

## Mayor's Task Force Briefing

### Meeting Notes

Friday, September 18, 2020

#### What's On My Mind (Mayor Hagerty)

- Mayor Hagerty noted that while the City's response to the pandemic is of critical importance there are other areas of importance such as racial justice and climate change. These areas should have a response similar to the pandemic
- Region 10 COVID-19 numbers are a lot better than they have been. Evanston has seen an increase in the number of cases but the positivity rate remains around 1.67%
- The community needs to do more to save the business community

#### Brief Prior Day's Situation Report

- Still in phase 4: Revitalization
- EMS Region 10 positivity rate dropped to 5%
- Hospital capacity remains the same
- The infection rate continues to decrease. As of Thursday, the infection rate was around .9%
- The state's infection rate is at .96%
- The state has less than 270,000 cases, Suburban Cook County around 60,000 cases, Chicago around 76,000 cases, and Evanston has around 1,075 cases
- Evanston averaged 7 cases over the last 7 days.
- Evanston's positivity rate is around 1.67%
- Evanston is at 145 cases per 10,000, Skokie is at 223 cases per 10,000 and Chicago is at 282 cases per 10,000
- Evanston's fatality rate has decreased to less than 7%
- Long-term Care Facilities continue to do well overall. There was one 1 staff and 2 resident cases at Albany Care.

#### Today's Spotlight - Paul Zalmezak, Economic Development Manager

- Paul noted that the City needs its partners to be more collaborative since the impact on tax revenues affects every institution. Paul's presentation/ Economic Update can be found here: <https://www.cityofevanston.org/home/showdocument?id=59207>

#### Upcoming Spotlight Schedule:

Mayor Hagerty reviewed the upcoming Spotlight Schedule:

- Sept. 25 - Kim Holmes Ross – Student's would discuss their "Behind the Mask" campaign
- Oct. 2 – Update from Recovery Liaison regarding Recovery Plan.
- Oct. 9 – Update from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky regarding Congress's plans

#### Sector Updates

##### Hospitals

St. Francis Hospital

- 7 confirmed cases, 2 patients in ICU, and 1 patient on a ventilator.
- No deaths in 24 hours. Continuing to use social media to advertise safe hospital and to welcome visitors

North Shore Hospital

- 10 patients at Glenbrook, 8 patients in ICU, and 1 PUI at Evanston Hospital
- At a 6.2% positivity rate
- 10.8% serology rate

### **Senior Living Center**

- Congregate housing providers have been doing well. CMS came out with new guidelines for visitors. Evanston providers would be working to implement the new guidelines

### **PNPs**

- Making sure District 65 students who need supervision are provided with a brick and mortar space. Continue to seek out free, low-cost testing for Early Childhood teachers

### **Northwestern University**

- Students are back. Still in Wild Cat Wellness period. University conducted over 10,000 tests in 3 weeks on-site. Positivity rate about .4% overall. For Undergraduates, the positivity rate is around .5%. Starting on Monday, undergraduates would go through weekly testing. In-person classes would start on Monday. Published public-facing Covid-19 dashboard. Dashboard can be found here:  
<https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/developments/confirmed-cases.html>

### **Schools District 65**

- Working to design a camp for student populations who don't have resources or homes not conducive to learning. Partnering with YMCA and Y.O.U. Camps will serve over 340 students
- Continuing to monitor the positivity rate. The goal is to launch in-person learning on November 16.

### **District 202**

- Doing a good job identifying students who need additional support. Repurposed number of employees to support students.

### **Legislative Updates**

#### **Schakowsky**

- Democrats Weigh Next Stimulus Steps: Some House Democrats are keeping pressure on Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to bring a new pandemic relief bill for a vote next week, as they look to signal to voters that their party is pursuing an agreement to bolster the U.S. economy. Pelosi said yesterday that voting on some version of a Democratic stimulus bill is one of the options that's been under discussion within the party to break the impasse with their Senate Republican counterparts and the White House.
- Some Democrats want to vote again on the \$3.4 trillion stimulus package the House passed in May, she said at a news conference, while some lawmakers don't want to advance any legislation until they strike an agreement with the Trump administration

#### **Fine**

- Application for business interruption grant is up on website:  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/C19DisadvantagedBusGrants.aspx>  
Grants are up to 20k

#### **Gabel**

- No report

#### **Gong-Gershowitz**

- Continue to see an increase in inquiries regarding unemployment assistance. State just implemented the Lost Wage Assistance Program. Payment is automatic to those in the system. If know of individuals who need assistance please refer them to Gong-Gershowitz's office.

#### **Commissioner Suffredin**

- Anticipate board of appeals process to open in a couple of weeks. Planning to conduct a drive-thru to allow residents to appeal

**Business (Roger Sosa)**

- Continue to meet weekly – working on a framework for the strategic plan. Taking in orders and supplying PPEs to local businesses.

**Mental Health (Dr. Somervill)**

- Continue to meet weekly. The group is growing. Moving forward with mental health dashboard and education materials. FCC voted to designate 988 a universal code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Congress now needs to vote on the bill. This month is also Suicide Prevention month.

**Recovery**

- Group is working to put together guiding questions for Mayor's Taskforce. The group will reach out to sector leaders for feedback.

**Faith Leaders**

- Rev. Nabors shared a post he shared on Facebook regarding why he loves Evanston and its challenges.

**Next Meeting: September 25, 2020, at 1:30 pm**