

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

February 26, 2021

What's On My Mind (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- IDPH has provided a projection for the next three weeks on vaccine distribution, there is no anticipation of an increase in quantities
- The City will need to continue current rollout procedures
- Daniel Biss has been elected to be the next Mayor of Evanston, effective May 11th, and transition preparations are currently underway

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

- The region remains in phase four - Revitalization
- The test positivity rate for Region 10 is at 3.9%
- Hospital admissions have continued to decrease, over the last ten days, and ICU bed availability continues to increase, currently at 26%
- The infection rate has a slight increase to .83%
- In Evanston the 7 day moving average is less than 12 cases per day
- The positivity rate is at 3.5%
- Total confirmed cases are slightly under 3,900 cases in Evanston, there are 200 residents confirmed to have the virus, and the fatality rate is at 2.85%
- The long-term care facilities metrics continue to look positive. There was one new staff cases and zero resident cases last week
- The City's Health Department is working diligently to get long-term and congregate care facilities vaccinated

Meeting Spotlight: Mars Rover Exploration (Douglas J. Ellison, MSL Engineering Camera Team Lead, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory)

- The Jet Propulsion Laboratory is one of a dozen labs around the country
- Began as a small research group originating from Cal-Tech
- JPL is the nation's leading experts in building robots for exploration where there will be no human presence yet
- A few projects JPL is responsible for are:
 - The Voyager Spacecraft that explored half of Uranus and Neptune
 - The Viking Program was the first successful landing on Mars
 - The earliest mission to the moon and other flybys of other planets
- Curiosity Rovers act as a test pilot for the actual rover vehicle that will be sent to Mars for exploration
- A team of 400 scientist team members and 100 engineering team members monitor, write commands and perform maintenance on the vehicle

- The Engineering Camera team is responsible for taking photos of the surface, record the topography of the land and identify science targets for further exploration
- There are two major components of operating a spacecraft for exploration - “Down Link” and “Up Link”. The Down Link operation receives data from the spacecraft and Up Link receives request from the science team to plan activity commands
- There are no staff members physically present at JPL since the beginning of the pandemic
- There are 152 remote planning shifts, 336 days of rover activity, driven 1 ¾ miles, and have upgraded software for further activity
- Please visit NASA’s You-Tube channel to view the landing coverage
- Future exploration for the Rover one month from now will involve a small helicopter to be deployed on the surface to potentially take flight for the first time from the surface of another planet
- For additional information please contact review this links: The largest color 360 yet returned by Perseverance
[:https://mars.nasa.gov/news/8873/nasas-perseverance-rover-gives-high-definition-panoramic-view-of-landing-site/](https://mars.nasa.gov/news/8873/nasas-perseverance-rover-gives-high-definition-panoramic-view-of-landing-site/)
 Landing footage from multiple cameras : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4czjS9h4Fpg>

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Mary Alvarado)
 - 4 positive patients, 1 patient in ICU not vented, and 4 PUIs
 - The overall positivity rate is 5.5%
 - Working on the Floral Heart Project
 - Continuing to partner with the City for the vaccine rollout
- Amita St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
 - 5 positive patients, 7 PUIs, and no patients on ventilation
 - Continuing to partner with the City for the vaccine rollout effort
 - To date, Amita St. Francis has administered over 5,000 vaccinations

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- Vaccine rollout efforts have cause a significant reduction in positive cases of the virus
- Evanston’s Health Department recommends local Providers achieve a vaccination rate of at least 80%
- The working group will have meetings on a biweekly basis, due to the significant decrease in cases
- IDPH and the City’s health department will share updates with group participants as needed

Private Non-Profit (Maricar Ramos)

- The vaccine public awareness group is meeting weekly
- Currently reviewing drafts for the vaccine one-pager

- Determining distribution sites for the vaccine information once it's completed
- Looking for funding proposal for the public awareness campaign
- Working on compiling promotion videos featuring minority community leaders to engage Black and Latinx communities to receive the vaccine
- Planning a vaccine literature drop off

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Rapid testing program went live this week in conjunction with Abbott Laboratories
- Performed 15,000 test this week for the campus population
- Slight uptick in the undergrad community due to returning population
- Continuing to work closely with the City on vaccine preparedness

Education (Eric Witherspoon / Devon Horton)

- Hybrid learning has begun and all is well
- ETHS educators are in need of vaccines

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- The House is expected to pass the Democrats' \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 stimulus, but the U.S. Senate parliamentarian said Thursday that the \$15 minimum wage provision proposed as a part of the latest COVID-19 pandemic relief package is not appropriate for inclusion. Multiple votes are expected, and votes will occur late into the evening.

Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)

- New PPP program is open to businesses now with fewer than 20 employees. Funding availability will be for two weeks
- Constituents with a federally-backed mortgage may be eligible for one year deferment. More information is available on Senator Fine's website
- Mass vaccination site opened today at the United Center in Chicago March 10th will be the start date for administering vaccinations at this site
- There is an additional vaccine site at New Trier High School beginning with first responders and the group following will be educators

Robyn Gabel's Office (Christian Sorenson)

- Continuing to manage many constituent cases on IDES and other benefits
- Placed an inquiry to the state Caucus liaison office to learn methodology around when additional vaccines will be distributed

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz)

- No update

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)

- March 3rd will be the deadline for paying the first property tax installment for Cook County
- There is a sixty day reprieve on all penalties, fines and fees if you don't pay by the deadline

Business (Roger Sosa)

- Finalizing the launch of an all Evanston Gift Card program
- Preparing a summary document of activities for the past 12 months

Mental Health (Christine Somervil)

- Working on the Floral Heart project
- Distributing the second education flyer on services in both English and Spanish
- There will be a new work group established to address issues concerning youth
- On April 14, there will be a program on trauma responses with the Institute of the Arts
- On April 22, there will be a virtual resource fair hosted by EPL targeting the Latinx community

Faith-Based (Rev Nabors)

- Planning an Interfaith worship service for March 15th
- Invitations are extended to all houses of worship and members of the community
- Detail zoom information will be forthcoming

Next Meeting: March 5 at 1:30 p.m.