

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

February 5, 2021

What's On My Mind (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- There are concerns around misinformation or partial information regarding vaccine distribution
- Many cities throughout the country do not maintain enough supply of the vaccine to meet the current demand
- Recipients for phase 1A are completed and the City's Health Department has moved to phase 1B
- It is estimated phase 1B has roughly, 20,000 people, and includes residents over the age of sixty-five, people with significant underlying health conditions, educators, and workers who are deemed essential under the category
- Supply continues to be an issue to address each person slated to receive the vaccine during this phase
- The focus of the City's Public Health team has been older residents
- According to reports from state public health officials, there will be more supply in the future
- Upon receiving a larger quantity of vaccines, the City will examine hosting parallel events - vaccination for residents sixty-five and older and other essential workers for phase 1B such as educators

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

- Metrics continue to be stable, as the recovery effort continues to be in Phase 4 the Revitalization phase
- The positivity rate for Region 10 is 5.4% with eleven days consistently under 8%
- Hospitalizations have also decreased and 25% of ICU beds are available
- Bars and restaurants are reopening with restrictions on indoor gatherings and meetings
- The infection rate has decreased to .78%
- The 7 day moving average for Evanston is 9.43%
- The positivity rate is .64%
- Total confirmed cases are 3,650, there are 250 residents confirmed to have the virus, and the fatality rate is currently at 108 residents
- The long-term care facilities metrics continue to look positive
- Vaccine distribution continues for the tier 1A group for the second dosage

Meeting Spotlight: School Reopening (Dr. Devon Horton, Stacy Beardsley, Andailb Khelghati, District 65)

- The return to school on February 16 is centered around a few core values:
 - The health and safe of students and staff
 - Family and community engagement

- Establishing a caring and supportive culture
- Continuous reinvention of instructional practices and curriculum delivered
- Transparent communication
- On February 16, there will be 3,618 students returning in person
- There will also be 3,697 students continuing with remote learning
- Families needs were determined and infused with state guidelines for safe return to school
- Upon students returning there will be physical space constraints as well as the availability of educators, and these factors are drivers for certain decisions
- The model the school district is implementing has support from the medical advisory team, as well as city and state health department guidelines
- Decisions were also predicated on regional metrics and current mitigation measures
- The goal is to open safely and continue to be a responsible partner to the community
- The school district will continue to maintain constant monitoring of the metrics and communication with local city partners to ensure decisions are made in the best interest of local families and the community
- There will be space implemented for a “hybrid plus” program, where students who may need additional support for a full day of learning experiences, will be available.
- There will be a minimum of five hours of instruction for students daily in core content area
- Administrators continue to monitor social and emotional learning by spending time on routines and reconnection for students
- The school district will also continue to monitor the vaccine rollout for educators
- Hiring Student Supervisors to assist with the implementation of the return to school program
- [Student Supervisor Role](#)
- To expedite the process, applicants can reach out to Ms. Carla Bonastia at 847-859-8025 or bonastiac@district65.net

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
 - Conducted vaccine outreach to over 500K patients including 165K patients over the age of sixty-five
 - Three locations continue to serve as areas to receive the vaccine: Evanston, Northbrook and Lake Bluff
 - Northshore will have the opportunity to perform 8,000 to 10,000 vaccines per week
 - Hired individuals who can support vaccine administration efforts
 - Next week will conduct vaccine efforts on tier 1B over the age of sixty-five
 - Currently have 750 doses of vaccine to distribute and supply continues to be a concern and hoping to receive additional vaccine
 - Northshore has 38 to 45 confirmed cases per day, between 6 to 8 patients in ICU, and continues to see a stable decline
- Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)

- Wrapping up second dose vaccinations and working with the City's health department
- Providing community education regarding the vaccination process
- Webinar planned at the end of the month regarding African American churches and the vaccination rollout
- Conducted an information session at the YMCA this week, as well as outreach to the Latino population
- 14 positive confirmed cases and 15 PUIs

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- There were twelve new cases among the congregate care and long term housing facilities within the last seven days. This reflects a decline in the numbers
- The working group meetings continue to focus on the implementation of vaccine clinics
- Providers continue to share best practices for safe clinics
- IDPH and the City's health department continue to provide assistant

Private Non-Profit (Maricar Ramos)

- Beginning implementation of a public service campaign for difficult to reach individuals in the community
- Group of sectors meeting this Monday February 8th to coordinate specifics
- Working on a vaccine one-page information sheet for distribution and translation support
- Supply issues create concerns and questions regarding systemic inequities around vaccine distribution and the plan for the LatinX community

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Metrics remain low at .35% positivity rate
- Focusing on vaccine distribution and looking to continue to support the City on those efforts

Education (Eric Witherspoon)

- Summer learning program will be waiving all fees for students
- Will offer robust in person learning experiences for students returning to the High School
- More information at the school board meeting on Monday February 8th at 7:30pm and it will be broadcasted

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- **Senate adopts blueprint for stimulus**
 - The Senate voted 51-50, after Vice President Kamala Harris broke her first tie, to adopt a budget blueprint for President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion virus relief package
 - The House had already adopted its budget resolution and voted again today to agree on the Senate's language. Now that's done, Democrats will be able to craft a

relief bill starting next week that can pass without any Republican votes under special budget rules. House and Senate committees would have until Feb. 16 to write the stimulus legislation under the instructions in the budget.

- Important to note: The budget resolution that passed is not the COVID relief bill. It simply sets the stage for Democrats to be able to use a process known as "budget reconciliation" to pass the relief bill on a party-line vote, by February 16th.

- **Two bills introduced by Jan this past week:**

- Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and Senator Elizabeth Warren introduced legislation to publicly manufacture personal protective equipment, prescription drugs, and other medical supplies necessary to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. **The Pandemic Emergency Manufacturing Act of 2021** authorizes the federal government to manufacture medical products, including contracting with existing manufacturers, to ensure an adequate supply of critical materials to avoid rationing during this crisis.

The *COVID-19 Emergency Manufacturing Act* will:

- **Establish an Emergency Office of Manufacturing for Public Health** to ensure an adequate supply of drugs, devices, biological products, active pharmaceutical ingredients, and other supplies necessary to diagnose, mitigate, and treat COVID-19 and to address shortages in products used to treat non-COVID conditions and illnesses.
- **Require the Office to manufacture, or enter into contracts to manufacture, COVID-19 products** and other critical drugs and medical devices in shortage. The Office will be required to provide COVID-19 products at no cost to federal, state, local, and tribal health programs and to sell COVID-19 products at cost to international and other commercial entities. The Office will be required to sell the additional products it manufactures at a transparent and reasonable price to domestic and international entities.
- **Direct the Office to begin manufacturing, or enter into contracts to manufacture, PPE, diagnostic test materials, COVID-19 treatment drugs** within one month of the Act's passage. The Office will prioritize production of items that have the most impact on public health and the economy, that address shortages, and that alleviate demographic disparities in COVID-19.
- **Direct the Office to begin constructing, or enter into contracts to construct, vaccine and therapeutic manufacturing facilities** to ensure the immediate production, at-scale, of COVID-19 vaccines when such vaccines become available.
- **Provide transparency** into the Office's activities by mandating Inspector General reviews of all of the Office's contracts, requiring periodic reports to Congress, and forcing the Office to publicly post its prices for COVID-19 and other products as well as any licensing agreements.

- Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, a Senior Chief Deputy Whip and Chair of the Energy and Commerce Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, and Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, introduced the bipartisan ***Advancing Connectivity during the Coronavirus to Ensure Support for Seniors (ACCESS) Act***. For over 10 months, pandemic safety precautions have severely limited interactions between nursing home residents and their family members, friends, and caregivers. Unfortunately, many nursing homes are not technologically equipped for managing resident video calls. The ACCESS Act addresses this issue by providing funds for nursing homes to purchase the technology needed to help residents stay connected through video with both health professionals and loved ones outside the facility.

Specifically, the *ACCESS Act* would:

- Authorize an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$50 million for the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Telehealth Resource Center to assist nursing facilities receiving funding through Medicare or Medicaid in expanding their use of telehealth services;
- Establish a grant program authorizing HHS to award funds to nursing facilities to support virtual visits for residents during the pandemic while there are still COVID-19 related health risks for in-person visits; and
- Require the Secretary of HHS to provide guidance to nursing homes receiving these grants on additional steps nursing facilities shall take to ensure access to virtual visitation technology and services in nursing facilities.

Laura Fine's Office

- No update

Robyn Gabel's Office (Christian Sorenson)

- Continuing to focus on the increase in IDES cases for unemployment extensions
- Many have reached resolution
- The state is beginning to apply unemployment extension where appropriate

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valadez)

- There has been an increase in residents applying for unemployment for the first time and having issues
- All questions can be directed to our offices
- Held a vaccine townhall last week and 900 constituents were registered for the event

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)

- No update

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Evaluating mitigation changes and the impact to local restaurants and establishments
- PPP loan program is progressing well, receiving funding in less than ten days
- Pleased with participation in the winter games
- Holding the Chamber's 101st virtual celebration

Mental Health (Christine Somervil)

- Will hold the mental health webinar on February 9th hosted by Evanston Public Library.
- The topic will be Self Care for Mental Wellness presented by Dr. Adia Gooden of the Family Institute

Faith-Based (Rabbi London)

- Facilitating local members to register for the vaccine

Next Meeting: February 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Learning Pathways Overview

BACKGROUND: In order to provide information to our community about student learning preferences and return to school status, we have prepared the following data tables and charts. These provide insight into how students are placed based on parental preference and selection of pathway, building capacity and staffing, and district learning models for the return to in person instruction. Below are the definitions that are used to describe the program pathways.

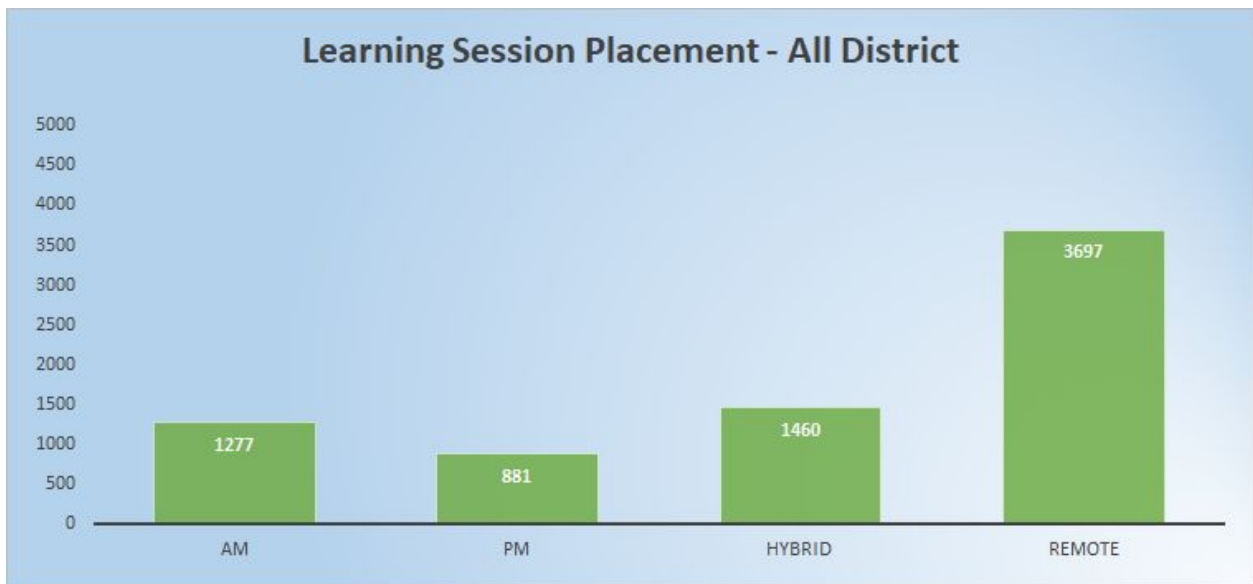
Learning Pathways: Key Terms

Learning Pathway	Definition
AM	Students attend school in the morning and participate in remote learning in the afternoon.
PM	Students attend school in the afternoon and participate in remote learning in the morning.
Hybrid	Students participate and attend their respective school all day.
Remote	Students participate in the remote learning pathway from home.

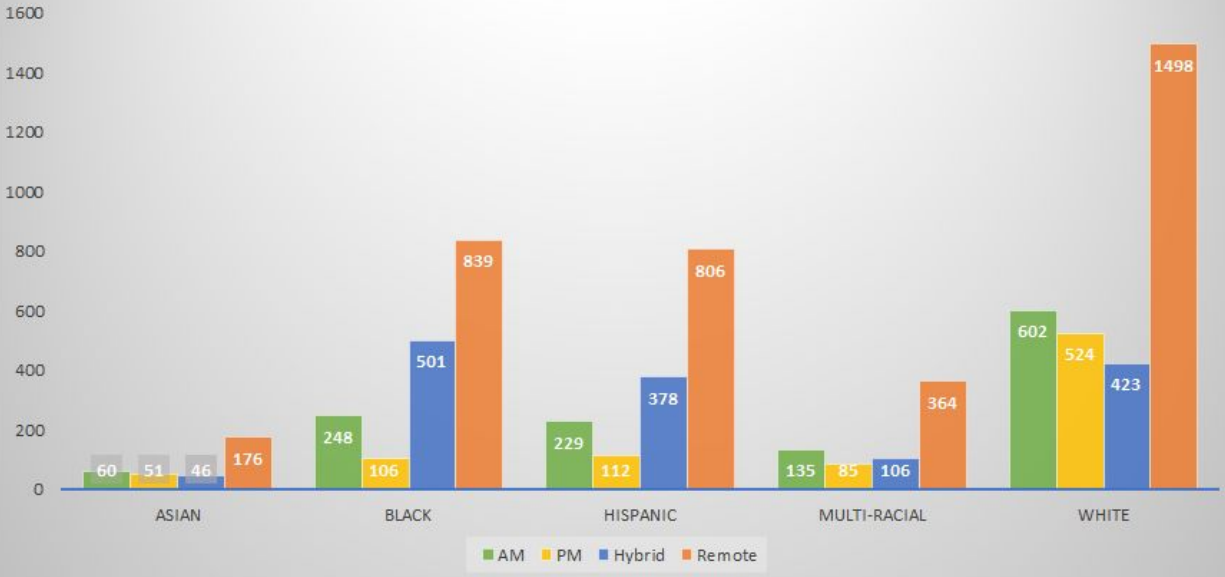
Learning Pathway Data Tables and Charts

In this section, we provide districtwide learning preferences by pathway, districtwide learning preferences by ethnicity, and learning preferences and pathways by school. Charts below show the numbers of students in the learning sessions.

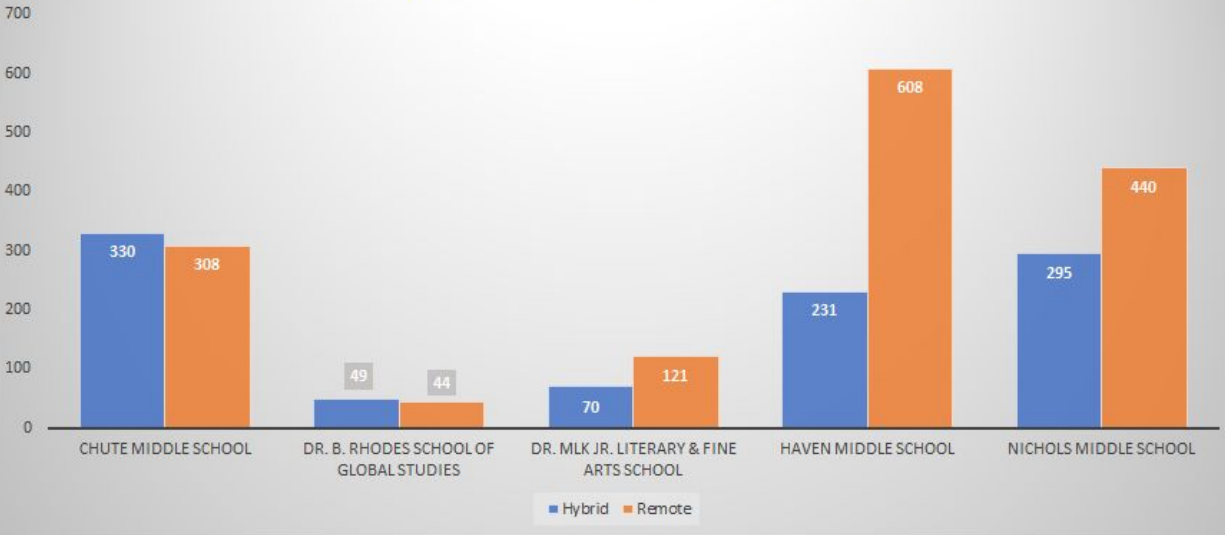
Important information concerning aggregation of data: In order to protect the confidentiality of students, data is aggregated; any subgroups having fewer than ten students is suppressed to ensure non-disclosure and mitigate potential identification of individual students.



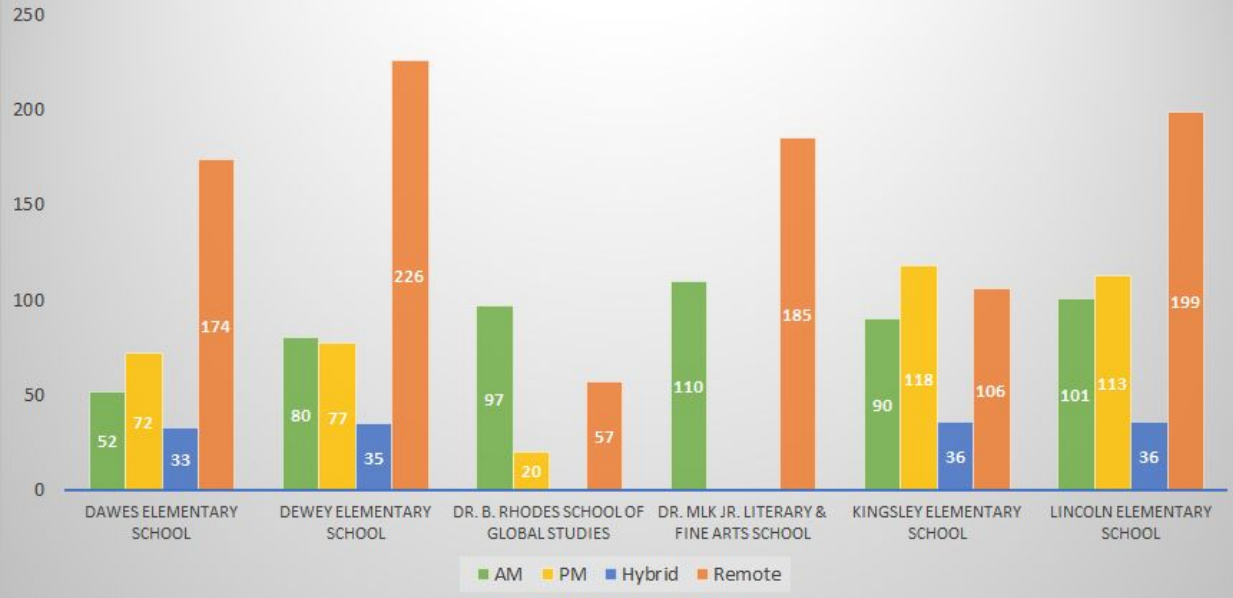
Learning Session Placement - Race/Ethnicity



Learning Session Placement - Middle Schools



Learning Session Placement - Elementary Schools [1]



Learning Session Placement - Elementary Schools [2]

