

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

December 18, 2020

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

- Albany Care numbers were very high recently
- Evanston reported 67 cases, 28 cases were related to Albany Care
- City strike team has been deployed, along with health care professionals from IDPH to work with the local administrators

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

- The test positivity rate for Region 10 has decreased over the last seven days. The current rate is 12%
- There have been decreases for hospital admissions for the last ten days
- Medical beds remain below the acceptable threshold. Currently at 18%
- The infection rate is at .94%
- The seven day moving average is 32 cases
- The seven day positivity rate is 5.3%
- Metric trends for the seven day moving average is lowering, steady between 20 to 30 cases
- Testing performed each month has decreased due to the Northwestern student population being home for the holiday. It is anticipated to increase next month
- There has been an upward trend of cases in the age group ranging from 50 to 59 year olds
- Currently 2,846 confirmed cases in Evanston
- The long-term care facilities have 21 new staff cases and 34 resident cases
- Next year the City will add information regarding the vaccine and distribution to the situation report

Meeting Spotlight: Grief & Grieving (Rev. Monte Dillard, First Church of God)

- This year has been no less than challenging for many people
- Many communities have lost their "previous norms" with regard to shopping, dining out, and visiting friends, etc
- During this time it is important to acknowledge the following:
 - Where are you with your emotions during this time? Be honest and don't feel pressure or shame about acknowledging feelings. This is a great starting point
 - Be honest about what you need, also be willing to discuss your challenges
 - All things are purposeful. There is purpose in grief and during a time of tremendous loss. The expectation in comfort is that you pass it along to others

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (**Matt Plofsky**)
 - The positivity rate is 16.2% this is a decrease and trending in the right direction
 - 106 patients, 19 patients are in ICU, and there are 3 PUIs
 - The Safety Ambassador Program has reached 2,500 participants
 - Information was also translated into Spanish
 - Received the vaccine yesterday and currently administering it to the frontline staff
- Amita St. Francis (**Kenneth Jones**)
 - 20 patients, 8 PUIs, 9 ICU and 6 patients on ventilators
 - Seeing a decrease in numbers for admissions
 - Received the vaccine yesterday and started administering it today to frontline staff
 - Next year's MLK (Martin Luther King) celebration will be held virtually on Jan 11th at 9am. The State's Chief Medical Officer will be the guest speaker on the topic of Equity in medicine

Senior Living (Nadim Abi-Antoun)

- The taskforce met this week, and the focus was on vaccine administration, and how providers will manage next steps
- Walgreens and CVS have been awarded the Federal contract to manage the administration to long-term care facilities
- The focus of the initiative is only on skilled nursing residents and staff
- Waiting for details on best practices from other congregate settings regarding vaccine administration
- Shared best practices on how to approach employee and resident education
- There will be three visits to each facility, 21 days apart, and the dates are not yet confirmed
- The administration of the vaccine is scheduled to begin on December 28th
- Long-term care facilities will only be administered the Pfizer vaccine for now, and there is no new information on the Moderna vaccine

Private Non-Profit (Maricar Ramos)

- The working group meets bi-weekly and there should be a more thorough report after the holidays

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- The seven day moving average is 2 cases
- All is quiet on campus
- Preparing for the winter quarter

Education (Devon Horton and Eric Witherspoon)

Devon Horton

- Morning and afternoon scheduling details are being distributed to parents

- Middle school will live stream and have two cohorts (in class and remote)
- Asynchronous learning will continue on Mondays and we will meet with health care professionals to monitor the metrics for a safe return

Eric Witherspoon

- No update

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- Congress hit a new stumbling block in negotiating a coronavirus aid deal today. Congressional leaders had settled on a \$900 billion framework midweek that is expected to include a \$300 federal unemployment bonus, a new round of direct payments, small business funding and money to distribute Covid-19 vaccines.
- Unfortunately, money for local governments was not included.

Senator Laura Fine's Office (Shiva)

- There's a new statewide network initiative to deploy computer devices to low-income residents across Illinois
- See attached flyer for details

Robyn Gabel's Office (Christian Sorensen)

- Offices will remain open the last two weeks of the year to address constituent issues
- Continuing to receive fraud complaints for unemployment claims
- Beginning a digital book club and will reach out to potential members after the New Year

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valdez)

- Dates for computer donations will be available early next year

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)

- No update

Business (Roger Sosa)

- DCEO (the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) met with the working group this week regarding the Business Interruption Grants
- The deadline for grant applications was last Friday and it appears there is \$36 million dollars remaining to assist roughly 900 businesses
- DCEO anticipates 40K applications to review
- Continuing to advocate for community local businesses to have a portion
- Continuing to promote programs such as the carry-out pledge for local businesses
- Waiting on details involving the stimulus package

Recovery (Kimberly Krull)

- Will have a draft to present to the EOC for the recovery plan

- Continuing the work with all sectors represented to finalize the information

Mental Health (Dr. Christine Somervil)

- The first mental health town hall event will be held Jan 12th at 7pm (See attached flyer for details)
- The community mental health survey will remain on the City's website for input until the end of May 2021

Faith-Based (Rabbi London)

Rabbi London

- Concluding our celebration of Hanukkah
- Wishing you happy holidays

Next Meeting: January 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Stay Informed. Stay Healthy. Stay Connected.

New Statewide Network to Deploy Computer Devices for Low-Income Residents Across the Illinois Announced



Governor JB Pritzker announced a first-of-its-kind initiative in Illinois to expand digital access for low-income households throughout the state. Through a unique collaboration with PC's for People, a national nonprofit providing refurbished devices, Cook County, and numerous other community partners, the State of Illinois will stand up a statewide network to deploy refurbished computers, digital literacy programming and workforce training.

The new **Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network** aims to put computers and other mobile devices into the hands of Illinois residents – assisting more of the estimated 1.1 million Illinois households without a computer with access to high speed internet that is essential for e-learning, remote work, tele-health and more.

To further expand digital access across the state, the Governor issued call to action to public, private and philanthropic sectors to donate used equipment to build on the **Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network** that is set to deploy at least 20,000 refurbished computers annually for in-need Illinoisans next year.

For more information on the **Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network** and how to recycle technology or to apply for an upgraded device, please visit...

[Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network](#)

MENTAL HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL



- Learn how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted mental health
- Help us shape a community response
- Facilitated by staff from The Family Institute, NAMI, AMITA Health, and PEER Services

TOWN HALL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 7-8PM

[Join here via Zoom](#), or by computer or phone

Meeting ID: 979 5318 9024

Passcode: 61232

Phone: 312-626-6799

Need help with Zoom? Call the library at 847-448-8630

