Mayor’s COVID-19 Community Task Force
Meeting Notes
July 24, 2020

Opening Remarks (Mayor Steve Hagerty)
- The continued response to the pandemic is everyone working together and staying vigilant during this time
- The community is concerned about school reopening plans and the execution of a smooth transition for the remainder of the year
- Rising numbers in the state (Region 10). Refer to the state dashboard for more details. [idph.gov/regionmetrics](http://idph.gov/regionmetrics)
- Evanston metrics continue to look positive
- Concerns related to the beaches will continue to be monitored. Beaches will close at 9 p.m. due to large group gatherings
- PPE supply is a concern for the Fall and a resurgence of virus cases. Evanston is ordering emergency supply for staff and essential emergency providers in our community
- Many school reopening plans are subject to change based on the regional data and surrounding communities impacted

Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)
- Evanston remains in Phase 4 and will continue at this status until a vaccine is developed
- Region 10 indicators reflect five days of positive tests
- The seven day average is increasing, however it remains under 8 percent
- Evanston positivity rate is 1 percent
- The infection rate has decreased from 1.2 percent to 1 percent
- Evanston’s total cases are at 850; 25 active; cases per 10K for Evanston is 113 and Chicago cases are 212
- Hospital capacity is good
- Senior Living Centers show one official case however no additional fatalities

Meeting Spotlight: District 65 Reopening Plan (Dr. Devon Horton)
- District 65 has created a plan built around core values:
  - Health and Safety
    - Buildings are under review for safety protocol
  - Family and Community Engagement
    - District 65 continues to over communicate to local families for constructive feedback
    - Maintain a partnership with District 202 to collaborate efforts
  - Preparing and Support of Culture
    - Continue to obtain feedback for support protocol for staff and student support
○ This support is ongoing according to individual family needs

- Academic Engagement
  ○ Changing curriculum to match the virtual platform
  ○ More engagement between students and teachers
  ○ Additional sessions of Town Hall meetings to address concerns on Wed 7/29

- Communication
  ○ Weekly engagement for stakeholders to keep the community updated
  ○ Before students return to class, staff will begin to train around online procedures
  ○ iPAds and Chromebooks for students are available
  ○ Also working on Wifi connections for students

- From Aug. 27 to Sept. 29, students will report remotely. Guidelines will be updated appropriately
- School questionnaires were disseminated and results are pending. July 29 is the final date to return the questionnaire and will share results with the committee
- Sept. 29 will determine which teachers and staff can return to the building. Assessing which school has brick and mortar staff versus virtual classrooms
- Two committees are assembled to meet ongoing concerns and challenges. The first committee will evaluate the progress of the official plan rollout and the second taskforce working group will record metrics to identify progress

Sector Updates

Hospitals
- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Matt Plosky)
  ○ Promising trend at various locations
  ○ 13 patients, 5 PUIs, 3 patients currently in ICU
  ○ Seeing a steady decrease in the positivity rate. Currently at 5.5 percent
  ○ Planning for surge and reviewing best practices

- Amita St. Francis (Danielle Norman)
  ○ Numbers remain steady
  ○ 2 confirmed cases, 14 PUIs, 0 patients on ventilation
  ○ Continuing community testing

Senior Living (Mary Leary)
- Working to minimize future cases
- No call this week

Private Non-Profit (Dave Davis)
- Call for child care providers have concerns around additional testing for staff
- Working with District 65 on reporting for students
- Immigrant sub committee following up with undocumented seniors
Northwestern University (Luke Figeroa)
- Webinar Return to Campus Series to place yesterday
- Reviewed data for in-person classes versus virtual classes
- Met with the City to review planning initiatives for additional protocol

Education (Eric Whiterspoon)
- Focused on establishing sub committees for details regarding reopening
- Aug. 17 will be the first committee meeting to review best practices

Legislators
- Jan Schakowsky’s Office (Ann Limjoco)
  - Senate Republicans will introduce their coronavirus relief package next week – hopefully Monday. As you know, negotiations have been ongoing, but they cannot come to an agreement. Their continued impasse will push them right up against a deadline for expiring unemployment benefits at the end of next week. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-09) & Debbie Dingell (MI-12) hosted a press call for regional reporters this morning calling on the Senate to extend the $600 weekly emergency unemployment payments that are due to expire next week. Just this past week, the payroll tax cut in the package was scrapped but they are still negotiating key provisions. Senate McConnell has said the GOP proposal would include a new round of stimulus checks, aid for schools, money for testing, changes to unemployment assistance rules, more money for small businesses, and liability reform setting up legal protections to make it hard for employees to sue their employers if they become sick at work. Democrats have rejected this last idea as a nonstarter.

  - Status of Current Deadlines for Census responses:
    - Self-Response Phase
      - Online, phone and mailed self-responses continue throughout the data collection process.
    - Planned Schedule
      - March 12 – July 31
    - Revised Schedule
      - March 12 – October 31
  - Group Quarters (E-Response & Paper Enumeration)
    - Many group quarters have already begun responding through our e-Response enumeration option.
  - Planned Schedule
    - April 2 – June 5
  - Revised Schedule
    - April 2 – September 3
• **Senator Laura Fine’s Office (Laura Fine)**
  - Organizing a blood drive at the beginning of September in Glenview
  - Working on an information session to discuss open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act. This will address people who have lost employment
  - The Governor’s Executive order extending tele-health will expire July 26 and we are petitioning to extend it

• **Robyn Gabel’s Office (Robyn Gabel)**
  - Governor extended a moratorium on evictions through Aug 22
  - Distributing info to local community groups
  - The legislative budget oversight commission has given the Governor authority to move money from one department to another to assist with state and local relief

• **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz’s Office (Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz)**
  - Working on extending medicare coverage to undocumented seniors and will have details in the future
  - Still fielding many constituents calls about unemployment insurance

• **Commissioner Larry Suffredin’s Office (Adam Newman)**
  - No update

**Business (Roger Sosa)**
- Providing information on the financial programs that are available
- Working with other chambers to learn best practices
- Continuing to provide support through PPE orders for local businesses in need

**Recovery (Luke Stowe)**
- The City staff and additional partners are working on technical access for all initiatives
- News release going out next week directing residents to the Inquiry form for assessment needs

**Mental Health (Dr. Goodman)**
- Continued to meet as sub committee to move along the Mental Health education campaign
- Dashboard working group is making sure the community can find resources quickly

**Faith Based (Rev. Michael Nabors)**
- Houses of worship have reopened with limited numbers
- Continuing to practice social distancing and face covering protocol for safety
The majority of churches in Evanston are still holding virtual services

Next Meeting: Friday, July 31 at 1:30 p.m.