

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

June 19, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- Efforts are continuing to pay off. The numbers look very good but we can not become complacent
- Evanston is down to two cases for the seven day moving average
- The positivity rate is 2 percent; 7,760 people have been tested
- There are 761 confirmed cases; 102 cases per 10K residents

Juneteenth Celebration (Kemone Hendricks)

- Hosting a virtual parade today beginning at 6pm; residents will be able to review the virtual parade at evanstonjuneteenthparade.com
- Evanston Present and Future has a Facebook page and Youtube channel that will also host the event live
- There will be a community play reading on June 20 at 6 p.m. on the related media sites
- Pop up shop will be held at the corner of Church and Dodge at C&W Ice Cream Parlor and Market
- Young Black and Lit will focus on books that feature black characters. These will be available to our community
- On June 27, there will be a car parade for two and half miles. Please stay tuned to social media for location details

Meeting Spotlight: Recovery Survey Findings (Luke Stowe & Patrick Keenan-Devlin)

- Two different needs assessment surveys 1) Individuals and 2) Organizations
- Surveys can be accessed at cityofevanston.org/recovery until June 30
- There is a Spanish version of the individual survey and also supporting the survey distribution through 311 and paper if needed for additional options
- To date the City has received roughly 800 individual responses, and two dozen organizational responses
- These surveys ensure the City is positioned to leverage state and federal resources, and also makes the case for additional funding

Sector Updates

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Matthew Plosfsky)

- Numbers are also trending downward
- 26 confirmed cases, six persons under investigation
- Positivity rate is 9 percent and has been the lowest since March 2020
- The ICU patient count was at 42 and is down to 13 patients
- Preparing for an upswing in cases if that should happen by compiling lessons learned and placing programs in place
- Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
 - Three confirmed cases and five persons under investigation
 - The numbers are trending downward with a positivity rate of 9 percent
 - PPE is fine
 - The hospital is planning for re-emergence this fall
 - There will be two testing events in James Park:
 - June 22 at 10 a.m.
 - June 29 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Senior Living (Nadim AbiAntoun)

- In the last two weeks only one new confirmed case was recorded within licensed senior living facilities
- Providers are conducting mass testing for residents and staff
- Continuing to plan and implement easing restrictions in non-long-term-care settings
- Nadim, thanked the Mayor for visiting Westminster Place and presenting on our in-house broadcast system. The administration received very positive feedback from our residents on what the City is doing to respond to this pandemic

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Continue to review loan financial information for businesses
- Working with the City and Northwestern University on leveraging the best pricing for PPE
- Holding the first cohort of Recovery University on Monday, June 22. A total of 21 businesses are involved

Private Non-Profit (Monique Jones)

- Two presentations done this week to assist with planning reopening for non-profits
- Focusing on reopening safely with bulk purchase of PPE
- Releasing another round of operating grants and the application is due July 1
- YMCA Equity Summit is happening virtually please investigate registering online

Northwestern University (Lou Figueroa)

- Graduation will be virtual this year
- Continuing to plan for reopening, there are 50 days until students return to classes for the fall quarter
- Most classes will be offered virtually and most lab based facilities will be available

Education (Eric Witherspoon & Devon Horton)

- Planning for reopening schools in the fall. Expecting guidelines from the State Board of Education for reopening
- ETHS may be able start up their sports program as early as next week
- District 65 Task Force met for additional reopening planning. Also, planning additional outreach to marginalized families to assess needs

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - The IRS recently reminded people who live and work abroad that they have until Wednesday, July 15, 2020, to file their 2019 federal income tax return and pay any tax due. The usual deadline is June 15.
 - This extension was included in a wide range of Coronavirus-related relief announced in early April. The extension generally applies to all taxpayers who have an income tax filing or payment deadline falling on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020.
 - Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline can request a filing extension to Oct. 15 in one of two ways:
 - Filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov.
 - Submitting an electronic payment with Direct Pay, Electronic Federal Tax Payment System or by debit, credit card or digital wallet options and selecting Form 4868 or extension as the payment type. The automatic extension of time to file will be processed when taxpayers pay all or part of their taxes, electronically, by the July 15 due date. An extension to file is not an extension to pay. Taxes are still due by July 15.
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)**
 - Governor announced grants of \$540 million dollars for restaurants, business centers to assist with COVID-19 relief
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - No report

- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valadez)**
 - No report
- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam Newman)**
 - Second installment tax bills mailed on June 30

Mental Health (Christine Sommerville)

- Metrics task force group has been meeting and has a preliminary plan for tracking changes for crisis cases
- The Education task force group will be conducting focus groups to see how the tagline plays among different demographics groups. Campaigns conducted will be focused on normalizing mental health assistance and sharing information on finding resources
- 31 Providers have low cost services and the Mental Health team will map areas around the City to see where there may be possible gaps in accessibility
- Any questions regarding the Mental Health Taskforce, please contact Dr. Somerville at christine.somervill@namiccns.org

Faith Based (Rev. Michael Nabors)

- Today there will be a 3 p.m. conference call with houses of worship regarding moving into phase 4
- Recommendations from Public Health officials are:
 - Continuing with virtual service
 - Outdoor services are possible with proper distancing and mask
 - Phase 4 will allow the possibility of up to 50 people or 25 percent of occupancy in the sanctuary

Next Meeting: Friday, June 26 at 1:30 p.m.