Mayor’s COVID-19 Community Task Force
Meeting Notes
August 7, 2020

Opening Remarks (Mayor Steve Hagerty)
- COVID-19 numbers in Evanston are rising but there is no true concern for now
- The average cases per day were at two but have now increased to three and a half
- A reminder to continue to stay vigilant since the virus is still present
- Gov. Pritzker announces new penalty to assist local government with the mandate for face coverings while patronizing local businesses. It is considered a Class A misdemeanor if businesses do not comply with order
- Food insecurity remains a concern. Nonprofit and other community based organizations remain on the alert for local food assistance

Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)
- Slight uptick in Evanston resulting in five new cases on 8/5 and six new cases on 8/6
- The positivity rate slightly increased to 1.58% previously at 1%
- Governor Pritzker created a regional plan to monitor various areas within the state. Evanston is located in region 10.
- The State has seen an increase in the positivity rate five out of the last seven days
- Surge capacity for the virus is currently at 29% and should be at 20%
- Overall infection rate is 1.1%, it should be under 1.0%
- Evanston is showing 838 confirmed cases, 38 active case, 0 fatalities in over a month
- Hospital capacity is in good shape
- Long term care facilities have reported two new cases this week

Meeting Spotlight: 2020 Census (Johanna Nyden, Community Development Director)
- Current reporting shows Evanston has had a 72% rate of response to date
- Map of Evanston reflects North Evanston 85.1% response while, 5th Ward and some of the 2nd Ward are showing a lower response rate of 58.4%
- Need for everyone to participate in the Census count to receive Federal dollars for the local area and to be represented correctly for services and resources
- The City has materials to deploy to the community if anyone has questions
- One form per household is necessary for participation
- The original timeline for completion was Oct 31; however, the current Federal administration has moved the deadline to Sept 30 of this year. Responses are urgently needed

Sector Updates

Hospitals
• Northshore Evanston Hospital (Matt Plosky)
  ○ Continuing to see trend in volume
  ○ The positivity rate has increased
  ○ 9 patients, 5 PUIs ICU 42 down to 4 patients
  ○ Seeing steady positivity rate increase from 5% to 6.9%
  ○ Planning for surge and monitoring white papers for research and best practices

• Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
  ○ No update

Senior Living (Mary Leary)
• Skilled nursing, as well as other licensed congregate housing providers have gotten guidance from IDPH for reopening
• No working group meeting

Private Non-Profit (Monique Jones)
• IL housing development authority offering grants for emergency rental assistance, and they will push information out to the City and Faith leaders
• Early child center are reopening; however, staff illnesses are impacting the level of service to the children at the centers
• More guidance is needed from the City’s health dept. for childhood center staffing

Northwestern University (Luke Figeroa)
• Continuing to distribute surveys to students in preparation for return to campus
• Move in dates are Sept. 6 through 9, classes begin Sept 20 for undergrad
• Monitoring other universities for best practices

Education (Eric Whitterspoon / Devon Horton)
• 8/17 the ETHS school year will begin with remote e-learning
• The majority of Northshore schools are remote for at least the 1st semester
• Trying to provide outdoor activities for students and wellbeing activities for youth
• Fall sports will begin that are approved by IDPH
• PODS will consist of 25 students - designed to separate children
• 8/10 meeting with unions to present reopening plan for District 65
• Designing support for students in underserved areas to provide space potentially in other community centers
• Staffing is a challenge
• Planning to continue to monitor positivity rates among students to maintain safety

Legislators
• Jan Schakowsky’s Office (Ann Limjoco)
○ State on negotiations are continuing for the next bill for unemployment
○ The Congresswoman would like to see an extension of the Census deadline

● Senator Laura Fine’s Office (Laura Fine)
  ○ Rental assistance program will end the Aug 22 eviction moratorium
  ○ Starting this month the IL housing development dept is constructing an emergency rental program
  ○ $150 million in funding to assist household with aid
  ○ Participants need to demonstrate income is loss due to COVID-19
  ○ Applications will open online on 8/10 at 9 a.m.
  ○ era.ihda.org is the link for home assistance

● Robyn Gabel’s Office (Christian Sorenson)
  ○ Food insecurity deadline to link card extend to 8/31

● Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz’s Office (Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz)
  ○ No update

● Commissioner Larry Suffredin’s Office (Adam Newman)
  ○ Cook County Rental Assistance Program opens on 8/10

Business (Roger Sosa)
● Reorganizing of financial resources available for business community
● Looking at more data for buying patterns for businesses that need assistance in that area, as well as marketing, infrastructure, events, capacity building, technical support, and partnerships

Mental Health (Dr. Christine Sommerville)
● Working groups continue to meet weekly and are making progress on the three main areas of focus: education, access and the mental health dashboard
● Will have half of the data for the dashboard complete on Aug 28
● Conducting research on mental health programs in other communities after other disasters, such as 9/11

Faith Based (Rabbi London)
● Most houses of worship continue to meet virtually and maintain physical distancing when small gatherings meet

Next Meeting: Friday, August 14 at 1:30 p.m.