

**Statement by Mayor Stephen Hagerty**  
**Monday, April 13, 2020**  
**Evanston City Council Meeting**

Good evening, and welcome to the Monday, April 13, 2020 Evanston City Council meeting. To those of you who celebrated yesterday, I hope you had a wonderful Easter Sunday.

I know it is not easy celebrating Easter, Passover, and other annual spring-time occasions without seeing family and friends. So many of our traditions involve seeing one another. Yet, the steadfast effort of our community to stay home and slow the spread is making a difference, the numbers so far are bearing that out.

I remain confident that “this too shall pass.” As difficult and painful as this experience is, I believe we will look back upon this with a renewed sense of strength and greater sense of purpose.

Tonight, I’d like to give you an update on progress that has been made in Evanston since the last time we met.

- We have seen the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rise from 55 to 175 since March 23<sup>rd</sup>. While the increase of 145 may seem large, it’s only a 218% increase, far below the nearly 1,000% increase I reported between March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Our days to double is slower than the national average of 10 days and the State average of 8 days.
- Our hospitals continue to have available beds, ICU units, and ventilators.
- We currently have enough PPEs on hand for our emergency responders, City staff, and congregate care facilities in the City

that need emergency PPEs, while they wait for supplies to come in.

- The Evanston Community Foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund has raised over \$700K and distributed over \$300K. In addition, they have a \$1M matching gift from the Finnegan Family. So please visit [www.evanstonforever.org](http://www.evanstonforever.org) and double your money.
- Residents and individuals throughout Evanston have stepped up to address increased food insecurity issues that are now present in Evanston due to COVID-19. I want to give a big shout out to the following organizations who have all stepped up – Meals on Wheels, ETHS & D65, Chef Q, Feast & Imbibe, Jennifer's Edibles, Hillside Food Pantry, Vineyard Pantry, Interfaith Action, Koi, Kansaku, Curt's Café, and coming this Wednesday a new City of Evanston Food Pantry at James Park (I'm going to ask Alderman Fleming who's been involved in this effort to share the details at call of the Wards. You can also find them on the City's website – [www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org)).
- Our homeless advocates, including Connections for the Homeless and Interfaith Action, continue to work hard to support those without a home through their expanded sheltering program.
- Our banks, City Economic Development Staff, and business associations in town continue to work with all of our effected businesses to help them gain access to Federal, State, or County grants or loans.
- Our state and federal partners, including all our elected officials, continue to work with all the federal and state agencies to push them to provide aid in the CARES act as quickly as possible to families and businesses.

Experts continue to believe that we're in the midst of the peak this month – April – and that if we continue to comply with the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order, we will put ourselves in a better position to return our hospitals to standard care, instead of crisis care, and gradually re-open our economy.

All of this positive news isn't without sad news. Since we last met our death toll in Evanston has risen from 1 resident to 5. Three of those residents have been in one of our senior living communities. In fact, our City's number one incident objective remains assisting Long-Term Care facilities and other organizations to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. Our public health department continues to work closely with our Senior Living Centers to mitigate and manage outbreaks. This will continue to be a primary focus.

I want to share with you the data the Governor's Office and we are paying close attention to. It's seeing a decline in these data points - # of Confirmed cases, # of Hospitalizations, # of ICU Admits, and # of Death - that will help inform the Governor's Office of when to ease up on the severe restrictions put in place so we can re-start the economy while still protecting and safely caring for those most at-risk. We expect to see these metrics plateau and flatten this month because of the measures enacted over the last month, and the work of all of you to slow the spread.

Finally, I want to end with a big thank you to all of the health care workers, emergency responders, and congregate home living staff. These are folks – our neighbors, relatives, and friends – on the front line. Like the firefighters and police officers on 9/11, you will always be remembered for your willingness to put others before yourself. Thank you!