

2020 In Review: COVID-19 Response

FEB

- **February.** Evanston's Health & Human Services (HHS) Department forms an internal response team as COVID-19 begins to spread globally.
- **February 28.** Mayor Hagerty sends out the first citywide COVID-19 communication.

MAR

- **March 11.** World Health Organization (WHO) declares COVID-19 a pandemic.
- **March 13.** COVID-19 is declared a national emergency. All K-12 schools in Illinois are closed under state order. The City, ETHS, and District 65 announce the youth meals program. Mayor Hagerty and HHS Director Ike Ogbo host the first of many "Coronavirus Q&A" sessions.
- **March 15.** Mayor Hagerty declares a local State of Emergency as the first two Evanston COVID-19 cases are confirmed. The HHS Department begins contact tracing. The City activates its Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- **March 17.** The Mayor's Coronavirus Task Force holds its first meeting. The City suspends non-safety-related parking enforcement and halts nonpayment penalties.
- **March 20.** The City partners with the Evanston Community Foundation, Connections for the Homeless, YWCA Evanston/North Shore, Curt's Cafe, and Interfaith Action to fund, staff and coordinate temporary shelter for homeless residents; more than 100 beds are secured at local hotels. The City makes its first distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to long-term care facilities.
- **March 21.** Statewide "Stay at Home" Order goes into effect. The Morton Civic Center and City facilities are closed to the public.
- **March 23.** The City moves its EOC to the new Robert Crown Community Center and Library. Evanston reports its first death related to COVID-19.

APR

- **April 10.** City partners with Northwestern University to launch Emergency Food Pantry.
- **April 20.** City issues order requiring all persons working in or patronizing "essential businesses and operations" to wear cloth face coverings.

MAY

- **May 7.** The City partners with community organizations to launch the Evanston Care Network to assist individuals seeking social service assistance and resources.
- **May 26.** The Evanston City Council waives sidewalk cafe permit fees for 2020, and approves temporary outdoor seating permits for Evanston restaurants.
- **May 29.** Illinois enters Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Recovery Plan. Retail establishments and other businesses reopen with safety guidelines in place. Outdoor dining resumes.
- **May 31.** Evanstonians participate in a socially distanced march for Black lives.

JUN

- **June 3 - 4.** Evanston records zero new daily confirmed COVID-19 cases. The Evanston Community Rapid Response Fund surpasses \$2.5 million in donations.
- **June 16.** City launches needs assessment surveys to guide recovery.
- **June 22.** City partners with AMITA Health to host first COVID-19 testing event.
- **June 26.** Illinois enters Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Recovery Plan. Indoor dining and additional businesses reopen.

JUL

- **July 1.** Evanston beaches open for swimming with capacity limits and safety restrictions in place. Playgrounds and basketball courts reopen. Infection rates remain low throughout summer.
- **July 20.** City partners with AMITA Health St. Francis Hospital to offer a second COVID-19 testing event at ETHS.
- **July 27.** City Council approves allocation of \$50,000 to support Entrepreneurship Emergency Assistance Program.

AUG

- **August 18.** City secures \$4+ million in grants to support its COVID-19 response.
- **August 24.** Evanston Parks & Recreation offers Fall Camp programs.

SEP

- **September 1.** City launches COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Program.
- **September 3.** Evanston reaches 1,000 total confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- **September 8-10.** City partners with IDPH to host COVID-19 testing at ETHS.
- **September 12.** Northwestern students begin phased return to campus. NU and City work together to implement health, safety and testing procedures.
- **September 14.** Seven new case investigators join the City.
- **September 17.** City partners with Walgreens to host the first flu vaccination event. Four hundred residents receive their flu shot.

OCT

- **October 16.** Evanston's seven-day moving average of confirmed daily cases rises above 10 for the first time since late May.
- **October 19 - November 2.** Early voting takes place at the Morton Civic Center.
- **October 24.** Northwestern Football hosts Maryland for its first home football game in 2020. Attendance is restricted to players' family members only.
- **October 26 - 27.** City partners with IDPH to host a COVID-19 testing at ETHS.
- **October 28.** Resurgence Mitigation measures implemented in suburban Cook County as cases rise. Indoor dining prohibited; gatherings limited to 25 or fewer.

NOV

- **November 1.** Mayor partners with the Evanston Community Foundation to raise \$2 million in two months for Evanston residents most impacted by COVID-19.
- **November 9.** Evanston City Council approves Community Member Relief Fund to assist undocumented residents impacted the pandemic.
- **November 13.** City issues Stay-at-Home Advisory.
- **November 19.** Evanston reaches 2,000 total confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- **November 20.** Tier 3 mitigation measures are implemented statewide, restricting capacity in retail establishments and limiting social gatherings.
- **November 29.** More than 180 Evanston residents receive flu vaccinations as part of the City's vaccination event with BlueCross BlueShield and Jewel-Osco.

DEC

- **December 11.** FDA issues emergency authorization for first COVID-19 vaccine.
- **December 17.** City coordinates with AMITA Health and NorthShore University HealthSystem for first vaccine distribution to Evanston healthcare workers.