

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

November 6, 2020

Opening Remarks (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- Infection rate has decreased
- Covid-19 cases are escalating in the country
- Acknowledgement of 76 Evanstonians have lost their lives due to the pandemic
- There were 120,000 nationwide cases, 10,000 cases in IL and 30 new cases locally

Situation Report (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- We remain in Phase 4 the revitalization stage
- Possibility of accelerated cases and hospitalization, will result in additional mitigation measures put in place
- Region 10 reflects 10.5% positivity rate. Evanston shows 3.1% positivity rate
- Hospital admissions have increased
- Medical beds availability are at 25% to 28%. Threshold is a minimum of 20%
- Region 11, which is the City of Chicago has a positivity rate of 11.1%
- Infection rate is down from 1.25% to 1.18%, and the state level 1.22%
- Evanston's 7 day moving average is slightly less than 22 cases
- Evanston's positivity rate is at 3.17%
- Tests per month are increasing. There were 13,242 tests in Evanston for the month of October, and that is an increase of 4,000 test from the month of September
- Test results for the age group of under 29 year olds are higher for positivity
- Evanston has roughly 350 residents currently ill with the virus, and 78 deaths recorded
- The fatality rate is decreasing however one fatality last week at one senior living center
- Metrics for long term care provider centers reflected 12 new cases last week 6 resident and 6 staff members

Meeting Spotlight: Northshore Safety Tool Kit (Matthew Waskerwitz, North Shore Hospital)

- Spread the word about the safety pledge to mitigate the resurgence of the virus
- [Follow the link](#) to learn more around additional safety protocol:
 - Wearing face mask
 - Maintain social distancing
 - Continue to wash your hands
 - Stay home if you are feeling ill
 - Do not attend large gatherings

- Be mindful of your mental health
- By adhering to these basic protocols we can slow down the spread of the virus.
- 500 ppl have committed to becoming “ambassadors” in their sphere of influence
- Northshore continues to expand knowledge through Facebook, email and text messaging
- With the surge in cases this pledge is an effort to engage the community

Sector Updates

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (**Matt Waskerwitz**)
 - Current positivity rate is 27%
 - 91 in-patient volume (85 patients at Glenbrook)
 - 10 patients in ICU, 5 PUI
 - Hospital forecast indicate the numbers will continue to increase
 - Actively planning to scale back non essential operations if needed
 - The Emergency department volumes are also increasing
 - Drive thru testing sites are also increasing: 76 patients/hour according to metrics
 - Immediate care volume has increased
- Amita St. Francis (**Danielle Norman**)
 - 14 positive in-house, 23 PUIs, 4 positive in ICU, 1 patient on vent, no deaths
 - Increase of 20% in the positivity rate
 - The Emergency department volume reflected over 100 patients as of 11/5
 - The Drive thru volume has also increased, averaging 50 patients per day
 - Seeing an increase in testing
 - Current challenge is staffing and bed availability - Covid-19 taskforce addressing in-house challenges

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Working group met this week to discuss how to encourage staff compliance for following infection control protocol outside of the work environment
- Will also encourage staff to become “ safety ambassadors”
- Continuing to use tools for internal contact tracing, and pros/cons of staffing program across locations

Private Non-Profit (Monique Jones)

- Update report from task force groups next week
- Continuing to support our schools and children
- Also monitoring needs of immigrant status families

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Maintaining a stable positivity rate
- Continuing to test roughly 1400 students per day on campus

- Seeing on campus population begin to decrease slightly - electing to plan trips for the Thanksgiving weekend early
- Planning operation mode for the winter quarter

Education (Eric Witherspoon)

- Some employee personnel needing to quarantine this week
- Following same pattern for protocol and resurgence plans
- Sports programs allowed with proper IDPH guidelines (including basketball & football - two high risk sports)
- Continuing to monitor the situation and act accordingly

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- There's a new text scam created by thieves to trick people into disclosing bank account information under the guise of receiving the \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment. ● The scam text message states: "You have received a direct deposit of \$1,200 from COVID-19 TREAS FUND. Further action is required to accept this payment into your account. Continue here to accept this payment ..." The text includes a link to a fake phishing web address.
- This fake phishing URL, which appears to come from a state agency or relief organization, takes recipients to a fraudulent website that impersonates the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) Get My Payment website. Individuals who visit the fraudulent website and then enter their personal and financial account information will have their information collected by these scammers.
- **Neither the IRS nor state agencies will ever text taxpayers asking for bank account information so that an EIP deposit may be made.**
- The attached [IRS news release](#) contains information on how constituents can recognize, avoid and report this scam.

Senator Laura Fine's Office (Shiva)

- Open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act will go from 11/1 thru 12/15
- Local business grants are available, and businesses are encouraged to apply on Senator Fine's website

Robyn Gabel's Office (Robin Gabel)

- Monitoring the Governor's activities regarding the latest protocol for the pandemic
- Continuing to respond to constituents about IDES employment insurance items
- Having blood drive at Evanston Public Library 11am to 4pm Sat 11/7

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valdez)

- Monitoring the rise in covid-19 cases and the current mitigation plan by the Governor

- Working with Governor's office to ensure businesses impacted by the pandemic are given the opportunity to apply for business grants and given priority - through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)

- No update

Business (Roger Sosa)

- The business working group met twice for
 - outdoor dining options solutions and
 - Business survey needs during the resurgence
- Coordinating a promotion program for local restaurants for take out, outdoor dining and delivery

Recovery (Kimberly Krull)

- Completed the first round of interviews and having a meeting to discuss results
- Working with Kimberly Richardson on objectives to meet needs of community
- Forecasting potential needs and hoping to have draft report by the first week in December

Mental Health (Adina Gooden)

- The mental health subcommittee completed the resource guide for mental health services and continue to finalizing distribution
- Considering transitioning into an ongoing mental health taskforce beyond the pandemic
- Survey committee is preparing to collect data on residents mental health

Faith-Based (Rabbi London)

- This Sun 4pm gathering for service of healing and hope to reaffirm values

Next Meeting: Friday, November 13, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.