

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

June 8, 2020

Opening Remarks

- While we are in the Recovery Phase (Phase 3), the task force will conduct conference calls once a week
- The City is committed to re-visiting policies regarding “use of force” within the Police Department.

Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- The City needs to continue to meet metrics to move into Phase 4 (Revitalization). The positivity rate remains under 20 percent. The seven day average has decreased from 16 cases to 5 cases, and Evanston's positivity rate is currently 12 percent.
- 722 confirmed cases, 41 deaths and 115 active cases
- PPE distribution is continuing to long term care facilities. These facilities are also a strong priority for the Incident Command Team.

Meeting Spotlight: Budget Challenges (Erika Storile, Interim City Manager)

- Budget challenges are widespread. The City has been impacted by decline in revenue to fund many services provided to the community.
- Encouraged that the reopening of businesses and other activities will help to generate revenue.
- There have been multiple expense reduction initiatives to mitigate damage to the budget for the current fiscal year. Non-essential purchases have been put off, all training and travel expenses have been eliminated, all non-union staff are taking furlough days. The City is currently in discussion with the union regarding union staff taking furlough days.
- The City is monitoring cash flow on a daily basis.
- There is a \$15 million dollar line of credit in case the cash flow hits a low.

Sector Updates

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
 - There was a spike after Memorial Day with 115 patients. Today, the number of patients is down to 62 over the last 10 days
 - 17 patients in ICU; 14 patients on ventilation
 - Planning for reentry for Glenbrook for full service hospital not just COVID-19 recovery

- Antibody testing is 4K test/positivity rate is at 5 percent and expanding services to other sites
- PPE supply is fine
- Attention on full recovery process
- Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
 - 20 confirmed cases and three people in the ICU is a significant reduction

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Working Group call this week focused on IDPH for easing restrictions in long term care facilities as we move in between phases
- Providers are developing plans for universal testing per IDPH guidelines
- It appears long term care cases are slowing down

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Opening restaurants this week went well
- Working on getting PPE for businesses and enforcing IDPH guidelines
- Resource for financing information
- 20 business are participating in Recovery University post COVID-19

Private Non-Profit (Monique Jones)

- The weekly task force meeting continues to focus on:
 - Summer for youth jobs available
 - Purchasing items for PPE
 - Senior info on Channel 6 will begin on June 19
 - Working with Amita Health for funding and grants for mental health services

Northwestern University (Luke Figueroa)

- No update

Education (Eric Witherspoon & Phil Ehrhardt))

- Graduation went well on 6/1 for the 8th graders
- Students are keeping technology device to access online learning
- Return to School task force meeting beginning next week
- Introduction of Dr. Horton to the group - the new Superintendent for D65

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - Low-income individuals are eligible to receive an [Economic Impact Payment](#). Those who do not have a regular filing requirement can use the free, online tool [Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info](#) to quickly and easily register to receive their payment. There is also a Spanish language version of the tool available.
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Shiva Mohsenzadeh)**
 - Summer school can open with Phase 3 guidelines from IDPH
 - Work status video update available on Thursday on the website
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - CARES fund distribution to various agencies and business by end of week
 - \$100m allotted for mortgage assistance
- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valadez)**
 - Update from the Secretary of State for IL driver licenses - they have reopened as of June 1, with restrictions. Accepting new drivers and expired license drivers.
 - 90 day extension still in place so there is no rush to correct outdated licenses
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam Newman)**
 - Cook County recovery fund is going live on Monday, June 8
 - Small businesses located in suburban Cook County are eligible for the fund if they meet these requirements:
 - Employ 25 or fewer employees
 - Earn less than \$3 million in annual revenue
 - Saw revenues decrease up to 25 percent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Independent contractors located in suburban Cook County are eligible for the fund if they meet these requirements:
 - Make at least half their yearly income in 1099 contract work
 - Earn less than \$100,000 annually
 - Reside in suburban Cook County

Recovery (Luke Stowe)

- Working to reopen City facilities following the IDPH guidelines
- Needs assessment surveys are ready, finalizing Spanish version. Survey is located at <https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/health-human-services/evanston-recovery-task-force>.

- Evanston Care network information is now located on the [city's website homepage](#), under the resource icon.



- Phase 4 may start as early as June 26, moving from 10 to 50 people for gatherings. Other precautions like social distancing and wearing masks will remain the norm.

Faith Based (Rev. Michael Nabors)

- Received IDPH guidelines for houses of worship reopening - forward the information
- Number of clergy participating in march last week
- Rally on June 7 at Fountain Square for events to be united on what's happening in the nation right now
- Finishing touches on video for encouragement regarding the Phase transition
- National Day of Mourning service on Mon., June 1. The Mayor attended for remembrance of those who passed away

Next Meeting: Friday, June 12 at 1:30 p.m.

