

Mayor's COVID-19 Community Task Force

Meeting Notes

May 14, 2021

What's On My Mind (Mayor Biss)

- Thank you to the task force committee for welcoming me
- Attendance at the non-profit and mental health taskforce meetings were very beneficial
- The general climate in the community seems to be improving as the state enters the bridge to phase 5
- The estimated outlook for entering phase 5 appears to be June
- Vaccinations are available for ages 12+ on a walk-in basis
- There should be a push to make sure this population is also vaccinated to stay in conjunction with state protocol and to continue the push for recovery

Brief Prior Day's Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)

- The overall metrics for statewide vaccinations are increasing
- 81% of 65 and older residents have at least one dose
- 58% of 16 and older residents have at least one dose
- ICU bed availability is at 23%
- There is a decrease in new hospital admissions
- In Cook County the infection rate continues to drop to .87%
- Evanston's seven day moving average is .55% and the accumulative rate is 2.6%
- Neighboring communities continue to have higher rates and the City of Evanston is doing well, however needs to remain vigilant
- The vaccination rates in Evanston, are doing well, over 80% of the eligible population has had at least one dose
- Over 60% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated
- Efforts should be expanded to continue to reach out to populations who have been left out

Meeting Spotlight: Vaccination Outreach Effort, to Spanish-speaking Residents

- Stephanie Mendoza, City Clerk

- Extremely grateful for the work the Non-profit group performed this past Saturday
- A lot of work has to be done to include the last percentage of Evanston residents who are apprehensive about receiving the vaccinations, or who may not have access to local clinics
- A few barriers to some of the unreached population of residents are:
 - Literacy
 - Technology
- Lessons learned proved there are many activities that performed correctly but also room for improvement.
- The outreach of making phone calls and booking appointments, and texting tickets was crucial and a significant help in this effort

- The walk-in appointments and distribution of flyers also helped
- A few barriers that hinder a few residents in under-represented communities were:
 - Child care
 - Hesitancy to lose work hours
 - Should have more advertising on social media
- Should make an effort for more outreach for the intended second dose
- An effort should be made to contact people via telephone

Hospitals

- **Northshore Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)**
 - 25 confirmed cases, ICU 9 patients, 7 patients on ventilators
 - Close to 6,000 vaccines have been administered per week
 - Determining weather to reduce hours for the clinics over the next 3 to 6 weeks
 - This decision is based on the demand
 - Grateful to the Evanston Department of Health for the outreach efforts Northshore has participated in
 - Five clinics have been held to date
 - There are additional events coming up May 22nd and June 2nd at ETHS
 - Partnering with the City at these two sessions
- **Amita St. Francis (Martin Siglin)**
 - No report

Senior Living (Mary Leary)

- The working group has not met this week
- No report

Private Non-Profit (Maricar Ramos)

- The vaccine working group meets each Monday
- The group will document and share all vaccination opportunities and extend information to the distribution sites
- At the May 8 event, there were 130 people vaccinated
- The working group also discussed vaccination among 12 to 15 years and the strategic outreach needed
- There is video available of community leaders receiving vaccinations as encouragement to others still unsure
- Ideas on input for the American Rescue Plan Act \$46 million dollars estimated to the City of Evanston for distribution and financial assistance to the non-profit community

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)

- The last weeks NU metrics reflect 13 positive covid-19 cases
- Seven day moving average is less than 1%
- Performed slightly over 5,000 vaccines on campus
- Advertised for the Fall vaccines and that generated about 150 sign ups

- A few campus guidelines are relaxed as the university prepares for phase 5

Education (Devon Horton/Eric Witterspoon)

- ETHS will host, on Saturday May 22nd to vaccinate young people in the City of Evanston
- Currently working with Walgreens for operation preparedness
- Anticipating vaccinating over 5,000 students that day
- There will be information to register
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently approved the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for all children age 12 and older. District 65 and ETHS District 202 have partnered with Walgreens to expand the **vaccine clinic that will be held at ETHS on Saturday, May 22 (first dose) and Saturday, June 12 (second dose).**
- Any Evanston public or private school student (including Skokie residents attending District 65), age 12-18, or adult members of their family, may register for the event if they have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine. **Individuals under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.** [Register here.](#)
- Please review the following as it pertains to scheduling a vaccination appointment:
 - Appointments will be scheduled between 8am-4pm.
 - Vaccinations are scheduled on a first come, first served basis.
 - Please use the above registration link to secure an appointment slot for each individual who needs one.
 - Registrants must be able to attend both clinics (May 22 and June 12).
 - After completing the registration form, you will be emailed a copy of your responses. Please keep this email as confirmation of your appointment time. This will be the only confirmation you will receive for both clinics.
 - Once appointment slots are full, the form will no longer accept responses.
 - Review [Pfizer Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers.](#)

Second Dose Appointments

A second dose clinic will be held at ETHS on Saturday, June 12.

- As part of the registration process, registrants will be able to select an appointment time for their second dose on June 12.
- Registrants must attend first and second dose dates or they will be responsible for obtaining the second dose through their doctor, pharmacy, or other provider.

What to Bring to your Appointment

To expedite the check-in process, please bring the following:

- Individuals under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Please **print double-sided and complete the patient consent form** ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)) **in advance** of the clinic. Forms will also be available at the vaccination site on May 22.
- **Bring a printed copy of your ID and insurance card** (on a single sheet of paper). Doing this in advance will expedite check-in, but can also be completed on-site.

- There is no charge for the vaccine and it is available to those without insurance and regardless of immigration status.
- Masks and social distancing are required.

Directions

- ETHS, 1600 Dodge Avenue, Evanston in the Fieldhouse.
- Use Entrance 3 (rear of the building, enter Wildkit Drive from Lake or Church St.)
- Parking: use [Lot 2, 3, or 3A](#)
- You must provide your own transportation to and from the vaccination site.

Vaccine clinic for any student attending ETHS in the 2021-22 school year:

- Dates: June 2 (dose 1) and June 23 (dose 2)
- Hours: 3:00-8:00pm; no appointment needed
- ETHS, 1600 Dodge Ave.
- Fieldhouse (rear of the building; enter Wildkit Drive from Lake or Church St.)
- Parking: [Lot 3 or 3A](#)
- You must provide your own transportation to and from the vaccination site.

Vaccine Information Session on May 18

The [ETHS Medical Advisory Group](#) will host an information session on **Tuesday, May 18 at 6:00pm**. Panelists will offer advice and guidance about vaccinating children age 12 and up. The session will be livestreamed on the [ETHS YouTube](#) channel and will be recorded.

Questions

If you have clinical questions about the vaccine or your child receiving it, please contact their pediatrician or a trusted medical provider. Information about [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#) is available on the CDC website. The Evanston Health and Human Services Department also continues to offer information and resources about [COVID Vaccinations](#).

Estimados estudiantes y padres/tutores:

La Administración de Alimentos y Fármacos de los EE.UU. (FDA, por sus siglas en inglés y los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés) aprobaron recientemente el uso de la vacuna Pfizer COVID-19 para todos los niños mayores de 12 años. Como parte de este esfuerzo, el Distrito 65 y el Distrito 202 se han asociado con Walgreens para ampliar la **clínica de vacunas que se llevará a cabo el 22 de mayo en ETHS** el sábado 22 de mayo (primera dosis) y el sábado 12 de junio (segunda dosis).

Cualquier estudiante de escuelas públicas o privadas de Evanston (incluyendo los estudiantes de Skokie que asisten al Distrito 65), con edades de 12 a 18 años, o miembros adultos de su familia, pueden registrarse para el evento si aún no han recibido la vacuna COVID-19. **Las**

personas menores de 18 años deben estar acompañadas por un padre o tutor legal. Por favor, regístrense utilizando el siguiente enlace:

ENLACE: <https://www.jotform.com/form/211334240722038>

(Por favor observen que el formulario puede verse en español seleccionando la opción 'español' en la esquina superior derecha.)

Por favor, revisen lo siguiente en relación con la programación de una cita de vacunación:

- Las citas se programarán entre las 8:00 a.m. y las 4:00 p.m.
- Las vacunas se programan por orden de llegada.
- Por favor, utilice el enlace de registro en la parte superior para asegurar un espacio para citas para cada persona que lo necesite.
- Las personas inscritas deben asistir a ambas clínicas (22 de mayo y 12 de junio).
- Después de llenar el formulario de registro, se les enviará por correo electrónico una copia de sus respuestas. Por favor, conserve este correo electrónico como confirmación de la hora de su cita. Esta será la única confirmación que recibirá para ambas clínicas.
- Una vez que los espacios para citas estén llenos, el formulario ya no aceptará respuestas. Sin embargo, continúe actualizando el formulario, ya que es posible que se agreguen más citas, con base en la demanda.
- Revise [la hoja de datos de Pfizer para beneficiarios y cuidadores](#).

Citas de segunda dosis

Se llevará a cabo una clínica para la segunda dosis en ETHS el sábado 12 de junio.

- Como parte del proceso de registro, las personas inscritas deberán elegir una hora para la cita de su segunda dosis el 12 de junio.
- Las personas inscritas deben asistir a las fechas de la primera y segunda dosis o serán responsables de obtener la segunda dosis a través de su médico, farmacia u otro proveedor.

Qué llevar a su cita

Para acelerar el proceso de registro, por favor, traiga lo siguiente:

- Las personas menores de 18 años deben estar acompañadas por un padre o tutor legal.
- Por favor, **imprima por ambos lados y conteste este formulario de consentimiento del paciente** ([inglés](#) / [español](#)) **por anticipado**. Los formularios también estarán disponibles en el lugar donde se llevará a cabo la vacunación el día 22 de mayo.
- **Traiga una copia impresa de su identificación y de su tarjeta de seguro** (en una sola hoja de papel). Hacer esto con anticipación agilizará el registro, pero también se puede completar en el lugar de la clínica (ETHS).
- No hay cargo por la vacuna y está disponible para quienes no tengan seguro e independientemente de la situación migratoria.
- Se requieren cubrebocas y distanciamiento físico.

Instrucciones

- ETHS, 1600 Dodge Ave., Fieldhouse
- Utilice la entrada 3 (en la parte posterior del edificio, entre por Wildkit Drive desde la calle Lake o desde la calle Church)
- Estacionamiento: [Utilice los lotes/espacios 2, 3 o 3A](#)
- Debe proporcionar su propio transporte hacia y desde el lugar de la vacunación.

Clínica de vacunas para cualquier estudiante que asiste a ETHS en el año escolar 2021-22:

- Fechas: 2 de junio (primera dosis) y 23 de junio (segunda dosis)
- Horario: 3:00-8:00 p.m.; no se necesita una cita
- ETHS, 1600 Dodge Ave., Fieldhouse (parte posterior del edificio; ingrese a Wildkit Drive desde las calles Lake o Church)
- Estacionamiento: Lote 3 o 3A, [Lot 3 or 3A](#)
- Debe proporcionar su propio transporte hacia y desde el lugar de la vacunación.

Sesión informativa de vacunación el 18 de mayo

El Grupo Asesor Médico de ETHS llevará a cabo una sesión informativa el **martes 18 de mayo a las 6:00 p.m.** Los panelistas brindarán consejos y orientación acerca de la vacunación a niños mayores de 12 años. La sesión será transmitida en el canal de YouTube de ETHS, [ETHS YouTube](#) y será grabada.

Preguntas

Si tiene alguna pregunta clínica sobre la vacuna o acerca de su estudiante recibéndola, por favor, póngase en contacto con su pediatra o con un médico de confianza. La información acerca de las Vacunas del COVID-19 para Niños y Adolescentes, [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#) está disponible en la página electrónica de la CDC. El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Evanston continúa ofreciendo información y recursos acerca de la vacunación del COVID, [COVID Vaccinations](#).

Legislators

Jan Schakowsky's Office (Ann Limpco)

- **Office of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky from Ann**
Updated CDC guidelines
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>)
 - [If you are fully vaccinated](#), you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.

- Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

- **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program**
 Eligible constituents can NOW apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. Eligible households can enroll by contacting their internet service provider. More details including whether you qualify can be found by visiting <https://getemergencybroadband.org>

- **What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program?**
 The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is a [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) program](#) that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. If your household is [eligible](#), you can receive:
 - Up to a \$50/month discount on your broadband service and associated equipment rentals
 - Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
 - A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household. The FCC has announced that consumers can begin applying for and enrolling in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program on May 12, 2021. The program will end when the fund runs out of money, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.

- **Economic Impact Payment #3**
 - The eighth batch of Economic Impact Payments disbursed under the American Rescue Plan are now being delivered as of May 6, 2021.
 - This batch includes over 1.1 million payments totaling over \$2 billion
 - More than 585,000 payments, with a value of over \$1.2 billion, went to eligible individuals for whom the IRS did not previously have information to issue an Economic Impact Payment but who recently filed a tax return
 - More than 570,000 “plus up” payments, with a value of nearly \$1 billion, went to people who earlier this year received payments based on their 2019 tax returns but are eligible for a new or larger payment based on their recently processed 2020 tax returns
 - This brings total EIPs disbursed under the ARP so far to approximately 164 million payments, with a total value of approximately \$386 billion
 - The IRS will continue to make Economic Impact Payments on a weekly basis. Ongoing payments will be sent to eligible individuals for whom the IRS previously

did not have information to issue a payment but who recently filed a tax return, as well to people who qualify for “plus-up” payments.

- Individuals can check the [Get My Payment](#) tool on [IRS.gov](#) to see the payment status of these payments. Additional information on [Economic Impact Payments](#) is available on IRS.gov.

- **IRS has refunds totaling \$1.3 billion for people who have not filed a 2017 federal income tax return**

Unclaimed income tax refunds worth more than \$1.3 billion await an estimated 1.3 million taxpayers [who did not file a 2017 Form 1040 federal income tax return](#).

- **Those experiencing homelessness can get Economic Impact Payments and other tax benefits; permanent address not required**

IRS is continuing an [ongoing effort](#) to help those experiencing homelessness during the pandemic by reminding people who don't have a permanent address or a bank account that they may still qualify for Economic Impact Payments and other tax benefits.

To help people experiencing homelessness, the rural poor and other historically under-served groups, the IRS urges community groups, employers and others to share information about Economic Impact Payments and help more eligible people file a tax return so they can receive everything they're entitled to. [IRS.gov](#) has a variety of information and tools to help people receive the Economic Impact Payments.

- The IRS needs information from people who don't usually file a tax return – even if they did not have any income last year or their income was not large enough to require them to file. The only way for the agency to have that information is for people to file a basic 2020 tax return with the IRS. Once that return is processed, the IRS can quickly send stimulus payments to an address selected by the eligible individual. People do not need a permanent address or a bank account. They don't need to have a job. For eligible individuals, the IRS will still issue the payment even if they haven't filed a tax return in years.
- People in this group can still qualify for the first two Economic Impact Payments when they file their 2020 return by claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit. There's a special section on [IRS.gov](#) that can help: [Claiming the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit if you aren't required to file a tax return](#). For the current third round of payments, people who are experiencing homelessness usually qualify to receive \$1,400 for themselves. If they are married or have dependents, they can get an additional \$1,400 for each of their family members.

- Filing a 2020 federal income tax return that provides very basic information about the person is something that can be done electronically using a smartphone or a computer. When the IRS receives the return, it will automatically calculate and issue the Economic Impact Payments to eligible individuals.

Laura Fine's Office (Shiva M.)

- Currently in the bridge phase of recovery. This means the capacity will increase for the following settings:
 - Dining
 - Offices
 - Retail
 - Health & Fitness
 - Amusement Parks
 - Museums and
 - Social events
- Waiting to see how local activities will be impacted and waiting for additional input from Governor Pritzker on mask requirements

Robyn Gabel's Office

- No report this week

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz's Office (Liam Harding)

- Monday May 17th the IL Housing Authority is launching the rental payment program
- This program will provide a grant of up to \$2,500 for 15 months of rental assistance
- Eligibility requirements are people who have been adversely affected by the pandemic
- Rental Assistance Program:
<https://www.ihda.org/about-ihda/illinois-rental-payment-program/>
- Application Site: <https://ilrpp.ihda.org/>
- Open from 5/17 to 6/6 for housing providers to begin application. Tenants have until 6/13 to finish their portion.

Commissioner Larry Sufferdin's Office (Larry Suffredin)

- Through June 7th, the County is assisting Evanston residents with their property tax appeals

Business (Roger Sosa)

- The draft of the recommendation document will be finalized on Wednesday for allocation of the American Rescue Act funds

- It will be presented to the Economic Development Committee for the City of Evanston on May 26th

Mental Health (Christine Sommerville)

- Continuing to work on advancing mental health for the youth population
- The first meeting is scheduled to convene on May 28th
- Had a lengthy discussion on mental health particularly in the 5th, 8th, and 9th wards
- Would like to maintain a presence in these communities to continue to work on the trauma impacting these areas
- Meeting with Officer Scott Sophier to discuss data EPD (Evanston Police Department) has on mental health
- The Spanish-speaking working group holds monthly gatherings to monitor their work

Faith-Based (Rev Nabors)

- No report

Next Meeting: Friday, May 28th at 1:30 p.m.