospitality Center this morning, and many will move into Lake Street Church.
- Continuing to serve neighbors with the food pantry and other basic needs. 60 people have taken advantage so far. This number is anticipated to grow.

- Continuing to work closely with fellow service providers such as the YMCA, YWCA and Interfaith Action of Evanston to coordinate services for the homeless.
- Curt's Cafe is helping to provide meals.
- The lack of volunteers is a challenge.
- The City has distributed 15 portable handwashing stations and portable toilets
- Interfaith Action soup kitchens are still serving and coordinating with Connections to serve those staying in the hotel rooms.

Legislative Updates

- Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office
 - Continuing to work with Emergency Management staff in Cook County for first responder supplies, and adding beds in various locations where needed
 - County program is fully functioning to sign people up to make sure o coverage
 - Court systems are closed (open for emergencies) – no evictions or foreclosure being processed
 - Make sure people are scheduled for time off during this time
- Representative Jan Schakowski's Office
 - Waiting on stimulus package update
- Senator Laura Fine's Office
 - Focusing efforts on support for essential workers for PPE and childcare
 - Recruiting former healthcare personnel
 - Waiting on State Income Tax information
- Robyn Gabel's Office
 - Looking into delay regarding State Income Tax filing deadline—will know in the next 48 hours
 - There's a donation line for people who can donate supplies and equipment ppe.donations.illinois.gov

Senior Living

- Long-term care providers have not reported any new or suspected cases
- Staffing shortage are still an issue
- The working group will meet on March 25. At the meeting, Audrey Thompson will have an update for City support on PPE

Non-profit

- Questions about funding for the homeless population under the Shelter-in-Place Order, and other Federal and State funding programs
- Early Child Care Providers are working to address strategies for immediate childcare needs for essential workers
- A survey has gone out to residents to better understand the needs within the community. Multiple languages have been used to communicate survey assessments

Education

- Additional hot spots purchases for the high school
- City of Evanston SD 65, and SD 202 will be providing an additional food distribution date on Wednesday to assist youth who did not receive a meal distribution on Monday. Meals will be distributed for the remaining three days of the week. There will be one truck per site with two Parks and Rec staff per truck to deliver food
- Monday, March 30, the school districts will increase the number of meals to 1,500 and will continue to monitor the situation
- Continuing virtual learning

Business

- The working group has organized three taskforce committees to address: post-event planning, communications, and advocacy
- An e-blast was sent out to businesses about recovery disaster loan information
- Continuing to conduct online classes and virtual networking opportunities
- Potential need is more information on rent and mortgage management and relief during this time

Northwestern University

- No update—Spring Break
- Determining remote education courses online
- Maintaining essential staff on campus

Faith Base

- Established a core of volunteer who need direction on specifics for service
- 73 people served hot meals at a soup kitchen at Second Baptist
- Establishing committees for communication outreach to the Faith community
- Potential issues/needs: sharing best practices for virtual networking and worship, also reaching out to financial lending institutions for online giving assistance