

COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

April 7, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)

- PPE in decent shape, and received additional masks
- Continuing to monitor demographic reports on health disparity and inequity
- The hospital capacity information is positive for beds and ventilators
- Washington State University health metrics show a peak on resources in the Chicagoland area around 4/16
- Evanston Police continue to patrol the lakefront area and the parks to monitor social distancing among residents. Also placing signage in these areas to remind residents about the importance of strict social distancing

Spotlight on Local Food Insecurities (Audrey Thompson)

- We continue to see the need to address the issue of food insecurity in the community
- Working closely with Ald. Fleming and the Health and Human Services staff and other community members to solidify our policies and procedures for distributing food and the pantry (potential run out of James Park)
- Looking to open the food pantry by Wednesday 4/15
- The team has been working with a local Food Distributor for donations of food to be disseminated in the community
- Establishing a coordinated point of entry for all services for residents to enter, edit and update resources
- Finalizing details to make this available this week for roll out soon. All calls should funnel through the 311 system
- A few locals organizations within the community who are helping to address the food insecurity issues are: Jennifer Edibles, Vineyard, School Districts, Meals on Wheels and Interfaith Action

Hospitals

- St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
 - Continuing to test, ambulatory site established in Evanston for staff members and looking to expand to community
 - Need feedback from legislators on nursing licenses
- Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
 - PPE inventory levels are in good shape
 - Can continue to accommodate critical care patients
 - Using hospitalization rates and intensive care to measure progress

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - www.irs.gov/coronavirus is the website for more information on the stimulus pay out. Funds will be distributed electronically
 - Soon a portal will be launched to verify banking information by the week of 4/17
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)**
 - Continuing to answer constituents questions
 - Also examining issues related to pension fund and hospital capacity
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - Still answering questions regarding unemployment. Application for 1099 employees will be ready in one month.
- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Karen)**
 - Also continuing to monitor unemployment insurance and working to push vital information out as soon as possible
- **Ald. Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam)**
 - Continuing to coordinate with State, County and Federal offices and real estate assessments

Education (Eric Whitterspoon & Phil Ehrhardt)

- Board members are visiting food sites and all is well
- During Spring Break, reminding students to continue to practice social distancing

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- PPE is still a very urgent need
- Three Long Term Care providers have reported additional confirmed cases
- Audrey Thompson continues to assist with outreach to providers with positive cases

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Addressing confusion regarding business loans and application verification
- Continuing to work with banking institutes to review the process for loans. Businesses encouraged to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster loans

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Also placing lakefront signage for congregating on campus

- Will go fully remote for the remainder of the Spring quarter

Nonprofit (Monique Jones)

- Concerns about unbanked citizens and how to set up banking to receive benefits from the stimulus package
- Advocacy needed for community health centers to take advantage of the stimulus package
- Continuing to work with Health and Human Resources on testing

Mental Health (Janet Jones)

- Mid-march established full tele-therapy
- Seen slight increase since then for family therapy

Faith-Based (Rabbi London)

- Sunday, April 5th at 9am church bells rang in solidarity for first responders and the community
- Continuing to coordinate volunteer opportunities
- Sending out resources for using technology to address virtual worship services

Next Meeting: Friday, April 10th at 1:30 p.m.