Mayor’s COVID-19 Community Task Force
Meeting Notes
February 19, 2021

What’s On My Mind (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- The amount of snow has the potential to impact the pandemic and the potential to become a higher priority as the City ensures the roads are clear and safe
- Efforts to keep Evanston roads clear and the patience of the residents is much appreciated
- City crews are continuing to make an effort to clear side streets, as well as alleyways for garbage pick up
- The weather has affected national carriers such as UPS and Fed Ex’s ability to deliver vaccines
- Vaccines received were low
- IDPH has confirmed vaccine distribution deliveries were impacted due to inclement weather this week
- Inspired to see a new rover on Mars yesterday. As a society we played a part in determining how to place a rocket with a rover, 240 million miles away and successfully land the rover on another planet is inspiring
- When television cameras scanned the control room at NASA the personnel responsible for this feat looked like the diversity America has

Brief Prior Day’s Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- Metrics are trending downward in Evanston and the United States
- The test positivity rate for Region 10 is 4%
- Hospital admissions have continued to decrease, over the last ten days, with a total of 437 patients
- The infection rate has decreased to .79% in Cook County
- In Evanston the 7 day moving average is less than 10 cases per day
- The positivity rate is less than 1%
- The number of test per month for February to date is 18,000
- Total confirmed cases are slightly over 3,800 cases, there are 200 residents confirmed to have the virus, and the fatality rate is currently at 110 residents
- The long-term care facilities metrics continue to look positive. There were two new staff cases and one resident case last week

Meeting Spotlight: Vaccine Update (Greg Olson, Public Health Manager, City of Evanston)

- The City has been receiving a limited supply of vaccine
Currently the City is able to administer roughly 700 doses each day. In the process of moving to a larger facility which will enable the City to administer roughly 1,500 doses per day. This will ensure each phase is executed much faster

- Vaccine distribution depends on how much the City receives from the State
- Other regional health professionals are experiencing the same shortage situation
- Plans for continued rollout are in place, however the supply is not present yet
- The City has no plans to not use doses. Once doses are received they are administered
- Currently working through the phase 1B priority. Adults sixty-five and older are prioritized
- Vaccination for educators, early childhood workers and support staff are included
- Arrangements have been made to vaccinate some of the congregate facilities
- Collecting details on residents who are homebound to make sure there are plans in place to administer doses to eligible to receive it
- The State has a two to three week projection on how much vaccine should be distributed to the Evanston area
- Residents should continue to spread the word regarding the vaccine contact form and have as many people as possible complete the information. Information can be found here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/27LBXZK
- Also working with the non for profit task force on a one-pager communication piece to heighten awareness to the public on the process

### Hospitals
- **Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)**
  - Below 30 confirmed covid-19 cases, 7 patients are in ICU, and 4 are on ventilators
  - Vaccine is in short supply with several state officials on a local call this week
  - Prepared to do roughly 7,000 doses per week once the vaccine is received
  - Prepared to assist the City with the more vulnerable populations as needed
  - NorthShore will be hosting the Floral Heart Project in the atrium at the entrance of the hospital beginning March 1

- **Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)**
  - No update

### Senior Living (Mary Leary)
- The working group discussed how Providers can move forward into less restrictive phases
- Residents and staff who have received their first doses at a third clinic can receive the second dose
- Currently awaiting more details for IDPH protocol
- Two Providers gave feedback on people who have received the vaccine and testing positive in a follow up test. Received instructions from IDPH to monitor the situation
- Collaborated with Mary O’Connor on the Floral Heart project and several providers are planning to participate on March 1
Private Non-Profit (Amarin Young)
- Working group collaborated on a cross sector public health campaign
- Meetings are regular to establish details needed for outreach
- Continuing to identify barriers to access for hard to reach populations
- Creating a one-pager to disseminate information to people and families with limited to no access to computers

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)
- Slight uptick from one or two clusters of students on campus, and currently addressing those issues to maintain safety
- FedEx weather delays are also impacting testing on campus
- Data is not perfectly clean this week with delays, however metrics show manageable status
- Doing work internally to ensure the university is prepared to assist for vaccination rollout

Education (Eric Witherspoon / Devon Horton)
- School began this week on February 16th for District 65
- Working on small logistical pieces for better organization to continue to receive students
- Rice school and the residential center were delayed due three activity covid cases
- With support from the City’s health department, plans are to open on Tues 2/23
- Vaccinations are important for educators and are currently being administered to staff
- Amita St. Francis has also been a great help assisting with distribution of doses to staff
- Reopening for high school students will take slightly longer due to the higher risk of contagion among older students
- Last barrier for ETHS is vaccinating staff members who need to be present on campus

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky’s Office (Ann Limpco)
- COVID-19 Stimulus bill update
  - The House aims to pass its version of the $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill by the end of next week, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.
  - Democrats hope to get their proposal through Congress before March 14, when a federal unemployment supplement and key jobless benefit programs expire.

Economic Impact Payments
- The IRS announced this week that, as required by law, all legally permitted first and second round of Economic Impact Payments have been issued and the IRS now turns its full attention to the 2021 filing season.
- Most people who are eligible for the Recovery Rebate Credit have already received it, in advance, in these two rounds of Economic Impact Payments. If individuals didn't receive a payment – or if they didn’t receive the full amounts – they may be eligible to claim the [Recovery Rebate Credit](#) and must file a 2020 tax return.
Vaccine rollouts

- President Biden continues to roll out new initiatives to expand production and speed distribution but those will take time to have an effect locally.

Extension of COVID-19 Forbearance and Foreclosure Protections for Homeowners

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Agriculture announced a coordinated extension and expansion of forbearance and foreclosure relief programs. Protections were set to expire in March.
- The actions announced this week will:
  - Extend the foreclosure moratorium for homeowners through June 30, 2021;
  - Extend the mortgage payment forbearance enrollment window until June 30, 2021 for borrowers who wish to request forbearance;
  - Provide up to six months of additional mortgage payment forbearance, in three-month increments, for borrowers who entered forbearance on or before June 30, 2020.
- Homeowners and renters can visit consumerfinance.gov/housing for up-to-date information on their relief options, protections, and key deadlines.

Laura Fine’s Office (Laura Fine)

- The Senate house committee met regarding the importance of public health and the vaccine rollout with County public health officials, and CVS and Walgreens representatives
- Focus remains on getting educators vaccinated

Robyn Gabel’s Office (Christian Sorenson)

- No specific definition on Evanston’s vaccine rollout distribution metrics
- House assistant assigned to do all vaccine intake questions
- Analyzing the Governor’s budget speech and potential impact to the local area

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz’s Office (Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz)

- Continuing to push to receive more information regarding the vaccine quantities for Evanston and the surrounding areas
- Receiving a briefing on Monday from IDPH and will ask for specific information on the methodology of distribution

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin’s Office (Adam Newman)

- No update

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Waiting for an uptick in business for the local restaurants
- Continuing to see many loans being processed with regard to the PPP loans, and there continues to be funding left in the program
● Attempting to determine what employers responsibilities will be with regard to vaccinations - what can they mandate or not?
● Looking to continue to support local businesses with programs like Recovery University
● Beginning to receive request for new office space, and interest in opening businesses
● This is the last week for the Evanston Winter Games www.evanstonwintergames.com

Mental Health (Christine Somervil)
● Collaborating with the Floral Heart Project and will have resources available in English and Spanish on mental health resources at various locations
● Kate Mahoney passed away Wednesday afternoon, after losing a bout with cancer. She was a tireless advocate for mental health and had a beautiful spirit

Faith-Based (Rabbi London)
● Ash Wednesday services were held as drive by to receive ashes and a blessing
● Next week the Jewish community will celebrate the holiday of Purim
● May Kate Mahoney’s memory be a blessing, and all the good work she did carry on

Next Meeting: February 26 at 1:30 p.m.