

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

June 12, 2020

Opening Remarks

- New member to the task force - Dr. Devon Horton of District 65
- State data is very promising; however, more consistency with the IDPH guidelines are needed

Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- Continuing to track data for Phase 3 (Recovery). The next phase is Phase 4 (Revitalization). This phase can potentially begin as soon as June 25.
- Healthcare professionals are tracking Rt measurements - i.e. how many people infected by someone who has COVID-19, and this monitors the reproductive rate of the virus
- Evanston had 15 cases per day for the seven day moving average. Today the City is at 3 cases.
- Cases for 10K people - Evanston is at 101. Overall positivity rate is 12.5 percent.
- Moving average positivity rate for Evanston is 3 percent.
- Evanston has 750 confirmed cases and 59 deaths
- [City of Evanston Coronavirus Case Dashboard](#)
- PPE continues to be in good supply
- Police engagement is normal

Meeting Spotlight: Child Care Reopening (Bettye Cohns, Director of Reba Early Learning Center)

- Need to accumulate enough PPE for the program for home care centers
- Interested in bulk purchases for supplies for gloves, masks and sanitizer
- Facing challenges for staffing - need to maintain sufficient staffing to operate facilities
- Our programs will also face a 50 percent reduction in enrollment based off of square footage per classroom and child per classroom of up to 10
- Looking for assistance and clarification on alignment of guidelines from various agencies (City of Evanston Health Dept, DCFS and IDPH)
- Funding from child care assistance program will be lacking due to reduction in enrollment
- Looking to work with District 65 on busing issues for transportation

Sector Updates

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)

- COVID-19 cases are decreasing from 115 to 46 confirmed cases
- 11 patients on ventilators
- Glenbrook is open and very busy at the Evanston, Skokie and Highland Park locations
- Outpatients are at 83 percent pre-COVID volume with regards to surgery
- PPE supply is very good
- Amita St. Francis (Danielle Norman)
 - 20 confirmed cases, 5 persons under investigation, 2 deaths in the last 24 hours, 8 patients on ventilators, 12 patients in ICU
 - Numbers are declining
 - No major concerns with available beds or PPE needs
 - Emergency department will remove the tent to show we are in recovery
 - Will continue drive through testing, open 5 days a week and extending testing capacity to continue more community testing for shelters

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- 1 new residents case among long term care providers in the past week
- No new employee cases

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Continuing to educate local businesses on loan programs that are available
- Fundraising around the LEND program has produced \$26K so far
- Moving forward to technical assistance and launching the Recovery University on June 22. 21 businesses have signed up.
- The Business Chamber is working with the City and Northwestern to bulk purchase PPE
- Please contact the Chamber there is a [form](#) to complete

Private Non-Profit (Dave Davis)

- Currently transitioning to reopening facilities and services for the community. Invited experts on the working group calls to speak to challenges in the non-profit sector.
- June 17, there are two presentation 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to provide information on COVID-19 transition for non-profits
- Concern is a limited number of programs for children for the summer
- Working with school districts for technology capabilities for access to programs
- Will learn more regarding the collective purchasing effort for PPE

Northwestern University (Dave Davis)

- Sending out announcements next Monday about the Fall academic quarter

- All member from the Northwestern community are required to complete training for protocol before returning to campus
- Examining options around performing contact tracing and may reach out to the City for guidance

Education (Eric Witherspoon & Phil Enrhardt)

- Going to provide summer activities for teenage kids
- Phasing in at ETHS for over 4400 people using IDPH, school district guidelines and protocol to safely begin the school year
- The high school will help get incoming 9th graders students connected with assistance with catching up on work for incoming 9th graders due to COVID-19 the high school will help and get them connected
- Keeping devices to continue learning over the summer

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - [Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act \(from the National Law Review\)](#)
 1. **Extension of time to spend the PPP loan.** The Act extends the “covered period” for a borrower to spend the PPP loan from eight weeks to 24 weeks (but not beyond December 31, 2020). Borrowers whose loans predate the Act have the option to keep the eight-week covered period for their loan forgiveness applications.
 2. **Reduction of mandatory spending on payroll.** Addressing a complaint from many business owners that payroll costs have dropped in the wake of the pandemic but fixed costs like rent, utility costs, and mortgage payments have not, the Act reduces the amount of the PPP loan forgiveness attributable to payroll costs from 75% to 60% of the amounts forgiven. In other words, a borrower can spend up to 40% of the PPP loan forgiveness on eligible non payroll costs like rent, utility costs, and interest on mortgage loans. The language of the Act had caused some alarm that a borrower could not claim any loan forgiveness if the borrower did not spend at least 60% of the loan on payroll costs. However, the [SBA](#) Administrator and [Treasury](#) Secretary issued a joint statement on June 8, 2020, confirming that a borrower remains eligible for partial loan forgiveness even if less than 60% of the loan is spent on payroll costs.

3. **Extension of time to repay the PPP loan.** The Act extends the maturity date of a PPP loan (to the extent it is not forgiven) from two years to five years. Note, however, that this provision only applies to PPP loans made after the enactment of the Act, or June 5, 2020. The Act provides that borrowers whose loans were made before that date can request their lenders to extend the maturity of the loans from two to five years, however, it is not clear what level of discretion lenders have in considering those requests.
4. **Extension of time to rehire workers.** The Act extends the deadline for employers to restore wage and salary reductions and rehire workers in order to qualify for the loan forgiveness “safe harbors” from June 30, 2020, to December 31, 2020.
5. **Establishment of “safe harbor” for obligation to rehire workers.** Addressing another complaint from business owners (that many employees are rebuffing their requests to return to work), borrowers now have a safe harbor from loan forgiveness reductions even if FTEs have not been restored by December 31, 2020, provided the employer can (A) document “in good faith” that (i) they have been unable to rehire the FTE and (ii) have been unable to hire a similarly qualified employee for that unfilled position or (B) document that they have been unable to return to the level of business that existed prior to February 15, 2020, due to the limitations placed on the business by [CDC](#) and [OSHA](#) pertaining to COVID-19, such as sanitation, social distancing and worker and customer safety requirements.
6. **Extension of time until debt service payments are due.** The Act extends the time before payments of interest and principal are due on a PPP loan, from six months until the date the SBA pays the borrower’s loan forgiveness amount to its lender or ten months in the case of borrowers that do not make an application for PPP loan forgiveness.
7. **Deferral of payroll taxes.** The Act permits employers to delay payment of payroll taxes (social security taxes) even if they are planning to seek loan forgiveness.

- **Senator Laura Fine’s Office (Laura Fine)**

- Keeping up with constituents issues with IDES
- IDFPR will host an informational webinar next Thursday to provide assistance for businesses with loan forgiveness and for lenders to know how to properly distribute funding

- All details will be on the website and social media
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - The IL State Board of Education issued a reminder to all schools and districts to apply for emergency relief grant in response to COVID-19
 - Contact tracing still needs to contain the virus. Lake and St. Clare counties are implementing training
- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valadez)**
 - Met with Northwestern University regarding child care provider issues
 - Receiving high volume of inquiries for unemployment issues and plans to address systemic inequality issues
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam Newman)**
 - Cook County recovery fund application opened on Monday and will continue through June 17 for small business loans and 1099 contractors

Recovery (Luke Stowe)

- Building out our recovery team by adding the following groups
 - Community Engagement
 - Outdoor Dining Group
 - City Staff Remote Workers Support

Community engagement will focus on needs assessment and the digital divide related to partnering with other organizations within the community
- Needs assessment and the organizational needs assessment surveys are live at cityofevanston.org/recovery
- Many businesses are making significant contributions to assist MBEs Paypal [Empowerment Grant for Black Owned Businesses](#)
- [Reuters story on Paypal Program](#)
- [WTTW in Evanston](#)

Mental Health (Christine Sommerville and Adeena Gooden)

- Committee meeting to create 4 working groups that meet weekly
- Metrics task force is examining how the mental health system is functioning meeting the current need in the community
- The resources working group will focus on low cost resources and location accessibility

Faith Based (Rev. Michael Nabors)

- Sent out a continuity of plans for recovery
- Virtual worship continuing for the time being

Next Meeting: Friday, June 19 at 1:30 p.m.