Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 4.13.2020


DuPage County Representatives Participants: Chairman Dan Cronin; Sheryl Markay, Chief Policy & Program Officer

DuPage County Health Department Participants: Karen Ayala, Executive Director; Dr. Rashmi Chugh, Medical Officer; Dennis Brennan, Legislative Manager; Chris Hoff, Director of Community Health; Penny Chanez, Executive Asst.

Purpose of the call today with Mayors and Managers is to address updated case counts, workplace guidelines and PPE updates.

DuPage County Health Department Deputy Incident Commander, Chris Hoff facilitated the meeting.

Director Ayala provided opening remarks and introduced Chairman Cronin.

Chairman Cronin Comments: Thanked everyone and stated that the response is entering a time that will require stamina, and the need to continue to remain focused and disciplined. Data is preliminary, but sees and understands that the County’s efforts are having an impact. The time now is to redouble the efforts. Expressed that overall, very pleased with the County’s local government response.

COVID-19 Update on Illinois and DuPage County Cases

Director, Karen Ayala introduced the Health Department’s Medical Officer, Dr. Chugh who provided the following case updates and remarks.

Nationally over 558,000 cases are in the United States and deaths surpassed 22,000.

- State of Illinois
  - 20,852 lab confirmed cases
  - 720 deaths
- DuPage County
  - 1165 lab confirmed cases
  - 48 deaths over half from long term care facilities
- Rate comparison:
  - DuPage County 127 per 100,000 population
  - Illinois is 165 per 100,000
  - National 169 per 100,000
  - New York 972 per 100,000 cases,
New Jersey 696 per 100,000

Outbreak response – recovery phase will occur when:
- The ability to test all suspected cases
- Robust tracking occurs
- Treat all that need hospitalization

Community Guidance and Compliance Updates – Chris Hoff

- Return to Work Guidelines -
  Last week CDC and IDPH issued Critical infrastructure work guidelines that include the following:
  - Individuals returning to work must be symptomatic and self-monitoring,
  - All individuals must be practicing universal masking
  - Business must practice social distancing, and a regiment of cleaning and disinfecting must be occurring

- Special Circumstances
  - The Health Department continues weekly updates with both Police and Fire Chief organizations and is providing situational awareness of the County’s ongoing efforts, including emphasizing the use of PPE for all first responders.
  - Director Ayala emphasized that first responders, approach and respond to every single call and visit as if a COVID-19 positive case is present. The Health Department is supportive of and takes seriously the health and wellbeing of first responders.
  - Daily cases information is updated daily on the Health Department website

- Planning with Hospitals
  - Conferencing occurring weekly between the Health Department and the emergency operations staff at hospitals to assess surge planning, alternate care sites and alternate housing options for healthcare workers.
  - No hospital in DuPage has hit maximum care capacity

Stay at Home Order Compliance

Director Ayala questioned if any participants were experiencing any challenges or successes with compliance around the stay at home order, particularly with the nicer weather. There were no issues reported. Feedback was received via email following the call by Mayor McGinley, “To respond to your question on compliance with stay at home orders, we are seeing high compliance, but lots of talk about people being done after April 30th. I know we are preparing for the lift of the order, but I wanted to express my concern if anyone is considering extending it. Our numbers are low, we are in high compliance, and now that Sweden has published their rates without any stay at home orders, people are done. The hospitals are handling the cases well, so we should be all lined up if we stay the course.”

PPE Updates – Chris Hoff

- Guidelines for Use
  - Universal masking is now the recommendation and includes police and fire and government entities
N95 masks should be reserved for use by essential workers, cloth masks to be used by the general public.

### PPE Supplies and Distribution

- The Health Department in conjunction with the County’s Office of Homeland and Security continues to take requests for PPE and continues distribution to meet demand. Prioritization is given to health care workers and others with direct care staff who serve individuals who are ill.

### Questions and Answers

**Bensenville** - experiencing challenges with businesses deeming themselves as essential. Enforcement is lacking.

Response, Director Ayala: Responsibility falls under the Illinois Attorney General’s office. Director Ayala will try to get more specifics on enforcement. The Health Dept. is not the enforcement agency but for those who are open and operating, the agency provides information on public health operating protocols.

**Woodridge** – questioned if there is any guidance for upcoming large, special events scheduled during the upcoming warmer months.

Response, Dr. Chugh: At this moment hard to predict where we will be in June and July, optimistic that there may be a lessening in reported and confirmed cases. One area that will be used in making a decision is a reduction in cases in a 14-day period (one incubation period). Do not want to make changes prematurely which could result in a spike in cases.

### **NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE:**

Health Department Launches Advertising Campaign to Educate and Inform DuPage Residents About How to Slow the Spread of COVID-19
On Friday, April 4th DuPage County Health Department launched an advertising campaign to reinforce national and state messaging for DuPage residents to stay home, wash their hands frequently and practice healthy distancing.

The Health Department encourages community partners to use these digital ads in newsletter, social media and website communications. The digital files can be downloaded here.

Call4Calm
The Illinois Department of Human Services' Mental Health Division has launched a free-of-charge emotional support text line, Call4Calm, for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19.

Individuals who would like to speak with a mental health professional can text "TALK" to 5-5-2-0-2-0, or for Spanish, "HABLAR" to the same number: 5-5-2-0-2-0. Call4Calm is free to use, and individuals will remain anonymous.

Once a resident sends a text to the hotline, within 24 hours they will receive a call from a counselor employed by a local community mental health center to provide support.

Individuals can also text 5-5-2-0-2-0, with key words such as "unemployment" or "food" or "shelter" and will receive information on how navigate and access supports and services.