

COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

May 15, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)

- Great sacrifice made by City employees who will be taking the 1st of 10 days (2 weeks) furlough beginning Monday, May 18.
- The position on reopening the state and some local areas differ between elected officials. Evanston will follow the science when making decisions regarding the community's reopening efforts, along with state guidelines and public health official recommendations.
- The seven-day moving average is reflecting 14 confirmed cases daily with a positivity rate of 16 percent.
- 55 percent of women are testing positive and 45 percent of males are testing positive
- Males are dying at a higher rate than women
- Hospital admissions are down. Evanston is showing 532 confirmed cases, 18 confirmed deaths and 8 pending deaths
- Skokie confirmed cases are elevated at 633
- A new category of metrics the City is tracking is "number of cases per 10K" residents. Here are the comparisons:
 - # of cases per 10K residents for Chicago 120
 - # of cases per 10K residents for Cook Cty 109
 - # of cases per 10K residents for Skokie 100
 - # of cases per 10K residents for Evanston 70
 - # of cases per 10K residents for Illinois 67
 - # of cases per 10K residents for USA 42
- Numbers for the long term care facilities continue to rise
- Police engagement continues to monitor social gatherings as the weather gets warmer. There was a slight increase in cases on May 11 by 4 incidents

Spotlight on Restore Illinois Plan (Luke Stowe)

- Illinois has 5 restorative phases, we are currently in phase 2 (the flattening phase)
- Three key indicators to move to the next phase:
 - The positivity rate should be at or below 20 percent
 - No increase in hospital admission for COVID-19 related illnesses for 28 days
 - ICU beds are currently at 18 percent and need to be at 14 percent
- If all variables continue to be at a positive pace, the Governor will anticipate communities to come out of the Stay at Home Order at the end of the month
- The City is trying to move quickly to prepare to move from phase 2 to phase 3 in order to support the community
- A few items to characterize phase 3 (recovery):
 - Non-essential gatherings can increase to ten people

- Some travel is allowed under IDPH guidelines
- Elective healthcare will open up
- Remote learning continues for education
- More state parks will open
- More non-essential businesses can open up (i.e. manufacturing and retail)
- Bars and restaurants will not open until phase 4
- Three metrics for phase 4 (the revitalization phase)
 - 28 days in phase 3 recovery
 - The number of people gathering can go from 10 to 50
 - Entertainment venues will resume with guidelines from the State
- In preparation for moving through the various phases, the City has conducted interviews with various departments to determine services that will be impacted
- Safety protocols need to be in place. The City is providing a full staff screening
- The State needs to provide additional information regarding recreational summer activity

Hospitals

- **Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)**
 - The peak hit between 5/3 and 5/5
 - 179 confirmed cases: 25 to 27 cases in the ICU and 16 to 19 patients on ventilators
 - The antibody testing soft launch happened this week and further details will be provided
 - 50K people were tested in total: 13.5K positive cases with a 20 percent positivity rate

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - The House is currently discussing the Hero's Act which will include money for state and local governments and more COVID-19 testing
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)**
 - Heading to Springfield on 5/20
 - Working on two items: 1) budget and 2) voting by mail
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - Attending a special session to include:
 - COVID-19 Bill
 - Budget discussion
 - Economy recovery
 - Hospital assessments
 - 2020 Election

- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Karen McCormick)**
 - Serving on the Democratic Women's Caucus for the 2020 Election to keep it fair and safe
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam Newman)**
 - Bill on property taxes from the Cook County Board regarding delay of penalty for property tax payments from 8/3 to 10/3

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- An additional congregate housing provider experienced positive cases (zero cases on May 8 to 14 cases this week)
- 12 of 16 congregate housing providers have confirmed cases
- Taskforce group discussed the following items:
 - Virus mitigation
 - Contact tracing
 - Testing
 - Transitioning operations
- Continuing to seek guidance from IDPH for long term care settings
- Would like to have more information on antibody testing

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Met with Task Force groups this week to determine further support needed for the recovery phase

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

- Currently surveying mental health providers
- There has been an increase in clients for services during this time
- Need computers for telehealth purposes for low-income residents to receive services
- The subcommittee will have another meeting on 5/18

Faith-Based (Pastor Michael Neighbors)

- Working on a coordinated recovery effort with all the houses of worship

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19 at 1:30 p.m.

THE HEROES ACT

A Bold Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the Economic Collapse



HONORING OUR HEROES: Provides nearly \$1 trillion to state, local, territorial and tribal governments who desperately need funds to pay vital workers like first responders, health workers, and teachers who keep us safe and are in danger of losing their jobs.

A HEROES' FUND FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS: Establishes a \$200 billion Heroes' fund to ensure that essential workers who have risked their lives working during the pandemic receive hazard pay.

TESTING, TRACING AND TREATMENT: Provides another \$75 billion for coronavirus testing, contact tracing and isolation measures, ensures every American can access free coronavirus treatment, and supports hospitals and providers.

MORE DIRECT PAYMENTS: Cushions the economic blow of the coronavirus crisis with a second round of more substantial economic impact payments of \$1,200 per family member, up to \$6,000 per household.

PROTECTS PAYROLLS: Enhances the new employee retention tax credit that encourages employers to keep employees on payroll, allowing 60 million Americans to remain connected to their paychecks and benefits.

WORKER SAFETY: Requires OSHA to issue a strong, enforceable standard within seven days to require all workplaces to develop and implement infection control plans based on CDC expertise, and prevents employers from retaliating against workers who report infection control problems.

SUPPORTS SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS: Strengthens the Payroll Protection Program to ensure that it reaches underserved communities, nonprofits of all sizes and types and responds flexibly to small businesses by providing \$10 billion for Covid-19 emergency grants through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

PRESERVES HEALTH COVERAGE: Protects Americans losing their employer-provided health insurance with COBRA subsidies to maintain their coverage and creates a special enrollment period in the ACA exchanges for uninsured Americans.

EXTENDS UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: Extends weekly \$600 federal unemployment payments through next January, providing a vital safety net for the record number of Americans who are unemployed.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE: Helps struggling families afford a safe place to live with \$175 billion in new supports to assist renters and homeowners make monthly rent, mortgage and utility payments and other housing-related costs.

FOOD SECURITY: Addresses rising hunger with a 15 percent increase to the maximum SNAP benefit and additional funding for nutrition programs that help families put food on the table.

SAFEGUARDS FOR OUR DEMOCRACY: Includes new resources to ensure safe elections, an accurate Census, and preserve the Postal Service.