

COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

April 14, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)

- Concern: Senior living centers are reporting increased cases at two locations
- Metrics are promising, the “Stay in Place” Order is working. April is the peak; however, we need to continue to practice social distancing and other measures to stay safe
- The City’s PPE supplies continue to be in good shape for the emergency response team and City workers
- Hospital capacity is increasing
- Tracking police engagement. Incidents are minimal

Spotlight on Mental Health (Jana Jones)

- Partnering with Northwestern University to provide teletherapy, full family services, and large research ability for behavioral health
- Services offered are:
 - Safe/confidential space to discuss feelings
 - Active intervention for panic/anxiety attacks
 - Sharing resources for mind-body tools (list of therapists)
- A few of the main items we should be aware of as a community:
 - Transition is disorienting as people figure out a new way of normal grounding. This is normal in a time of crisis
 - Security is challenged for employment/job safety and the safety net of healthcare
 - There is a lot of anxiety over job loss and people begin to cope in unhealthy ways
 - People are experiencing grief over the lost of a loved one, also grief around your way of life (i.e. graduations, birthday celebrations, etc)
 - Shelter in Place Order has created new navigating patterns around communication with friends and family
 - Romantic partners can also experience a strain while navigating this challenge together
 - Children also experience grief and missing social time with friends. This may contribute to new behavioral issues and an additional challenge for parents who need to work at home
- A few positive outcomes we should be aware of as a community:
 - Families are spending more time together

- Individuals have an opportunity to slow their pace, rest and reflect on their priorities
- Self-care is crucial for establishing boundaries between work and home. Exercise and getting fresh air is also very important
- Hotline information for additional resources and assistance is: 1-888-409-0141

Hospitals

- St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
 - Staffing three IUC units
 - Supplies for PPE and ventilators availability are good
 - Onsite testing is continuing
- Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
 - Over 14K patients tested
 - Supplies are stable

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - Taxpayers, people on Social Security, and non-filers are able to check the status of their stimulus payments at: irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)**
 - Working group call tomorrow, 4/15, to IDES to answer constituent questions
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - General Assembly in session this week, however Representative Gabel is a part of a number of working groups to push bills that may have an important impact on the community related to COVID-19. She serves on the Budget, Healthcare, Human Services, and Medicaid Committees
 - Please contact her office with concerns or items to address
- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Karen)**
 - No update
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam)**
 - The new deadline to appeal property tax assessments is May 1

Education (Eric Whitterspoon & Phil Ehrhardt)

- Reporting roughly 3,100 students online for classes

- Demand for school lunches have stabilized and we will continue to monitor for efficiency

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Three Crowns is still in need of more PPE
- Working group meeting tomorrow for additional updates on issues

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Concern: slow processing for SBA loans and may run out of money. Working with local businesses to lobby legislators for additional funds
- Going forward, business are looking into PPE for groceries stores, and what the “new normal” will be to address concerns

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- No update

Nonprofit (Monique Jones)

- Established working groups around; the homeless population, food insecurities, the undocumented, and childcare
- Constructing a plan to isolate residents in aggregate living conditions
- Raised \$800K and roughly half has been disbursed to community facilities for assistance
- The applications from the open application process on 4/10 are due this Friday, 4/17

Mental Health (Christine Sommerville)

- Anxiety and depression are common conditions we are seeing
- 28 health care providers are in Evanston
- Coordinating efforts to distribute resources in the community
- Concern: addressing issues with the Stay at Home Order and safety for children

Faith-Based (Pastor Michael Neighbors)

- Continuing to provide encouraging video messages for first responders
- Many houses of worship are sharing best practices for social media platforms
- Many congregations are still struggling with finances and continuing contributions
- The soup kitchen is still serving the community

Next Meeting: Friday, April 17th at 1:30 p.m.