

Mayor's COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes

October 15, 2021

Situation Report (Mayor Biss)

- Currently past the recent peak while continuing to be in Phase 5
- Countywide infection rate is down to 1%
- Evanston's positivity rate has also decreased to .47%
- The vaccination rate continues to climb which is good news
- Evanston holds at 82% of residents who are fully vaccinated
- 89% of residents have at least one dose
- The overall majority of breakthrough cases that occur are not serious

Spotlight on the Return to School (Dr. Eric Witherspoon Dist 202 & Dr. Devon Horton- Dist 65)

- Things are going well at ETHS
- Classes have resumed for close to two months
- A total of sixteen students out of 3,700 contract the virus during that period
- The virus appears to be weaning at the moment
- Credit also goes to the high vaccination rate in the community as well as continuing to exercise safety measures
- Masks are essential for everyone staff and students
- The Governor has requested that school personnel be vaccinated or be tested weekly
- 96% of ETHS staff are fully vaccinated - 1,100 people in total
- Those who are not vaccinated, need to provide evidence that they have been recently vaccinated or provide a negative Covid test, each Monday
- Next week the same protocol will be required for unvaccinated students
- Currently 75% of students are fully vaccinated at ETHS
- Many students have volunteered to provide documentation of their vaccination
- Attendance is at 95% Student feel safe and motivated to return
- District 65 is in the eighth week of school
- They have experienced double the amount of students with the virus
- 39 covid cases have been reported
- With the help of the City's health dept no cases have been traced back to the school directly
- Five staff members have had the virus and are taking precautions to quarantine correctly before returning to campus
- All 18 campuses are also considered safe as staff and children
- District 65 has expressed concern around the behavior of the students
- The children are excited to get back to school and socialize however need to maintain proper social distancing for their own safety and this is nothing that can't be manage

- District 65 is suffering a small shortage of teachers, however the central office has been able to deploy certified staff to fill in
- Lunch has been outside at the middle school campuses and will go away around Nov 15th to hold lunches inside utilizing safety protocol
- Athletic programs have been launched for middle school
- In November the after school programs will be implemented
- Parent Teacher conferences will be held next week virtually

Sector Announcements

- None

Next Meeting: Friday, November 19 at 1:30 pm