

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

March 12, 2021

What's On My Mind (City Manager, Erika Storlie)

- The American Rescue Act was signed into law yesterday. A monumental piece of legislation assisting many communities around the nation
- Anticipating more examination around details of the bill and what it provides Evanston
- Looking forward to conversation with the community about moving forward with the bill provides for local assistance. More to come soon.
- Great appreciation goes out to the federal, and state legislators for their assistance in helping this come to fruition
- Residents continue to struggle with vaccine availability at other facilities
- The City's health department has had a wonderful response to the pandemic
- There's been a small allocation of vaccine doses within the next few weeks
- The City continues to work on answers concerning vaccine methodology from the State

Brief Prior Day's Situation Report (Acting Deputy City Manager, Sharon A. Johnson)

- Region 10 remains in phase 4 the revitalization phase
- Suburban Cook County's positivity rate has decreased slightly to 3.2% down from 3.4%. Chicago's rate also continues to fall and is currently at 2.7% down from 2.9% last week
- Hospital admissions have continued to decrease, over the last ten days, currently 325 patients, and ICU bed availability continues to increase - 26% up from 25%
- The infection rate has a slight increase to .99% up from .94%
- In Evanston the 7-day moving average is less than 10 cases/day, currently 7 cases/day
- The seven day moving average positivity rate is at .67%
- To date there have been 9,049 test performed
- Total confirmed cases in Evanston are slightly over 4,000, there are 164 residents currently infected, and metrics reflect a total of 114 fatalities
- Skokie is showing more confirmed cases 5,544 and Chicago is showing 248, 283
- The long-term care facilities metrics continue to be stable. There were zero new staff cases and seven resident cases last week
- Total doses administered from the City so far have been 9,948 and doses distributed to Community Partners to date are 7,030
- 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 cityofevanston.org/vaccines
- The city is continuing to work on getting data for Evanston residents who've been vaccinated outside of the City

Meeting Spotlight: Vaccine Distribution Public Awareness Campaign - Kristin Meyer, Community Health Specialist, City of Evanston

- This public awareness campaign communication is both a City and Community-wide collaboration

- The goal of the public awareness campaign is to make sure the community has access to accurate information regarding vaccines
- A few of the working group's responsibilities were:
 - Identify and address barriers to vaccine access with a specific focus on Black and Brown community members
 - Coordinate and disseminate messaging to ensure residents have correct information on getting registered and to know when residents qualify for a vaccine
 - To assist residents in learning more details about the vaccines from trusted sources
- The group has developed a simple one-page flyer on how to sign up for the vaccine.
- The flyer will be translated into multiple languages (attached)
- The flyer orients residents to the process. No documentation will be required
- An additional flyer is also being developed to combat various myths to address common misconceptions regarding the vaccine
- Collaborating with Leadership Evanston to distribute flyers to businesses, and community groups who need copies obtain them
- Also creating short vaccine promotion videos utilizing community leaders communication why the leaders are getting their vaccines
- Future planning involves taking vaccine clinics on the road within the community and administer vaccines at community sites such as churches, gymnasiums, where community members feel comfortable and safe
- Continuing to stay abreast of concerns residents are having about the latest updates on the vaccines and making sure concerns are addressed

Hospitals

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Matt Plofsky)
 - 20 positive patients, 6 ICU and 7 PUIs
 - The positivity rate is 9.6% relatively steady
 - Hoping to have an increase in doses next week for administration to residents
 - Began vaccinations for 65+ years and older in early Feb
 - Team members in phase 1A will continue to have access to the vaccines
 - There's a very robust education campaign in place for resident who continue to be slightly more apprehensive regarding vaccine administration
- Amita St. Francis (Martin Siglin)
 - 6 positive patients, 6 PUIs, and none on ventilation
 - Operating at pre-covid levels having excess capacity
 - Strong safety procedures are currently in place
 - Patients should attend to chronic illnesses
 - Continuing to partner with the Evanston Health Department to administer vaccinations
 - Currently doing second dose clinics this week
 - There are six sites established to provide roughly 6,000 doses per week

Senior Living (Mary)

- 80% decline in cases nationwide for long-term care as a result of the vaccine
- Evanston Providers are reflecting higher than the national average for vaccine care
- Providers communicated efforts around using amenity spaces again within communities

Private Non-Profit (Amarin Young)

- No report

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- Over the last week, performed over 22,000 test
- .2% positivity rate, seven day average is four new cases
- Finals week is next week and the Spring break
- Students will be tested upon return to the campus
- NU has 600 to 700 doses per day ready for administration for student health operations
- Once the vaccine supply is available the campus is set up for execution

Education (Eric Witherspoon / Raphael Obafemi)

- District 65 enjoyed the collaboration with the Evanston Department of Health around contact tracing and making sure educators are vaccinated
- Concluded the third week of in-person learning
- Events and activities have been going well with no incidents to share
- District 202 secured a contact to have educators vaccinated
- Announcing next week a mass vaccination for all educators and school staff

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- In his first prime-time address as president, President Biden told the states he wants all adults in the U.S. made eligible for vaccines by May 1. This does not mean all eligible adults will receive vaccines by that date, but will be made eligible.
- **COVID relief package signed into law**
President Joe Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package on Thursday afternoon. The plan sends direct payments of up to \$1,400, extends a \$300 per week unemployment insurance supplement, expands the child tax credit and puts funds into vaccine distribution. It all provides badly needed funds to our local governments as well as a Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for states.
- **Looking ahead – infrastructure package**
House Democrats introduced an infrastructure package investing in climate, broadband and public health, as Democrats move into the next phase of their economic recovery effort following passage of the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders released the package that would provide more than \$312 billion in funding for infrastructure projects under the panel's jurisdiction.

Laura Fine's Office (Laura Fine)

- The Mental Behavioral Health Committee is working on determining a post-covid landscape and what that looks like throughout the state
- Any questions or suggestions for the committee please contact our offices

Robyn Gabel's Office

- No report

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

- Continuing to investigate claims for constituents from IDES thru an email scam
- If residents receive an email that appears to add you to a list for benefits worth an additional \$900.00 per week, please contact the representative's office immediately
- Received notice for establishment who have liquor licenses expiring on the 31st, the Liquor Control Commission is extending renewal dates thru June 30th

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Adam Newman)

- Cook County Rental Assistance Program began yesterday 3/11 and goes through April 2nd
- Assistance is for residents impacted by Covid-19
- If you live in suburban Cook County and need help paying your rent and bills due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for @cookcountygov new rental assistance program. Learn more and apply at [cookcountyil.gov/recovery](https://www.cookcountyil.gov/recovery).

Business (Roger Sosa)

- In the process of assembling a summary document for all the work completed over the last year and recommendations going forward on providing a safe environment for shopping
- Anticipating workers returning to the offices to increase downtown shopping revenues
- Continuing to provide services and information to local businesses

Mental Health (Christine Somervil)

- Identified new workings groups to manage the Latinx and the Youth demographics
- Concerned about the lack of support for teens currently not in school
- Currently reaching out to determine response to assisting these two demographic groups
- Dr. Daria Winly was introduced to the group,, the new Director at the Family Institute, Betty D. Harris Center

Faith-Based (Rev Nabors)

- Evanston Clergy wants to invite the public to the interfaith service happening Monday 3/15
- The service will be held in recognition of one full year of struggle with the pandemic and lost and hope for renewal
- The service will be from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to join on Zoom or Facebook Live through Beth Emet Synagogue
- Holiday season of Passover and Easter will be celebrated at the end of the month and house of worship will reopen in some hybrid form for at least 25% capacity

- Clergy will speak to the Health and Human Services Director on how to safely reconvene services for Evanston

Next Meeting: March 19 at 1:30 p.m.