

COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

May 8, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)

- Graduation will be held on May 24 for ETHS students. Many people are working hard to make this event safe and memorable.
- Confirmed cases were slightly elevated on May 7, there were 27 confirmed cases. Normal readings hover around 21 cases, however we need to stay the course in regards to the Governor's Stay at Home Order.
- The EOC team is looking for ways to manage self isolation fatigue and will have an update on what's planned
- Next week's Spotlight will focus on the Five Phases of the Illinois Recovery Plan
- 436 confirmed cases in Evanston, 12 deaths
- Over 1,000 people are in self-isolation or are being closely monitored
- PPE gowns are still needed for a few facilities
- Long term care facilities are seeing an increase in the rise of confirmed cases
- Police engagement remains normal for enforcement of social distancing

Spotlight on Local Businesses (Paul Zalmezak & Annie Coakely)

- We are emphasizing for the community to support local businesses when able and by calling ahead for take out and curbside pick up for local restaurants
- The Business Task Force is beginning to work on reopening the downtown business area. There is a campaign website dedicated to this effort called "Evanston Back to Business". The link is cityofevanston.org/backtobusiness
- Through our efforts we are normalizing the use of face coverings while patronizing essential businesses and reminding the public of additional safety measures like social distancing.
- Our communications and best practices are being sent to:
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - City of Evanston
 - Main Dempster Mile
 - Central Street Business District
- Restaurants continue to serve the homeless and homebound with meals, beer and wine deliveries
- Working on a reopening resource guide to make sure Evanston businesses are aligned with best practices provided by IDPH
- The Business Task Force is in close communication with legislators regarding funding resources. LEND has been approved for \$100K to leverage additional funds for the community.
- The t-shirt fundraiser generated \$13K additional funds for LEND
- Memorial Day Weekend artwork activities are planned for the City

- Working on radio ads for local businesses, and social distancing markers for reopening

Hospitals

- **Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)**
 - Over the last 48 hours the numbers for confirmed cases have gone down
 - Completed validation testing for antibody protocol and will have more information next week
 - No PPE issues
- **St. Francis (Danielle Norman)**
 - 58 confirmed cases, 11 pending, 1 death and 26 on ventilators
 - Continuing to work on reemergence plans in conjunction with IDPH guidelines to begin to perform elective surgical procedures

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - Congresswoman Schakowsky has been leading efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis happening in our nursing homes
 - On April 15, she led House Democrats in asking the HHS and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to begin collecting and publicly reporting data on COVID-19 cases and fatalities in long term care facilities
 - On May 5, she introduced the Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Working During COVID-19 legislation to protect those living and working in long term care homes.
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)**
 - Working inquiries for unemployment for gig workers
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - Gig workers should continue to apply for IDES benefits, and will receive an extra bonus of \$600 per week
- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Karen McCormick)**
 - Bipartisan group meeting regularly to discuss budgetary issues
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam Newman)**
 - No update

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Working group focused on these main areas this week:
 - Map testing
 - Communication for best practices
 - Looking ahead to recovery planning

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Preparing for recovery
- Will distribute applications for Recovery University, online classes to discuss specific planning for businesses and form cohorts for support

Mental Health (Dr. Gooden and Dr. Christine Sommerville)

- Family Institute will waive fees effective April 1 for the Harris Clinic. All incoming clients will not have to pay anything for therapy services.
- They offer tele-therapy
- They are assessing how we can develop a team mental health group to serve the community

Faith-Based (Pastor Michael Neighbors)

- Still working with local food distribution
- Distributing articles and links on reemergence to reopen Houses of Worship safely

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m.