

# Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

January 29, 2021

## **What's On My Mind (Mayor Steve Hagerty)**

- Great job to the entire City team, Firefighters, Public Health, Facilities, and members of the City Manager's office on the fantastic job organizing the vaccine events
- Many positive emails from residents on vaccination events
- One refinement implemented to the system to address issues will be narrowing the age group to cover older residents 83 years old and above
- Additional events have been scheduled
- Continuing to coordinate with the State Health department to coordinate the demand at the local level for supply to the vaccine

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

- Metrics in the Evanston area are continuing to be very positive
- Phase 4 (Revitalization) is the current phase
- Tier 1 metrics test positive for Region 10 is 6.8%
- Hospital admissions have seen 10 days of stability or in some cases a slight decrease, and 24% of ICU beds are available
- Currently using Tier 1 mitigation measures which will allow indoor dining, limited to 25% capacity, and social events may occur indoors and outdoors, however they are limited to 25 guests or less or 25% of the room capacity
- The infection rate is declining and currently holding at .84%
- Evanston's seven-day moving average is 14 cases
- The seven-day positivity rate is 1%
- January's test metrics are over 30,000 test performed
- The overall positivity rate of people tested in the 40 to 49 age range is 4.43%
- Evanston has over 3,600 confirmed cases, Skokie has slightly over 5,000 cases, and Chicago has 232,000 cases
- Currently have 250 positive cases of the virus, and the cases per 100K are less than Skokie and Chicago
- Long term care and congregate facilities are showing 8 new staff and 9 resident cases
- One additional fatality during the past week, for a total of 105 fatalities due to covid-19
- A total of 8,900 vaccines were received, 3,400 were distributed to Northshore hospital, 1,700 were distributed to Amita St. Francis and the City has 3,800 remaining. Another event will be scheduled early next week by the City for continued distribution

## **Meeting Spotlight: COVID-19 Communications (Patrick Deignan, Communications Manager)**

- The primary purpose of communication to the community during this time will be to: keep residents informed regarding the City's process, to reduce information anxiety in the community and to respond to many questions regarding the rollout
- There are three goals in the short term
  - To encourage everyone who lives or works in the community to complete the City's vaccination contact form found at [www.cityofevanston.org/vaccine](http://www.cityofevanston.org/vaccine)
  - To keep the community informed regarding the City's distribution plan and the status of events
  - To reassure the community about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine
- State health department safety protocols remain in place around face covering and social distancing
- There is a weekly e-newsletter to inform the public each Thursday regarding the vaccination update and situation report
- The e-newsletter is the primary tool for reaching the public, and if you are not receiving these updates please visit: [www.cityofevanston.org/newsletter](http://www.cityofevanston.org/newsletter) and sign up
- There is a Covid-19 vaccination web page where you can locate the contact form information, weekly progress updates, and answers to pertinent questions
- Information is available on the City's social media: Twitter, Facebook and Next Door
- People who complete the vaccination contact form will receive a confirmation email detailing 'next steps' and what to expect in the process
- The Mayor has a newsletter for periodic updates for major changes regarding the rollout
- The City has also hosted Covid-19 Q & A sessions for residents to ask questions. The next Q & A session will be held Thursday, February 4th at noon. It will be broadcasted on Channel 16, the Facebook page and the YouTube Channel
- There will also be a Q & A session in Spanish planned. The City is currently working with Erie Health to have a date for that session
- Critical updates sent to the community are also translated into Spanish and forwarded to the appropriate distribution list
- The Community Services division will be working with caregiver agencies to make sure we reach a population we may not reach online through typical channels

## **Hospitals**

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
  - Reports reveal there are 165,000 patients over the age of 65. Some patients will potentially receive vaccines through other means while waiting due to sheer volume
  - Vaccination sites will be available soon with a goal of 8,000 vaccines/ week
  - The site locations will be: Evanston Hospital, Glenbrook and Lake Bluff
  - Currently in the process of hiring a minimum of 100 FTEs to assist with staffing sites
  - People interested in assisting with Northshore's vaccination effort can visit [northshore.org/careers](http://northshore.org/careers)
  - Vaccination events will happen six days per week, and operating hours will be from nine to ten hours each day to accommodate the public

- The challenge is vaccine quantity and available slots
- Focus will remain on patients over 65 years who are part of the Northshore system
- **Amita St. Francis (Rosy Barrera)**
  - 17 confirmed cases, 2 in critical care, 10 PUIs, 4 ICU, 2 positive vented
  - Held eleven first dose clinics, vaccinated close to 2,000 people
  - Also held seven second dose clinics and half were vaccinated
  - Did outreach to the community to vaccinate EMS, providers, Evanston PD and District 65 teachers
  - Currently focusing on distributing the second dose to associates
  - Extending additional doses to patients by the first week in February
  - The plan is to vaccinate close to 5,000 people per week

### **Senior Living (Mary Leary)**

- There are a total of 15 congregate housing communities that are enrolled in the Federal Pharmacy program
- Each community has an assigned pharmacy provider that will conduct vaccination clinics three times over a six week period to vaccinate residents and staff
- The City's HHS dept. is not involved in the partnerships, however they provide advocacy on behalf of the communities if issues arise
- A total of five communities have received the first and second dose, four communities have received the first shot only, and the remaining six have not had doses so far but they are scheduled to receive the vaccine by the end of February
- There are also thirteen congregate settings who have the City's HHS department assisting to vaccinate staff and residents
- Metrics for national vaccination rates among the long term care facilities and providers, are at 37% according to IDPH and the CDC
- Evanston participants for this population have been much higher than the national average
- Frequent sharing of ideas and strong support from the City has assisted greatly

### **Private Non-Profit (Dave Davis)**

- Education campaign to assist with vaccination communication will be a focus
- Target population will be the difficult to reach residents
- Will report next week on the coordination effort
- Continuing to monitor the vaccine rollout effort
- Working on the vaccination plan for early childhood providers

### **Northwestern University (Luke Figora)**

- Overall metrics are encouraging
- 15,000 tests were administered last week
- Received approval to be a potential vaccination site when the supply becomes available
- Slight concern with IDPH approach towards higher education and being placed in tier 1C

- Focused on continuing to maintain safety protocol on campus

### **Education (Terrance Little and Eric Witherspoon)**

- Terrance Little
  - February 16 continues to be the date for engagement
  - The metrics remain very good
  - Three to four hundred employees have received vaccination doses
  - Scheduling issues are a slight concern as the second dosage is expected to be administered the first week of return for students
  - The elementary school schedule will be am/pm model (half of the student population in the morning and the remainder in the afternoon)
  - Partnering with community entities to provide services in the building for students who need to stay the entire school day
  - Middle school students will attend four days a week from Tuesday through Friday
- Eric Witherspoon
  - Continuing to monitor the vaccine rollout efforts as Educators slated for tier 1B
  - The Federal government is attempting to re-open schools this spring, however it is for grades K through 8
  - There is currently no plan for high school students for re-opening

### **Legislators**

#### **Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)**

- Starting February 15, consumers seeking to take advantage of the new SEP can find out if they are eligible by visiting [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Consumers can find local help at [Localhelp.healthcare.gov](https://www.localhelp.healthcare.gov) or by calling the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325. Assistance is available in 150 languages. The call is free. The SEP is open until May 15, 2021.
- HHS Announces Marketplace Special Enrollment Period for COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
  - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced a Special Enrollment Period

#### **Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)**

- Evanston residents are encouraged to participate in a vaccination virtual town hall next Tuesday evening at 7pm
- The town hall format will be geared towards residents under the umbrella of the Cook County Department of Public Health rollout

#### **Business (Roger Sosa)**

- Tracking the PPP loan process
- Nationwide there have been 400,000 applications submitted, and \$39 billion dollars have been approved, and this is 15% of the allocated total

- The process takes roughly two weeks to complete
- Friday Feb 5th the Chamber will hold the annual celebration virtually, tickets can be purchased to watch online - packages were created with five local restaurants to encourage continued community involvement
- Awards will be distributed to recognize local members, and the induction of the new board members will take place

#### **Mental Health (Christine Somervil)**

- The working group will expand to some members of ETHS
- The mental health resources will also be shared with the NPO group newsletter
- Continuing to update the mental health dashboard and discussing ways to keep the resource guide current

#### **Faith-Based (Michael Nabors)**

- A zoom conference was held last week with Amita St. Francis regarding vaccination distribution to predominantly minority communities
- A webinar is tentatively planned for February 15th, to feature African American healthcare professionals to answer questions around the vaccine
- Potentially planning to create a video of clergy members receiving the vaccination to share with the community to assist with alleviating concerns around receiving the vaccine

**Next Meeting: February 5 at 1:30 p.m.**