



Call begins at 4:00 p.m. Please dial 1-888-398-2342, passcode 4724630#

If you have questions you'd like us to address on the call, please email [ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org).

### 1. What is the situation?

- a. In an effort to provide assistance to residents affected by COVID-19 and decompress hospitals in suburban Cook County, CCDPH, in collaboration with the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, launched an initiative to provide housing to eligible patients being discharged from area hospitals.
- b. McCormick Place Alternate Care Facility is open. This facility is a regional asset and a one step-down facility from a hospital. COVID-19 patients stable for transfer from the hospital meeting the inclusion criteria, who have not completed the minimum isolation period and cannot return home due to the risks of that home setting (any congregate setting, or immunocompromised/elderly family members from which they cannot remain isolated) will be considered for placement at this facility.
- c. Article "Covid-19, Data, and Health Justice"  
<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2020/covid-19-data-and-health-justice>

### 2. What is CCDPH doing?

- a. CCDPH COVID-19 resource tool <https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/resources/>
- b. Hotline: 9a-4p M-F at 708-633-3319.
- c. We have revised the Frequently Asked Questions page <https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/> reorganized by topics in alpha order and contact tracing information has been added
- d. We have Revamped the community resource page: <https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/resources/>
- e. Health inequities: We continue to see considerably higher rates of COVID-19 illnesses and deaths among African Americans. We must work together to reduce structural racism, a root cause of health inequities, and advocate for pro-equity policies.
- f. Cook County has unveiled two data dashboards:
  - o Social Vulnerability Index - describes the vulnerability of a community to a catastrophic event based on factors like poverty, transportation access, and language barriers. This is shown in a map format for Cook County census tracts, and available in English and Spanish. <https://maps.cookcountyil.gov/svi/>



- o Medical Examiner's COVID-19 Dashboard - provides data on Cook County residents that have died from COVID-19, including deaths by race and ethnicity. The data does not always match CCDPH data or other health departments due to differences in reporting timing. <https://maps.cookcountyil.gov/medexamcovid19>
- o FAQ about the Medical Examiner's dashboard here: <https://datacatalog.cookcountyil.gov/stories/s/Medical-Examiner-COVID-19-Dashboard-Data/ttk4-trbu/>

### 3. What can you do?

- a. CCDPH continues to promote worker health and safety. If you have questions about whether a business is not allowing for safe social distancing or that it is not maintaining a safe and sanitary work environment to minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19, please contact the Workplace Rights Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office at 844-740-5076 or email [workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us](mailto:workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us). You can also directly call the CCDPH Hotline at 708-633-3319.
- b. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Launches \$1.5M Grant Program to Support Illinoisans Impacted by COVID-19-Apply for \$20K, by 4/24. BCBSIL yesterday, opened a \$1.5M funding program to support community-based organizations with missions focused on access to health care, hunger and shelter. The BCBSIL COVID-19 Community Collaboration Fund will release \$20,000 grants to organizations around the state. The program is designed to distribute the funds quickly to respond to the current health crisis. Link: [https://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/ao\\_login.login?x\\_gm\\_id=6786&x\\_proposal\\_type\\_id=50848](https://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/ao_login.login?x_gm_id=6786&x_proposal_type_id=50848) ) **April 15, 2020** – Application opens; **April 24, 2020** – Application closes.
- c. Nominate an Everyday Hero: We want to recognize people on the front lines who are helping each other during these extremely difficult times. <https://bit.ly/cookcountyhero>
- d. April 23<sup>rd</sup> **CanTV event** at 11:00 a.m. "Understanding the Coronavirus Pandemic Through the Lens of Racial and Social Justice" to be broadcast on CanTV/watch and YouTube.com/ChiCanTV #CovidRacialJustice <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-the-coronavirus-pandemic-through-the-lens-of-racial-social-tickets-102846474574>

### 4. Questions From Partners (please email [ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org))

# COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

April 21, 2020

## **Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)**

- Attempting to endure the Stay at Home Order mandated by the Governor's office and it will more than likely be extended past April 30.
- Long-Term Care facilities continue to be a concern for care and we are working closing with the Health and Human Services area to continue to rectify what we can do to assist. Cook County is also providing more data analysis which is helpful.
- PPE and Hospital capacity are looking well.
- Not a lot of reporting with Police engagement and the public for non-compliance activity.

## **Spotlight on Public Health: New Mask Order (Ike Ogbo/Kimberly Richardson/Ald. Robin Rue-Simmons)**

- Working very closely with the Long Term Care facilities to disseminate information relevant to issues concerning the pandemic. The HHS department has retained a Communicable Disease Liaison to assist the Long Term Care facilities with strategies, and protocol on how to manage outbreaks, symptoms and prevent diseases.
- Also expected to partner with NorthShore Health Care, and their experts will provide operational and clinical support to the congregate living facilities. The City will work closely with them to provide support, education and risk management as well. The City will continue to provide PPE to manage care in their facilities. Long Term Care facilities have implemented a number of preventative strategies regarding residents who have tested positive for the disease.
- Beginning on April 23, face coverings are required in essential businesses, with possible fines for re-enforcement of non-compliance. The purpose of this Order is to emphasize the importance of possible transmission of the virus without showing symptoms and to continue to educate the public on CDC best practices for the health and welfare of our community.
- We are working with essential businesses to encourage customer compliance.
- Business owners will need to maintain a strategy for customer social distancing and wearing of face coverings in their respective stores.
- There will be a distribution of flyers in English and Spanish to remind residents about face coverings and why it is important to comply and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community and implement CDC best practices. There will be a photo sharing opportunity on Facebook for creativity purposes and to do your part to continue to make the community safe. **#ProtectEvanston**
- Evanston Own It organization donated masks for distribution to the Evanston community. A total of 14 churches have participated in collecting the masks for distribution and to share. Former Ald. Delores Holmes was key in the facilitation of distribution to the community among the churches.

## Sector Updates

### Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Since last Friday several new confirmed cases among providers. Four communities with 16 resident cases and seven communities with 22 confirmed cases.
- Governor has a designated strike team who examine nursing homes when an outbreak occurs. Local providers were curious if Evanston would implement the same procedure.
- Will follow up to share information with providers.
- HHS continues to monitor and provide the necessary support for our Long Term Care facilities to make them a priority.
- We will also begin to track progress by individual facilities

### Hospitals

- St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
  - The Amita Health System will begin to offer antibody testing for COVID-19. The test can determine if you've had the disease and never realized it and/or may have immunity but not overselling results. It is a blood test used to diagnose the infection. You can obtain a test through your healthcare provider.
- Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
  - Over 20K test performed, 12K e-visits, and 2,500 drive-thru test done
  - PPE is currently an issue with five days of N95 masks in supply and one week worth of isolation gowns.

### Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
  - Deadline for Social Security recipients to add eligible dependent children to their automatic economic impact payment by April 22nd
  - Visit IRS website for more details
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)**
  - People hospitalized for COVID-19 prior to April 1 for coverage. Their coverage will be backdated to Jan 1 to include this pandemic with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for full coverage plans.
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
  - Confirming the Governor's Stay at Home Order will more than likely extend past April 30.

- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Karen)**
  - Available to continue to answer questions around unemployment benefits and filing
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam)**
  - Cook County Dept. of Health will begin having conference calls on Tuesday, April 28 at 4 p.m.

### **Education (Eric Whitterspoon & Phil Ehrhardt)**

- The Governor has confirmed schools will close for the remainder of the year.
- Will provide details on semester grades and what that looks like going forward.

### **Business (Roger Sosa)**

- Monitoring agreement in Congress for additional funding for SBA loans.
- Helping with the Evanston LEND program to increase their funding opportunities to assist local businesses.
- Will continue to direct and inform essential businesses on the new mask order.

### **Northwestern University (Dave Davis)**

- Four committees were established for preparation for students to return to campus.
- Plans for the summer quarter will be forthcoming.

### **Nonprofit (Monique Jones)**

- Established sub committees are focused on Long Term Care facilities, child care, food insecurities, and undocumented residents.
- Will determine goals and report back to the taskforce soon.

### **Mental Health (Janet Jones)**

- NAMI currently working closely with Congress for additional mental health resources.

### **Faith-Based (Rabbi London)**

- Continuing conference calls with Houses of Worship.
- Sharing links for CDC best practices.
- Bethany Church has small bottles of sanitizer for distribution.

**Next Meeting: Friday, April 24th at 1:30 p.m.**