

# Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

March 19, 2021

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

- Cook County announced residents can register for the Cook County mass vaccination sites. Residents need to be eligible to qualify for their individual category (ie. 1A, 1B).
- The United Center will reopen to registrants outside of Chicago
- The Evanston Public Health dept has been working with IDPH to obtain information on vaccine data for the City
- 88% of Evanston residents 65 years of age and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine. 10,250 residents have received one dose and 6,500 residents have received two doses.
- The Health department is estimating everyone over the age of 65 who would like to be vaccinated will receive care by the end of March
- One-third of all residents 16 years old and above have received at least one dose
- Walgreens and the Schools have developed a partnership to get educators vaccinated

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

- The region continue to be in phase four (revitalization)
- IDPH and the Governor's Office are speaking of potentially moving some regions into phase five, which would be full recovery
- Precautions will remain in place as the metrics allow consideration for moving forward
- Region 10, the positivity rate has been 3.5%
- Hospital admissions continue to decrease
- Surge capacity of 24% bed capacity in the hospitals
- Chicago's positivity rate is 2.9% and there remains 25% ICU bed capacity
- The infection rate is 1.0%
- The seven day moving average is 5 cases and the positivity rate is a .6%
- The number of tests are declining due to the vaccine impact
- Evanston has 4,051 positive cases, and 144 residents are ill
- New cases for the long-term care facilities are zero. There were no staff or resident cases reported
- There have been no increase in the number of vaccines received, however the City continues to do first doses event and second dose events
- The Governor did report 4/11 targeting vaccine sites for all other categories

**Meeting Spotlight: Community Response & Recovery** - Charles Walgreen (CEO & President of Walgreen Health Solutions), Dr. Eric Witherspoon (Superintendent District 202), and Dr. Devon Horton (Superintendent District 65)

- Charles R. Walgreen - honored to help assist the community
- Educators are crucial for teaching the children and being on the front line, but all teachers returned to the classroom due to the safety concerned attached to the virus

- Children were also unable to attend school due to the shortage of vaccine doses
- Walgreen Health Solutions understands the benefit of providing the educators and students a safe learning experience in the classroom
- Walgreen Health Solution was happy to collaborate with the City of Evanston and the school districts to get educators in the community vaccinated
- Sunday May 21st vaccination event is possible for all who need to be involved
- Eric Witherspoon - very grateful Walgreen Health Solutions was attune to the needs of the community
- Working with Dr. Hack and Catherine Walgreen proved to be invaluable
- WHS recognized the need to respond to teachers not being vaccinated
- Many thanks to Mayor Hagerty for this resource
- Walgreen began to assemble an event for each educator in D 202 and D 65 employee who still needed vaccinations
- Devon Horton - D65 has had teachers in school since the middle of February without the vaccine and receiving it wherever they were able to obtain it to return safely
- This Sunday's event will allow each educator who is interested, weather working in person or remotely, to receive the Johnson & Johnson one shot dose
- D65 is very grateful for the collaboration of the Walgreens staff to make this event possible

### **Hospitals**

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
  - Northshore has experienced twice as many virus outbreaks over the last week
  - 32 cases increase in ICU patients, and 2 on ventilators
  - Safety precautions to remain in place even though residents are getting vaccinated
  - Continuing to monitor the situation around receiving additional vaccines over the next three weeks
  - Obtaining 3,000 doses next week, supply will continue to be unsure for a few weeks
  - Continue to work with the City to assist as much as possible
- Amita St. Francis (Martin Siglin)
  - 5 confirmed cases, 1 patient in ICU, and none on ventilation
  - Recently relaxed the visitor guidelines
  - Partnering with the Evanston Health Dept, Amita has managed to administer 3,285 doses to over 1,600 residents
  - Continuing to wait on additional vaccines from the Health dept
  - Currently able to vaccine up to 400 residents per day

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

- No report

### **Private Non-Profit (Amarin Young)**

- The flyer provides information on the process to register for the vaccine (currently available in English and Spanish) [Please print and distribute](#)

- A vaccine mythbuster vaccine flyer will be available soon, as well as a short video featuring African American and Latino community leaders explaining why they choose to get vaccinated
- The working group also met to review the stimulus package information
- The early childhood population reported seeing more progress regarding access to the vaccination
- The mental health programming series through Evanston Public Library has made significant impact and is much needed among all vulnerable populations
- This Saturday 3/20 the Mayor's Summer Youth Program is hosting a hybrid and virtual job fair at Fleetwood Jourdain. More information is available on the City's website

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

- Metrics continue to look positive
- Less than 2 cases per day is the seven day moving average
- Testing dropped slightly this week to 12,000
- Students will be retested upon entry to the campus after Spring Break

### **Education (Eric Witherspoon / Devon Horton)**

- After ETHS spring break the hybrid classroom experience will conclude

## **Legislators**

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

- **IRS, Treasury disbursed 90 million Economic Impact Payments from the American Rescue Plan**

On March 17, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Bureau of the Fiscal Service announced they have disbursed approximately 90 million Economic Impact Payments from the American Rescue Plan.

The first batch of payments were mostly sent by direct deposit, which some recipients started receiving this past weekend. As of March 18, all recipients of this first batch of direct deposit payments will have access to their funds.

Here is additional information on this first batch of payments:

- These payments began processing on Friday, March 12. Some Americans saw the direct deposit payments as pending or as provisional payments in their accounts before today's official payment date.
- The first batch of payments primarily went to eligible taxpayers who provided direct deposit information on their 2019 or 2020 returns, including people who don't typically file a return but who successfully used the Non-Filers tool on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) last year.
- In total, this first batch included approximately 90 million payments, which are valued at more than \$242 billion.
- The use of direct deposit to issue these payments means that they are being delivered remarkably faster than would otherwise be possible.

- While the majority of payments were delivered by direct deposit, the Treasury mailed roughly 150,000 checks worth approximately \$442 million.
  - Individuals can check the “[Get My Payment](#)” tool on [IRS.gov](#) to see the status of their payments. [Additional information on these Economic Impact Payments](#), along with a [Fact Sheet of Frequently Asked Questions](#), is available on IRS.gov.
- **Tax Day for individuals extended to May 17: Treasury, IRS extend filing and payment deadline**
    - The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced today that the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021.
    - Even with the new deadline, IRS urges taxpayers to consider filing as soon as possible, especially those who are owed refunds. Filing electronically with direct deposit is the quickest way to get refunds,
    - Individual taxpayers do not need to file any forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief.
    - The attached news release - Tax Day for individuals extended to May 17: Treasury, IRS extend filing and payment deadline – has more details.

#### **Laura Fine’s Office (Laura Fine)**

- No report

#### **Robyn Gabel’s Office (Madeline Norris)**

- Learning that constituents are receiving what is needed from IDES. Residents can be referred the representative Gabel’s office if they continue to experience difficulties
- Hosting a virtual tour of the Mandela exhibit, on April 16th at the IL Holocaust Museum
- The Clean Energy Job Act passed out of committee

#### **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz’s Office (Liam Harding)**

- Representative Gong-Gershowitz’s was named the Chairwoman of the House Judicial Civic Committee
- The Teach Act, requiring Asian American history to be taught in school curriculum was passed out of committee this week
- Flick Park in Glenview IL is continuing to perform covid-19 testing to the end of April, and starting March 22nd the district will provide rapid testing
- IDPH has expanded guidelines for those who are eligible under 1B+ to become vaccinated: Higher Education staff, Government workers, and Media employees are eligible 3/22
- Beginning 3/29 the following personnel will be eligible: Trade workers and Religious leaders

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

- REMINDER: 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)**

- Preparing for economic recovery as stores begin to reopen
- Discussing business retention efforts for the downtown business organizations
- Continuing to educate businesses on items such as customer expectations regarding the pandemic protocol that should be followed
- Monitoring legislative effort at all levels to assist businesses open more easily
- Looking for fresh ways to promote the local businesses. The winter games were very successful as well as the Evanston Gift Card program

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

- Working with the City to continue to create self-help tips in English and Spanish to navigate the pandemic circumstances
- Connected with ETHS Communications team to distribute the “Mental Health is Essential” flyers

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

- The interfaith service on Monday 3/15 was well attended from 15 different houses of worship
- The service was held in recognition of one full year of struggle with the pandemic and lost and hope for renewal at Beth Emet Synagogue
- The feedback from the respective congregations was very positive

**Next Meeting: March 26 at 1:30 p.m.**



# How Do I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

If you live or work in Evanston, you can get vaccinated! Here's how it works



## Step 1. Tell Us You Want It!

- To get on the City's vaccination list, fill out a Vaccination Contact Form at [cityofevanston.org/vaccine](https://cityofevanston.org/vaccine) or call/text **847-448-4311**.
- The form will ask you a little bit about yourself to determine when you're eligible.
- Once you've submitted the form, you'll get a confirmation within a week that we've received it.



## Step 2. Wait!

- Wait for the City to contact you. The City does not control how many vaccines it receives from the state. The process will take time, so please be patient!



## Step 3. Schedule Your Vaccination!

- The City will contact you by email or phone to make an appointment.



## Step 4. Get Vaccinated!

- Show up for your appointment 5 minutes early.
- If you live in Evanston, bring proof of address. If you work in Evanston, bring proof of employment.
- There is no cost to receive the vaccine. Health insurance is not required.
- After getting the vaccine, you still need to continue to mask, social distance, and wash your hands regularly.



# ¿Cómo Obtengo La Vacuna COVID-19?

Si vive o trabaja en Evanston,  
¡puede vacunarse! Así es como funciona:



## Paso 1. ¡Díganos que la quiere!

- Para inscribirse en la lista de vacunación de la Ciudad, completé el formulario de Interés de Vacunación en [cityofevanston.org/vaccine](https://cityofevanston.org/vaccine) o llame al **847-448-4311**. El formulario esta disponible en español y nuestros agentes también hablan español.
- El formulario le pedirá que nos cuente un poco sobre usted para determinar cuándo es elegible.
- Una vez enviado el formulario, recibirá una confirmación dentro de una semana que lo hemos recibido.



## Paso 2. ¡Espere!

- Espere a que la Ciudad se comunique con usted. La Ciudad no controla cuántas vacunas recibe del Estado. El proceso llevará tiempo, por favor tenga paciencia.



## Paso 3. ¡Programe su vacuna!

- La Ciudad se comunicará con usted por correo electrónico o por teléfono para programar una cita.



## Paso 4. ¡Vacúnese!

- Preséntese a su cita 5 minutos antes.
- Si vive en Evanston, traiga comprobante de domicilio. Si trabaja en Evanston, traiga prueba de empleo. Matrículas consulares son aceptadas.
- No hay ningún costo para recibir la vacuna. No se requiere seguro médico ni número de seguro social.
- Después de recibir la vacuna, debe continuar usando el cubreboca, mantener el distanciamiento social y lavarse las manos con regularidad.