

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

December 4, 2020

What's On My Mind - (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- The numbers have stabilized from 2 weeks ago, however we need to remain cautious
- All communities need to be vigilant and continue to follow protocol
- Hopeful regarding the vaccine. Reports indicate it should be available as early as the second of Dec for roll out to the primary population
- I continue to remain Impressed with the generosity of this City. Donors truly stepped up regarding the \$2 million dollars in 2 months campaign to help those in need in our community.
- We have close to \$500,000 dollars remaining to meet the ultimate goal and this is important because we are unable to rely on aid from the Federal government at this time

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

- We remain in phase 4 and continue to adopt tier 3 mitigation measures in Region 10
- Evanston has seen zero increase in test positivity over the last 7 days
- The Region has seen a decreased of 2.4%
- Test positivity for Region 10 is 12.6%
- Hospital admissions have increased 5 out of 7 days
- National metrics continue to increase
- Surge capacity is fine, the numbers show 25% availability of medical beds, and 20% availability of ICU beds in the Region
- Chicago test positivity rate is 11% , and the surge capacity for medical bed availability is 26%
- Remaining in tier 3 is impacting the bars and restaurants. Meeting and social gatherings are limited to 10 ppl or less and there is no indoor dining
- The Infection rate is down is .87%
- The seven day moving average for IL is decreasing and currently at 9,200.
- The seven day moving average in Evanston has also decreased, and currently stands at 22 cases
- The Evanston positivity rate is 4.31%
- Northwestern University cases are small from Nov 11th to Nov 21st. There were 306 cases in Evanston and 27 were related to Northwestern University students
- Overall pattern for the seven day moving average it is trending downward
- The number of test are continuing to increase. October testing metrics showed roughly 16,000 test and the month of November reflects 700 additional test
- Overall number of cases in Evanston are less than 2,400, Skokie is showing 3,300 cases, and Chicago has 161,000

- 331 cases in Evanston are currently ill,
- Cases per 10,000 is 317 cases, Skokie has 524 cases, and Chicago reflects 597
- The death fatality in Evanston is higher than surrounding communities. The metrics show 3.74% with a total of 8 deaths in Evanston.
- Skokie's fatality rate is 1.5% and Chicago's fatality rate is 2.5%
- Long term care and congregate living facilities have 8 new cases for staff and 11 new cases for residents
- Vaccine dissemination is a project the health care professionals are beginning to assess

Meeting Spotlight: The 2021 City Budget (Erika Storlie, City Manager)

- The City's budget has officially been adopted for 2021
- The City has been impacted by reduced revenues due to the pandemic
- Began the budget process with an \$8 million dollar deficit due to items such as an increase in liquor tax, sales tax and other funding resources that compose the majority of services the City provides
- Staff had to find creative ways to fund and provide services for the community
- As the pandemic remained a priority going into 2020, the City remained focused on services to the most vulnerable population as well as core services to the community
- Position reductions were made this year as part of cost reduction measures
- Property tax increase to support an increase to the Human Services fund
- Increase to police and fire pension
- 1% property tax increase was ultimately agreed upon through community discussions
- Renegotiated many City contracts also assisted with saving funds
- The reserve fund was also utilized to offset property tax increases
- 2021 will be challenging not sure how long recover will be, however thought has gone into how to continue to deliver services in a fair and equitable manner
- The City is also leveraging outside financing for grant money. So far we have received roughly \$4 million dollars in grants and other funding sources
- Continuing to explore other funding sources from the Federal government
- Currently the largest reduction to the 2021 budget is to the Police department however reductions were carefully spread throughout the organization
- Going forward the City is committed to maintaining staffing levels to have core services to the community

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (**Matt Plofsky**)
 - Positivity rate is 21.28%, this is down 6% from last week
 - Under 23 inpatients, and 13 PUIs
 - In November there were 506 Safety Ambassadors committed to the pledge and now the number has increased to 2,491

- Translated resources into Spanish for community outreach
 - Vaccine rollout workgroup will discuss rollout
 - Uncertain at this time on the Employee mandate for the vaccine. Will need to verify and return to the committee with a definite answer
- Amita St. Francis (**Kenneth Jones**)
 - No update provided

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- The congregate housing working group has returned to weekly meetings with IDPH and the City's Health department continuing to disseminate value information with the group
- Discussions were focused on obtaining vaccine and lesson learned on contact tracing
- Providers are aware the most common exposure to the virus are through employees at other senior living communities, family members, residents with inpatient or outpatient procedures at medical office visits, and other caregivers
- Next week the focus will be on encouraging employees and residents to be vaccinated

Private Non-Profit (Monique Jones/Marica Ramos)

- Thank you for contributing to holiday drive which ties to the Evanston rapid response fund
- Working group will continue to meet each week to prioritize the need to address food insecurities in the community
- Childhood centers continue to address the virus when it happens among the population

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Quiet week most undergrads have returned home for the holidays
- Activities will be remote after Thanksgiving
- NU continues to follow local and state guidelines and protocols
- Under 70K test performed by the end of the Fall quarter
- The current positivity rate is 1.6% less testing and Thanksgiving activity is suspected for the increase in the rate

Education (Devon Horton and Eric Witherspoon)

Devon Horton

- No update

Eric Witherspoon

- There are two weeks left in Fall semester
- Will do a 30 day notice to any changes in the remote learning status
- Will begin next semester on Jan 4th remotely
- Not sure how safe it will be so will continue to monitor the metrics
- The goal is to begin hybrid as soon as possible

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- IRS Message: Claiming the CARES Act's 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit
A new page on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) has information on the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit and 2020 individual income tax returns. Eligible individuals can claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2020 Form 1040 or 1040-SR. These forms can also be used by people who are not normally required to file tax returns but are eligible for the credit.
- The 2020 Instructions for Forms 1040 and Form 1040-SR will include a worksheet taxpayers can use to figure the amount of any Recovery Rebate Credit for which they are eligible. Because the Economic Impact Payments taxpayers received in 2020 were an advance of the recovery rebate, the worksheet provides them a Recovery Rebate Credit to the extent their 2020 recovery rebate amount is more than their Economic Impact Payment.
- Taxpayers may be able to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit based on their 2020 circumstances if:
 - They are eligible but were not issued an Economic Impact Payment, or
 - Their Economic Impact Payment was less than the full amount to which they're ultimately eligible, \$1,200 (\$2,400 if married filing a joint return) plus \$500 for each qualifying child they had in 2020.

For additional information see [Recovery Rebate Credit](#) on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

- Status of Stimulus Negotiations
- Congresswoman Pelosi and Senator McConnell spoke for the first time yesterday which is a very good sign. They didn't agree to anything but talking is an important first step.
- Sen. McConnell still hasn't said he's willing to use the bipartisan Senate proposal as a starting point. He's keeping his cards close to his chest.
- There is broad consensus that we have momentum to get something done. Members are staying in town in case they have to vote this weekend, but it will likely be Monday or Tuesday instead.
- There is still no idea what's being negotiated (the details) and don't know if everything we care about (like stimulus checks and extra help for seniors, etc) will be in there. This is typical when negotiations happen at a high level – there are very few people in the room willing to leak.

Senator Laura Fine's Office (Shiva)

- The Secretary of State wants everyone to be aware the driving facilities will be closed for in-person transactions through Monday January 4th
- Expiration dates for drivers licenses have been extended to June 1, 2021 for renewal
- The public should utilize the online services for items such as renewing license plate stickers and renewing a valid ID card,
- All qualifying drivers will receive a notice in the mail authorizing renewal of the drivers licence, a specialized pin number will be given in the correspondence

Robyn Gabel's Office (Christian Sorensen)

- The legislative Black Caucus will begin having conversations the week of 12/7 regarding police reform across the state. The dates will be Tues Dec 8th and Thurs Dec 10th
- Accepting legislative ideas via email to Representative Gabel's office

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valdez)

- Working with the Chamber of Commerce on Business Interruption Grant applications. Round two of the process continues to be open until further notice
- There's been a slow down in new unemployment claims however there is a rise in fraud
- People impacted by fraud please reach out to Representative Gong-Gershowitz's office

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)

- No update

Business (Roger Sosa)

- The business working group is continuing to work on programs to promote restaurant delivery and retail activity!
- Concerns about restricted business and need for federal dollars
- The process for business loans is very unsure for many people regarding loan status and proper documentation. Leglistatros should know that process needs to be more streamlined
- The Village of Oak Park has program around a \$25 or more commitment for restaurant carry- out to continue to assist businesses and the Chamber will be getting that message out as pledge out to the local businesses

Recovery (Kimberly Krull)

- Draft plan for 2021 guide for end of month on Dec 16th
- Follow up for details on _____
- United comm will review first after Jan

Mental Health (Dr. Christine Somervil)

- Received 561 community mental health surveys from the English speaking community and 13 from spanish
- Waiting on higher return to public survey results on topics of interest
- Please use the links on our website and share with your networks

- Reviewing the mental health dashboard as a one-page industry standard resource
- The Evanston library year long program on mental health will hold its first meeting on January 12th
- Staff will share the work of the mental health working group and continue to get topics for ongoing sessions
- Jan 23rd will be another community conversation that will cover mental health tips for the season
- The working group has begun discussions around the framework for new goals in the new year

Faith-Based (Rev. Nabors)

- The Evanston online Interfaith services will well for the Thanksgiving holiday. It was well attended.
- Evanston Own It also had an online concert that was well attended
- Meeting today at 3pm will distribute holiday program events going on for the community

Next Meeting: December 11 at 1:30 pm