

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

March 5, 2021

What's On My Mind (Mayor Steve Hagerty)

- There should be an increase in vaccine quantity in Evanston based on IDPH reporting
- The three week projection indicates there should be 900 to 1,400 doses available
- The State and the County are preparing mass vaccination sites to serve people
- These sites will have the capacity to perform five to ten thousand vaccinations per day
- The United Center in Chicago will be designated as a Federal site for vaccinations
- Currently Evanston residents are excluded from the United Center site because there is a certified Health Department established in Evanston
- IDPH is collaborating with Cook County to include Evanston residents due to the lack of vaccine supply available in Evanston

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

- Evanston's positivity rate has increased slightly above 4%
- Factors increase the spike are outbreaks among younger people (college and high school)
- Will continue to establish public health protocols
- Region 10 remains in phase 4
- Suburban Cook County's positivity rate is 3.4% the City of Chicago's is 2.9%
- Hospital admissions have continued to decrease, over the last ten days, and ICU bed availability continues to increase
- The infection rate has a slight increase to .94%
- In Evanston the 7 day moving average is less than 10 cases per day
- The positivity rate is at 3.3% and has decreased
- In February there were 22,000 tests performed
- Total confirmed cases are slightly under 4,000 cases in Evanston, there are 178 residents currently infected
- The long-term care facilities metrics continue to look positive. There were five new staff cases and two resident cases last week
- Today there are first and second doses scheduled at the Levy Center. Educators included.
- The total number of vaccines administered were 250 to 260 for educators
- Next week there will be second doses administered to congregate homes not included in the CVS / Walgreens partnership
- The City's methodology for administering the limited vaccines is to focus on residents with severe complications and older residents
- There is a data sharing page available at www.cityofevanston.org/vaccines
- Working on getting data for Evanston residents who've been vaccinated outside of the City

Meeting Spotlight: Covid-19 Relief Bill / Rescue Act (U.S. Representative, Jan Schakowsky, IL 9th Congressional District)

- Under the new administration, funding should be distributed soon
- The breakdown is as follows:
 - The State of Illinois will receive \$7.5 billion dollars
 - Cook County will receive \$1 billion dollars
 - The City of Evanston is scheduled to receive \$46 million dollars
- Items appear to look positive in the Senate
- The Covid Relief Bill also includes \$113 million dollars for elementary/secondary education
- \$7.6 billion for emergency connectivity fund for issues with hardware for hospitals, schools and libraries
- \$40 billion dollars will be allotted from the bill for housing assistance to aid with homeless
- \$5 billion dollars will be allotted for utility assistance
- \$10 billion dollars for homeowner assistance to aid with payments on mortgages
- For healthcare the bill provides roughly \$46 billion dollars to implement a national strategy for covid-19 testing, tracing, and vaccine distribution
- The CDC will receive \$7.5 billion dollars to aid with vaccine availability
- Nursing Home strike forces have been allotted \$250 million dollars in case of breakouts
- Food security SNAP benefits have increased by 15%, WIC benefits will have \$800 million dollars allotted and \$37 million dollars to coverage food shortages in underserved areas
- The pandemic electronic benefit transfer will ensure school lunches to children
- \$39 million for child care and development and \$1 billion dollars for Head Start programs
- The PPP program will receive \$7.25 billion dollars
- The Bill also directs the SBA (Small Business Administration) to have clear guidelines for applications for PPP
- The Economic Injury Disaster loan will have \$25 billion dollars under the SBA to assist restaurants and bars
- This bill is also called the Rescue Act which will be followed by the Build Back Better Infrastructure plan
- Under the infrastructure plan there will be green job opportunities, raising the minimum wage, and strengthening union jobs

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
 - 14 confirmed cases, 3 patients in ICU, and 1 vented
 - The Floral Heart Project was a huge success
 - Performing second dose vaccines today, not enough doses for the Wednesday
 - Planning a week of remembrance for all patients impacted by Covid-19
- Amita St. Francis (Martin Siglin)
 - Metrics are decreasing
 - 2 confirmed cases, 9 PUIs, and 0 vented

- Amita has established six vaccination sites
- Continue to await additional doses from the State

Senior Living (Nadim Abi-Antoun)

- The working group will meet every other week
- Collaborating with the Evanston health department on guidelines for testing and relaxing restrictions for Providers
- Coordinating the administration of the second dosage for employees
- Participated in the Floral Heart project, it was very successful

Private Non-Profit (Maricar Ramos)

- The vaccine working group has agreed to present drafts of two 1-page documents for public awareness
- Raised ideas for vaccine promotion videos and reaching out to local videographers
- The City and NU are assisting with funding for the video project
- The City's Health Department staff continues to answer questions regarding the vaccine
- The Summer Youth employment program is no requiring a social security number to participate in activities

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- In the last ten days there has been roughly 21,000 test performed
- There have been 62 positive students identified
- Currently at .3% positivity rate
- Noticing smaller clusters of students in study groups and dinner parties but overall behavior is compliant
- The seven day average is 4 cases
- On campus Northwestern can support 300 to 500 vaccines per day

Education (Eric Witherspoon / Andalib Khelghati)

- ETHS will be going to the hybrid model after Spring Break
- District 65 has roughly 405 staff members who have received the vaccine
- The return to classes is going well

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- As the one-year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic nears, ComEd recognizes that families and businesses are still dealing with continued financial challenges and urges customers with past-due balances to call them so that they can be connected to available financial assistance. Any customer experiencing a hardship or difficulty with their electric bill should call ComEd immediately at 1-800-334-7661 (1-800-EDISON-1), Monday

through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to learn more on how to apply. Information on each of these options is available at ComEd.com/PaymentAssistance.

Laura Fine's Office (Shiva M)

- Performing a vaccination awareness campaign for constituents
- Please see flyer attached

Robyn Gabel's Office (Christian Sorenson)

- Targeted vaccination programs IDPH are working on
- Still investing disparity in distribution efforts

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

- Please contact the representative's office for details on people not receiving benefits
- Continuing to investigate claims for constituents

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)

- No update

Business (Katherine Gotsick)

- The business taskforce is drafting a report that will provide a summary of efforts so far with the business community, as well as recommendations to consider during reemergence
- The Main Dempster Mile supports House Bill 281, instead of Bill 188 regarding TIF funds for Economic Development rescue efforts
- Visit keepevanstonawesome.com to support women owned businesses for WHM
- Last week some restaurants opened indoor dining at 50% capacity
- Implementing soon an Evanston Gift Card back by Visa

Mental Health (Christine Somervil)

- The Floral Heart Project went well
- Tuesday March 9th will be the next mental health program at 7pm on the topic of Understanding Childhood Grief and Trauma
- The monthly meetings will continue the second Tuesday of each month
- For additional information on the meetings please visit www.epl.org

Faith-Based (Rabbi London)

- Planning a memorial service for March 15th. It will be an interfaith service
- The Floral Heart Project was a great comfort to all, appreciated the participation

Next Meeting: March 12th at 1:30 p.m.