

**Mayor's Task Force Briefing  
Meeting Notes  
Friday, October 30, 2020 1:30 p.m.**

**What's On My Mind - Mayor Hagerty**

- Mayor Hagerty noted that confirmed Covid-19 cases continue to increase.
- As of Wednesday, no indoor service would be allowed in restaurants for EMS Regions 10 and 11. Mayor Hagerty shared he contacted State Senators and the Governor's Office regarding Evanston's efforts to contain the virus. Mayor Hagerty also noted that he asked that some discretion be given to communities that are under a 5% positivity rate. No discretion has been given so far.
- The Recovery Committee has been working on Evanston's Recovery Plan. The plan would include input from the various sectors.

**Brief Prior Day's Situation Report**

- Continue to be in Tier 1: Mitigation Measure for EMS Region 10. Region 10 has had 7 out of 7-day test positivity. The region has an 8.6% test positivity rate. Hospital admissions have increased 9 out of the last 7 days. Surge capacity, though above the threshold, has also increased. Chicago, EMS Region 11, has the same comparable statistics. Region 11 has an 8.4% test positivity rate.
- The Infection Rate is at 1.2 – would get exponential growth of virus if the infection rate increase.
- Evanston is averaging 16 cases per week. The daily positivity rate is 2.77%. Both data points indicate rapid growth.
- The Confirmed Cases by Age Segment data indicates a disproportional increase in confirmed cases among those under the age of 29. Northwestern is not driving the numbers. The increase in cases is due in part to community spread.
- Evanston has 1437 cases and 118 individuals are currently ill. Evanston has 193 cases per 10,000 individuals; Skokie has 290 cases per 10,000, and Chicago has 373 cases per 10,000.
- Evanston's fatality rate is at 5.5%; 74 fatalities in total.
- As it pertains to Evanston's Long-term Care Facilities (LTCF), there have been 10 new staff cases and 2 resident cases in the last week.

## Today's Spotlight - Patrick Keenan Devlin (Recovery Group Progress)

- Patrick Keenan Devlin, Executive Director at The James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy, shared that he has been working with the Evanston Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee. The group has developed, transmitted, and analyzed results from a community needs assessment that targeted Evanstonians and organizations. The group examined various recovery plans from across the country and decided to model Cook County's Recovery Plan. The Subcommittee developed three priorities for Evanston's recovery. The priorities include **1) Building a safer community** – mitigate and contain Covid-19 through effective emergency management; **2) Building a healthier community** – Provide for the physical and mental well-being of all community members; **3) Building a thriving resilient community** – Leverage city resources to assist residents in returning to or achieving pre-Covid-19 quality of life standards.
- The Subcommittee also drafted questions to guide the City's recovery efforts to ensure City leadership is applying an equity lens in its decision-making. The group also produced recommendations encouraging the City to move forward with urgency to enhance community engagement and service coordination and removing language and citizenship barriers.
- The Evanston Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee's draft plan was shared with the various subcommittee chairs. The group would come back next month with an updated draft plan that incorporates various subcommittees and key staff feedback.
- It was noted among the subcommittee chairs that there were concerns regarding the digital divide, affordability of PPEs, accessing Covid-19 testing, information coordination, and mental health services.

## Sector Updates

- Hospital
  - **St. Francis** – Has seen an increase in Covid-19 confirmed cases. Currently has 20 positive patients; 16 patients are on PUIs. St. Francis has a census of 101. Of the Covid-19 positive patients, 4 are in the ICU. The biggest challenge would be staffing. St. Francis is also experiencing an increase in non-Covid-19 patients. Increase of 20% in the Covid-19 positivity rate.
  - **North Shore** – Also seeing an increase in Covid-19 confirmed cases. North Shore has 63 patients; 8 in ICU, and 2 on ventilators. Seeing a lower percentage of patients in ICU.

There has been a dramatic increase in testing per day. 20% of symptomatic patients are now testing positive and up to 4% of asymptomatic individuals are now testing positive.

- o Drive-thrus and immediate care sites are seeing an increase in patients. The availability of beds is becoming a challenge.
- **Senior Living Center** - Congregate Housing working group would be returning to a bi-weekly meeting. IDPH noted that providers in southern Illinois have not been wearing masks. This has led to an increase in cases. Evanston providers have been doing a good job. Potential staff shortage is of greatest concern. The group is sharing access to the purchase of PPEs.
- **PNPs** - Group is now meeting twice per month as the weather gets colder. They are trying to figure out how to create safe indoor options. The Resilience Subcommittee would be working to figure out standards for nonprofits to be resilient organizations. There continues to be uncertainty with monetary support from governments.
- **Northwestern University (NU)** - Has seen a small increase in Covid-19 numbers. The positivity rate is below 1%. NU is not seeing transmission within the NU community. Seeing more community spread. NU's goal is to bring back freshmen and sophomores for the winter quarter starting January 3. The first week of classes would be held virtually. NU has issued travel guidelines to decrease campus transmission of the virus. Undergraduates continue to be tested weekly.
- **Schools**
  - o **ETHS** – No update
  - o **District 65**- Administration announced schools will not open on November 16. Classes would remain remote. The administration is thinking about reopening mid-January. An investigation was conducted into the hate message one student received. District 65 staff was not responsible for the message.
- **Legislative Updates**
  - o **Congresswoman Schakowsky Office – Update on \$500 per child payments for federal beneficiaries** - As part of an effort to help people who were unable to provide their information in time to receive Economic Impact Payments for their qualifying children, the Internal Revenue Service announced that federal beneficiaries who didn't register to receive \$500 per child payments earlier this year now have additional time. Following recent IRS programming updates, anyone who registers using the [Non-Filers: Enter Info Here](#) before the 3 p.m. Eastern Nov. 21 extended due date will receive an EIP, if eligible. This includes federal beneficiaries who already received an EIP but did not receive a supplemental \$500 payment for qualifying children. This additional time allows them to enter information on their qualifying children using the Non-Filers tool on [IRS.gov](#). Those eligible to provide this

information include people with qualifying children who receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement benefits, and Veterans Affairs Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefits and did not file a tax return in 2018 or 2019.

- o The IRS also urges anyone who didn't have a requirement to file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 to register for an Economic Impact Payment by using the Non-Filers tool before the Nov. 21 deadline.
- o As a reminder, anyone using the Non-Filers tool can speed the arrival of their payment by choosing to receive it by direct deposit. Those not choosing this option will get a check. Beginning two weeks after they register, people can track the status of their payment using the [Get My Payment](#) tool, available only on IRS.gov.
- o **COVID relief package** - The COVID-19 Stimulus, which would include a second stimulus check and extended unemployment aid, will not pass before the election as White House representative Steven Mnuchin holds up talks drafting up "new compromise language." However, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has indicated it's still possible to get a deal on fiscal stimulus with the Trump administration after the election, but before the start of the new congressional and White House terms in January.
- o **Senator Fine Office** – No Report
- o **Representative Gabel Office** - No report
- o **Representative Gong-Gershowitz Office** – Individuals can purchase vehicle stickers online at <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/> through Saturday. There has been an extension for State IDs and Driver's Licenses through February 1. Gong-Gershowitz Office has seen an increase in calls from businesses that are impacted by fraudulent claims through IDES. Contact IDES; notify the Attorney General's Office and Federal Trade Commission regarding these claims.
- o **Commissioner Suffredin Office (Newman) - Cook County COVID-19 Recovery Resident Cash Assistance.** The Resident Cash Assistance Program offers a one-time cash payment of \$600 to income-eligible suburban Cook County residents who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Apply [here](#). Applications accepted October 26 through November 6, 2020.
- **Business**

Business Interruption Grant results have been published. 6 Evanston businesses are on the list. Looking to generate options for outdoor dining. Concern that restaurants are being held to a higher standard as it pertains to the restrictions issued by the Governor. Illinois Restaurant Association would be appealing to see whether restrictions could be reviewed. There are restaurants in other cities that are not following the band issued by the State.

- **Mental Health** - In the promotion and publication phase. The next set of educational materials would go out in December. The mental health community survey is now complete. The survey would be distributed on November 16.
- **Recovery**- No update (See Spotlight)
- **Faith Leaders** – Emails were sent to Houses of Worship regarding the Governor's mandate. Only 25 individuals could be in a church. Interfaith Thanksgiving service would be held virtually on November 25 at 7:00 PM. Second Baptist Church would be the host.

Mayor Hagerty noted there would not be a public tree or menorah lighting ceremony downtown. There would be private lighting of the tree and menorah instead.

**Next Meeting: November 6, 2020, at 1:30 pm**