

# Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

April 16, 2021

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

- Currently discussing the Mayor's pandemic taskforce with City Manager Storlie and Mayor Elect Biss to determine continuing the taskforce and evolving it to accommodate the changing needs of the community as we move into recovery
- The "whole of community response" is very important and a nice job has been done on the response to the pandemic
- The upcoming focus will be recovery
- Sector Leaders should consult with working groups to share additional thoughts around the Mayor's pandemic taskforce

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

- The seven day positivity rate is 5.7% for Region 10. This is an increase from last week
- Hospitalizations have also increased. ICU bed availability has decreased to 18%
- Statewide metrics reflect 70% of residents 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine
- IL 47% of residents 65 and older have received at least one dose of vaccine
- The infection rate is stable
- The seven day moving average for cases is 10
- The local positivity rate is less than one percent
- As the Health department continues to monitor the situation, there are no significant increases in the metrics to cause alarm
- Tests administered are roughly 23,000 to 25,000 for the area
- Vaccination rate for Evanston is 94% of residents 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine
- 71% of residents are fully vaccinated
- Overall population metrics for 16 and older is 59% vaccinated with at least one dose
- 31% of Evanston residents are fully vaccinated
- The push for education on the vaccine and its impact will continue for residents who were initially reluctant to receive it

## **Meeting Spotlight: None**

## **Hospitals**

- Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
  - 53 confirmed cases, ICU has 11 patients
  - Administered 1,600 first dose of the vaccine this week, and 3,500 second doses
  - Within the next few weeks the hospital will administer between five and six thousand first and second doses per week

- Will participate in the vaccine clinic held at St. Nicholas Church in conjunction with the City's Health department
- Continuing conversations around future partnerships and collaboration with the City's health department over the next few months
- Amita St. Francis (Martin Siglin)
  - 5 to 10 confirmed cases, reduction in ICU beds
  - Urging the community to establish continued basic care with their primary physicians
  - Vaccination frequency has decreased, due to supply issues, continuing to wait on direction from the City

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

- No report

#### **Private Non-Profit (Maricar Ramos)**

- Received a lot of positive feedback around the event at Second Baptist Church
- The working group continues to work on the Spanish language video with Latinx community leaders
- Cradle to Career advocates are working with the Early Childhood Council on vaccine outreach
- Vaccine outreach flyer was translated into Spanish

#### **Northwestern University (Dave Davis)**

- Metrics are stable
- The seven day moving average of cases is 3.8
- Surveillance testing is yielding .2%
- Low occupancy in quarantine housing
- Focusing on vaccines
- IDPH distributed information regarding student vaccines.  
<http://dph.illinois.gov/news/illinois-department-public-health-announces-college-vaccination-days-encourage-students-receive>
- Continuing to also coordinate with the State on further details
- There continues to be a supply and demand disconnect

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

- Currently in week eight of students returning for in-person learning. 4,000 students are attending school
- At the board meeting on April 26, District 65 will share the draft for the fall return to school
- Beginning next will District 65 will be participating in a curriculum audit to review written and teaching curriculum
- 164 ETHS Juniors participated in the SAT test on Tuesday 4/13. Everyone practiced pandemic protocol

## **Legislators**

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

- **Johnson & Johnson vaccine**

The CDC and FDA have recommended a pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine in the United States out of an abundance of caution, effective Tuesday, April 13. People who have received the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine within the past three weeks who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath should seek medical care right away.

- **President Biden**

The Biden administration said on Friday, April 16, that it is giving states \$1.7 billion to track Covid-19 variants. The money, from the Covid-19 relief package enacted last month, will help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and governors monitor emerging variants by boosting the country's capacity to sequence the virus's genome and detect mutations, the White House said.

- **IRS**

- IRS, Treasury on Friday, April 16, disbursed 2 million more Economic Impact Payments under the American Rescue Plan; VA beneficiaries bring the total to approximately 159 million as payments continue. This latest batch of payments began processing on Friday, April 9, with an official payment date of April 14. In total, it includes nearly 2 million payments with a value of more than \$3.4 billion.
- Getting stimulus payments to the homeless, the rural poor and other historically under-served groups is a challenge. The IRS does not have information to reach these groups of people in our tax administration records. The attached [IRS News Release](#) contains information you and others can use to help residents access the IRS and get Economic Impact Payments to eligible people who might not otherwise receive one.

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

- No report this week

### **Robyn Gabel's Office**

- No report this week

### **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Caryn Valdez)**

- Monitoring constituents on getting help to locate vaccine centers

### **Commissioner Larry Suffredin's Office (Larry Suffredin)**

- No report

### **Business (Roger Sosa)**

- This week the business working group completed the final edits for the Evanston Business Recovery Plan
  - The draft will be presented to the City's Economic Development Committee for public discussion of the process within the next few weeks

### **Mental Health (Daria Winley)**

- Trauma webinar went well last week to address issues
- The working group will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month
- Looking to adopt a new platform software for the mental health group to address concerns
- Interfacing with ETHS to create mental health solutions for teens
- The next mental health conversation will be on April 22 at 7 p.m. in Spanish

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

- Ramadan began April 12 for the Muslim community
- Local houses of worship have begun to appoint pandemic task forces to address timelines for reopening for in-person worship services, and will seek direction from the City's Health department
- White House task force officials are reassuring communities they are working on the J&J pause vaccine issue and residents should not be alarmed as the investigation continues

**Next Meeting: Friday, April 23 at 1:30 p.m.**