

Mayor's COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

April 3, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)

- Two new members added to the Mayor's task force to address the mental health aspect of the crisis: Dr. Christine Sommerville, Program Director for National Alliance on Mental Health, and Janet Jones, CEO of Family Institute
- "Stay at Home" Order is essential to continue to follow
- Hospital capacity and shortages that exist continue to be a concern as numbers increase in the interim
- Food insecurities are a concern as unemployment numbers continue to rise
- Impact of COVID-19 on the financial condition of cities across the country including Evanston. Programs are in place however they do not address loss of revenue
- Continuing to track Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Unified Command Incident Objectives
 - Coordinate with hospitals to expand capacity
 - Assist our Long Term Care facilities and other organizations to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk populations
 - Develop and implement housing and transportation service for those in need of self-isolation
 - Maintain supply chain of Personal Protective Equipment
 - Protect City staff and residents by providing timely information on COVID-19
 - Track the spread of COVID-19 through data analytics and identify those at risk
 - Maintain food accessibility

Spotlight on Local Hospitals & Alternative Care Facilities (Fire Chief Brian Scott)

- The City of Evanston is 1 of 5 accredited emergency management agencies in Cook County. Also uniquely positioned to communicate closely with County and State partners for COVID-19 response for logistics and equipment
- The main objective is making certain we coordinate with local hospitals, to ensure they have capacity and services needed to assist the community.
- The IL Emergency Management Agency also tracks predicted modeling using Census data through IDPH - establishing 4 alternative care facilities in Chicago Metro Region
 - McCormick Place (Chicago, IL) - 3K bed capacity
 - Metro South Hospital (Blue Island, IL)
 - Sherman Hospital (Elgin, IL)
 - Westlake (Melrose Park, IL)
- These are existing facilities recently closed but can be temporarily utilized for reuse as alternative care facilities
- Staffing and transportation will be a foreseeable challenge and separate work groups and monitoring those issues

Hospitals

- St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
 - Seeing younger patients ages 30 to 49 years
 - Continuing to make patients, long-term care facilities and staff a priority
- Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
 - 150 ventilators procured as well as additional PPE
 - 9K test completed
 - Patients are able to go to immediate care and also do e-visits at www.northshore.org

Legislators

- **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limjoco)**
 - Question and Answer sheet on the status of various assistance bills available at schakowsky.house.gov/contact/newsletter
 - People who receive Social Security benefits will also receive a stimulus check
 - The IRS will make a portal available soon for updating your banking information and distribution of the stimulus payments. Payments should begin mid-April from lowest income to highest income.
- **Senator Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)**
 - IDES is working on implementing parts of the CARES ACT that applies to unemployment benefit insurance
 - www.allinillinois.com is a website from the Governor's office to monitor good stories and helping each other and sharing posts
- **Robyn Gabel's Office (Robyn Gabel)**
 - Regarding unemployment - application for 1099 employees will be ready in one month. This will be retro-active from when residents first lost their income
- **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz)**
 - Monitoring unemployment insurance and working to push vital information out as soon as possible
- **Ald. Larry Suffredin's Office (Adam)**
 - Continuing to coordinate with State, County and Federal offices

Education (Eric Whitterspoon & Phil Ehrhardt)

- Increased the number of meals for kids

- Well over 3K students attend school daily. Login is needed for daily credit
- Remote learning will continue
- Meals will continue during Spring Break

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- PPE is still a very urgent need
- Also need more follow up for trace mapping on positive cases from the County

Business (Roger Sosa)

- E-blast for hospitality grant information, due April 1st many restaurants did take advantage
- Did a survey for local businesses to apply for programs available and still sorting out the information
- Continuing focus groups to monitor issues in the community that arise
- Working with banks to review the process for loans. Businesses encouraged to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster loans

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Classes will begin on Monday 4/6
- On campus student health care facility available to operate as urgent care for students with immediate needs

Non Profit (Monique Jones)

- Seeking guidance for undocumented residents for eligibility
- Need information added to the City's access channel for Seniors
- Foundation will work with organizations that need to apply for funding from IL Fund and the Community Trust Fund. Will update with more information

Faith-Based (Rabbi London)

- Sunday, April 5th at 9am church bells will ring in solidarity for first responders and the community

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 7 at 1:30 p.m.