

# Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

## Meeting Notes

May 1, 2020

### Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- We are beginning to monitor other states with regard to their particular framework for reopening. The state continues to be under the Stay at Home Order with minor adjustments in place.
- Long-term care facilities continue to be an issue - the numbers are rising, for staff members as well as residents. 51 staff cases and 52 resident cases and some cases may be resolved - numbers will fluctuate slightly. Seven deaths to date across the long-term care facilities.
- We have a total of nine facilities reporting in and working closely with the Health and Human Services Department.
- PPE supply is low for isolation gowns. The supplier is aware and making an effort to keep up with demand.

### Meeting Spotlight: Racial Disparity of COVID-19:

(Greg Olson / Rev. Michael Nabors/ Pamela Mitchell-Boyd of Amita St. Francis)

- Rev. Nabors stated that minority health is already beset by many public health, medical, and social problems. The market issue regarding healthcare inequities exists today for communities of color. A few reasons are:
  - Suspicion of healthcare industries (example: Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment)
  - Lack of adequate health insurance
  - Negative interactions and lack of attention by healthcare providers
- According to a MacKenzie and Company report, 39% of jobs held by Black and Brown people are the most vulnerable for a job reduction in hours, furlough days, pay and permanent layoffs
- Access to testing continues to be a major problem. The City is looking into doing "mobile" testing along with Cook County for shelters and the homeless population for specific locations
- St. Francis Hospital has assembled an internal working group to address COVID-19 issues. The working group is monitoring a number of elements that exacerbate the issue in particular areas such as:
  - Diabetes
  - Hypertension
  - Obesity

### Sector Updates

#### Hospitals

- Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
  - 50 confirmed positive cases, 18 patients under investigation, and 17 patients on ventilators
  - Work groups continue on non-reemergence of non-virus activity
- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
  - Numbers are continuing to increase system wide for confirmed COVID-19 patients: 150 confirmed positive with 24 patients on ventilators

- Performed over 3K tests with a 26% positivity rate, 14K e-visits, 4,200 drive-thru tests
- PPE supplies: N95 masks are needed

### Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
  - Deadlines for Veteran Affairs and SSI recipients with eligible children have until Tuesday, May 5 to add money to their automatic economy impact stimulus payments. Please visit [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Sue Robinson)**
  - If you or a loved one are struggling with stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic and need emotional support, text TALK to 552020 for English or HABLAR for Spanish. This service is free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
  - Requested Evanstonian COVID-19 information by racial demographics
  - Continue to provide constituents with information regarding unemployment claims and other questions
- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Karen McCormick)**
  - Working groups in the House are still meeting for state and budget issues regarding policy needs
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam Newman)**
  - Cook County COVID-19 dashboard information includes race, age, and gender demographics: [maps.cookcountyil.gov/medexamcovid19/](http://maps.cookcountyil.gov/medexamcovid19/)

### Mental Health (Christine Sommerville)

- May is Mental Health Month. There will be increased awareness campaigns happening throughout the month
- There are 28 mental health facilities in Evanston supporting residents
- The Living Room at [Turning Point](#) is a drop-in center for adults over the age of 18 seeking assistance. They have announced they are reopening remotely to support people via phone or video conference. The Living Room is currently open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, 3-8 p.m. The Living Room staff can be reached during open hours at 847-933-9202.
- [Family Institute at Northwestern University](#) has a clinic providing therapy services remotely. They use a sliding scale payment model.

### Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Working Groups review new cases each week.
- Ms. Leary clarified that residents may leave a facility for essential medical appointments, which can create a risk of being exposed to the virus and re-entering the community. It is not necessarily the staff members exposing residents.

Ongoing Challenges include:

- Testing availability
- One time mass testing could provide a false sense of security to employees and residents so proper testing needs to be readily available
- Providers are also challenged to identify people who can administer the test as well as people who will replace employees when they test positive

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

- Local banks report that applicants for PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loans for small businesses are being proceeded
- \$8K has been raised to support LEND Evanston, which is providing grants to small businesses in Evanston. As of today, LEND has approved approximately \$40,000.
- Downtown Evanston is hosting a raffle drawing to help support local Evanston businesses. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to LEND Evanston [Raffle information](#).
- The Working Group is shifting its focus towards an equitable recovery plan. It is developing a website called “Recovery University” for online classes related to reopening businesses.

#### **Faith-Based (Rev. Michael Nabors)**

- Houses of Worship are able to reopen with only ten people present (similar to funeral guidelines from the State).
- Will reach out to area congregations to determine if they are planning for services on Sunday
- Grateful to participate in the local food distribution and offer encouraging words to community members.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 5 at 1:30 p.m.**