

# Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

June 26, 2020

## Opening Remarks (Interim City Manager, Erika Storlie)

- Sheila Merry of Cradle to Career is retiring today
- Erika thanked Sheila for all of her contributions
- The organization's new Executive director is Maricar Ramos

## Situation Report (Interim City Manager, Erika Storlie)

- The City has seen a positive trend over the past two weeks.
- Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan begins today. We must remain cautious not to regress back to Phase 3. The City is planning for that contingency if necessary
- The seven day average for the positivity rate is 2.5 percent
- Since May 30, we have had no double digit confirmed cases in a day
- Hospital capacity is over 50 percent
- Total confirmed case count is 777 with 682 recovered and 68 deaths
- The fatality rate is 8.75 percent. Evanston houses more long-term care centers than the surrounding suburbs
- The City's health department is continuing to prioritize the long-term care facilities

## Meeting Spotlight: Moving Into Phase 4 - Revitalization (Luke Stowe)

- Currently there are 18 states that have a COVID-19 reproductive rate of less than 1.0 which means the virus is decreasing in Illinois
- Illinois Rt is at 0.84
- What stays the same in Phase 4?
  - Continue to practice physical distancing of 6 feet from others
  - Continue to wear cloth face coverings
  - Continue to wash your hands frequently
  - Cover coughs and sneezes
  - Stay at home when you are sick
  - Disinfection of frequent touched surfaces
- What changes in Phase 4?
  - Gathering from 10 people up to 50 people is permitted
  - Preschools thru grade 12 are able to open up summer programs and child care
  - Bars and restaurants can open for indoor dining with capacity limits. In Illinois the current limit for restaurants is set at 25 percent capacity in addition to outdoor dining options
  - More businesses can open (i.e. manufacturing, barbershops, salons, spas, health and fitness clubs, cinemas, theaters and retail shops)



## PHASE 4: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Due to successful statewide efforts to help “flatten the curve,” Illinois and Evanston will reach Phase 4 of Governor Pritzker’s Restore Illinois plan on June 26.



### WHAT STAYS THE SAME

Continue practicing physical distancing of at least six feet from others

Continue to wear cloth face coverings when in public and a physical distance cannot be maintained

Continue to wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds

Continue to cover coughs and sneezes

Continue to stay home when sick

Continue to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

*\*The City is awaiting State public health guidelines regarding the opening of playgrounds and basketball courts*

### WHAT CHANGES

Gatherings of up to 50 people are permitted, including at events such as conferences and weddings

P-12 schools, summer programs, and child care can open with IDPH safety guidance

Bars and restaurants can open for indoor dining with capacity limits

More businesses can open: all manufacturing, barbershops, salons, spas, health and fitness clubs, cinema and theaters, and retail

All employees can return to work with IDPH approved safety guidance

*\*Activities must follow strict public health and IDPH safety guidelines including following capacity limits. Each industry has its own set of guidelines that must be followed.*

For more information, visit [cityofevanston.org/covid19](https://cityofevanston.org/covid19).

- The State also has a [two page overview](#) for various sectors, moving from Phase 3 to Phase 4
- The challenge to move to Phase 5 will be having a vaccine or the elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time
- The City is working on the reopening of outdoor recreation items (i.e. basketball courts). The City is awaiting final guidance from the state on basketball courts and outdoor playgrounds

## Sector Updates

### Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Matthew Plosfsky)
  - 23 confirmed cases, 5 persons under investigation
  - ICU is down from 42 cases to 9 cases
  - The positivity rate has gone from 9 percent to 8 percent
- Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
  - Numbers continue to trend downward
  - 10 new confirmed cases, 7 persons under investigation, 2 patients on ventilators
  - PPE supply is fine
  - Hosting the second round of testing on June 29 at 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at James Park

### Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- One new resident case
- Third consecutive week where there was only one new case

### Private Non-Profit (Monique Jones)

- Collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce and Northwestern University on the distribution of PPE
- Focusing on supporting the early childhood centers to also reopen safely
- Working with local legislators on funding for the early childhood care centers

### Northwestern University (Luke Figueroa)

- Waiting until after the 4th of July holiday to roll out plans for the Fall semester
- Progressing slowly to learn what the 25 percent capacity will look like for each group

### Education (Eric Witherspoon & Devon Horton)

- Received guidelines from the State Board of Education and working with District 65 on reopening the schools
- Will have instructions in early July
- Still continue to rely on e-learning

### Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
  - On behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA), *[I/we]* want to let you know that during the current coronavirus pandemic, SSA continues to provide help to you and others in your community. While their offices are not providing service to walk-in visitors due to COVID-19, SSA remains committed to providing ongoing benefits and vital services. SSA asked *[me/us]* to let you know that they remain

ready and able to help you by phone with most Social Security matters. You can speak with a representative by calling your local Social Security office or their National 800 Number. They provide local office phone numbers conveniently online with their [Social Security Office Locator](#).

- SSA also wants you to know they have many secure and convenient [online services](#) to:
  - Apply for [Retirement](#), [Disability](#), and [Medicare](#) benefits,
  - Check the status of an application or appeal,
  - Request a replacement Social Security card (in most areas)
  - Print a benefit verification letter, and much more.
- Most business with SSA can be done online, but they know that many people still rely on phone or in-person help. That's why they want you to know you can still count on them by phone. And, if you have a critical situation they cannot help you with by phone or online, they may be able to schedule an appointment for you. If you need help from SSA, please don't wait until they can see you in person. Reach out now and get the help you need. They are continuing to extend certain deadlines wherever possible.

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

- Continuing to work on constituent issues with unemployment insurance

- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**

- Meeting with IDPH about continued concerns for the long term care facilities
- As of May 28th each facility was required to have an infectious control plan. The plans will be reviewed and approved through the end of July
- Testing requirements have also been reviewed for further protocol

- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valadez)**

- No report

- **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam Newman)**

- Second installment property tax bills mailed on June 30

### **Business (Roger Sosa)**

- All businesses are aware of the Phase 4 status
- Recovery University is in session effective June 22
- Continuing to work on the PPE order with the Evanston Community Foundation

### **Recovery (Luke Stowe)**

- Two different needs assessment surveys will be available until the end of the month  
1) Individuals and 2) Organizations
- Surveys can be accessed at [cityofevanston.org/recovery](http://cityofevanston.org/recovery) until June 30

- Received over 900 responses from individuals and more organizational assessments are needed
- City's Coronavirus Q&A session will stream on Facebook, the City's YouTube channel and Channel 16 on June 30 at noon
- More information to come on digital divide initiatives

**Mental Health (Christine Sommerville)**

- Reaching out to the public health dept with regard to data duplication on mental health issues
- Continuing to collaborate with Evanston Care Network
- Have a demonstration scheduled to review a new software called My State of Mind on July 7

**Faith Based (Rev. Michael Nabors)**

- Today there will be a 3 p.m. conference call with houses of worship regarding moving into phase 4
- A few houses of worship will attempt reopening safely, and some will continue virtual worship
- Outdoor services are also an option to address the issue of congregational singing

**Next Meeting: Friday, July 10 at 1:30 p.m. NO MEETING on Friday July 3rd**