

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

May 19, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- As the City continues to follow IDPH guidelines, it is not yet clear how summer activities will look.
- Recognizing City staff for continuing to do an excellent job with supporting City functions with less pay due to the financial impact of the virus on the City's budget.
- The positivity rate for the entire Northeastern IL region is 18 percent. If the indicators continue to remain positive, phase 3 should happen in June.
- As of Monday, May 18, Evanston has a total of 579 confirmed cases and 20 deaths
- PPE remains in good supply
- Police engagement is stable

Meeting Spotlight: Contact Tracing (Greg Olsen, Public Health Manager)

- Evanston has performed contact tracing since the outbreak has begun. Contact tracing is a core strategy to prevent the continued spread of the virus. Contact tracing means identifying and tracing contacts from known confirmed cases. Once a case has been confirmed the Health Department will conduct a thorough interview to assist the individual with identifying close contacts they've had 48 hours from symptom onset.
- Close contact is a person who has been within six feet of a known carrier for a minimum of ten minutes. Once the list has been confirmed for close contact, the Public Health department reaches out to notify individuals of possible exposure. They are responsible for self-quarantining for 14 days. Evanston has 579 confirmed cases and all of these cases have been contact traced because timing is critical for quarantine purposes.
- There is a core staff of MRCs (Medical Reserve Corps) to conduct interviews in addition to the regular Evanston public health staff. [Learn more](#) about becoming an MRC volunteer.
- State of Illinois - [IDPH Contact Tracing Interest Form](#)
The Illinois Department of Public Health is seeking interested individuals to support local public health authorities to perform COVID-19 contact tracing. Hiring Contact Tracers will depend on the needs of the local public health authorities and by region of the state. Completing this form does not represent the promise of a job or job interview with the State of Illinois or any other entity.

Sector Updates

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
 - Continuing the positive trend over the last 14 days from 172 positive to 109 positive cases
 - ICU patients have gone from 42 to 25 and 17 are on ventilators
 - Antibody testing information will be available next week
 - PPE is good
 - 52K tests performed to date with a positivity rate of 25 percent
- Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
 - 52 confirmed cases: 29 ICU and 11 ventilated patients
 - Year to date diagnosed 802 positive patients
 - PPE supply is fine
 - Focusing on staff assistance for the safety and mental health of the workers

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Congregate providers reported out the great work that the Evanston Health Department has done with contact tracing
- Long term care providers continue to see an increase in confirmed cases. The trend will continue as more providers implement periodic testing of residents and staff.
- The providers with the highest number of cases have had no additional cases within the past week
- IDPH has made COVID-19 tests available for long term care settings
- Working group call will focus on the transition phase for continued monitoring, PPE supply and training for protocol

Private Non-Profit (Monique Jones)

- Working groups meet twice a week to continue to focus on issues pertaining to our sector
- Early childhood providers are working with state legislators for child care issues
- Food insecurity team is partnering with groups to apply for grants
- Immigration subgroup is working on getting resources translated for the community
- At-home seniors are receiving information via Channel 6.

Northwestern University (Luke Figeroa)

- Continuing to watch the IDPH phase planning guidelines
- Joined an educational Task Force specific to university reopening

Education (Eric Witherspoon & Phil Ehrhardt)

- Graduation ceremony for ETHS will be on May 24 at 10 a.m.
- ETHS concern about connectivity and additional devices
- ETHS is expanding programs on math and reading for summer engagement
- Graduation for District 65 will be on June 1 at 7 p.m.
- Continuing to work on food distribution for students

Next Meeting: Friday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m.