



Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 4.27.2020

Municipalities Participating: Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Burr Ridge, Elmhurst, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lemont, Lisle, Lombard, Naperville, Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, Roselle, Villa Park, Warrenville, West Chicago, Westmont, Wheaton, Willowbrook, Wood Dale, Woodridge, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

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 Resources; Penny Chanez, Executive Asst.

Purpose of the call today with Mayors and Managers is to address updated case counts, Community and business updates and guidance, Community wide testing and PPE updates. DuPage County Health Department Deputy Incident Commander, Chris Hoff facilitated the meeting.

Director Ayala provided opening remarks. Shared that updates and guidelines which occurred over the past week are now posted to the Health Department’s website. Emphasized using a balanced approach to opening DuPage and the State of Illinois. Director Ayala introduced Chairman Cronin.

Chairman Cronin Comments: Expressed his continued appreciation for those participating in the weekly calls. Aware of the fact that leaders are experiencing pressure from the business community who are under stress and strain and are not happy with the stay at home extension. The County is looking at what should we do, what can we do and what is appropriate, while keeping informed of the Public Health guidance and completely understanding of the public health viewpoint. Currently drafting a plan for DuPage County, taking into consideration latitude for businesses to open. The County is looking at the Johns Hopkins plan and state of Wisconsin’s plan to determine a well-considered plan for DuPage County while collaborating with public health officials and other officials in the region. DuPage County will continue to work as a team to make the best decisions for DuPage County residents and businesses.

COVID-19 UPDATE ON ILLINOIS AND DUPAGE COUNTY CASES

The Health Department’s Medical Officer, Dr. Chugh who provided the following case updates and remarks.

Nationally 965,785 cases are in the United States including 54,818 deaths

- State of Illinois
 - 43,903 lab-confirmed cases
 - 1,993 deaths

- DuPage County
 - 2,447 lab-confirmed cases
 - 131 lab-confirmed deaths

Illinois Department of Public Health is now providing long-term care facility (LTC) case information on their website. There is a continued disproportionate amount of COVID-19-related deaths associated with long-term care facilities.

DuPage County Long-Term Care Facility Numbers:

- 72% of DuPage deaths are associated with LTC facilities - 95/131 deaths

Additional dashboard updates on the Health Department website:

- Bar graph number of cases per day. Continue to see a rise, somewhat reflecting results from increased testing.
- Added graphic on ICU admitted cases and hospitalized cases.
- Added graphs of case information by race ethnicity and severity.

Hospitals have indicated that they have not reached their hospital capacity.

Village Manager Summers of Bensenville- any theories on the increases in minority populations vs. Caucasian populations?

- Response, Director Ayala – broad theory is underlying health status and access to care.
- Dr. Chugh shared that African American cases have higher number of deaths – a more elderly population of cases could contribute to the numbers. Hispanic cases are in a younger population with less cases of death. Agreed with Director Ayala’s assessment of socio-economic factors.

Glendale Heights – will the Health Department provide a breakdown of death by community?

- Response: Dr. Chugh - generally have not been releasing that information, due to privacy issues. Ongoing evaluation of the process. Chris Hoff later provided clarification of how municipality-level data is now accessible on the COVID-19 dashboard, since late last week.

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS UPDATES AND GUIDANCE

1. Reopening Guidelines

Mayors and Managers shared the following points and requested clarification from Public Health officials as the County considers the process of reopening the County to daily business operations. Expressed the frustrations being heard at the community/constituent level based on the following factors:

- State reporting positive test rates have been falling and decreasing COVID activity in the hospitals.
- Concerns on reporting measures of COVID-19 death counts for individuals with underlying medical issues who died of those issues and the skewing of COVID related death numbers.
- Could seasonality impact the virus activity
- More increased testing is indicating that more individuals have been exposed with no issues
- Testing results from other areas both national and internationally indicating much higher level of exposed individuals with no symptoms

- Mayors/Managers are struggling with the balance of economics and public health

Director Ayala, Dr. Chugh and Mr. Hoff provided the following items that public health takes into consideration when making recommendations.

- Will continued declines be sustained once more individuals become exposed? Important to continue tracking all forms of data over time to make informed public health recommendations to move forward.
- Declines being seen could be due to the public adhering to the public health measures of staying home, maintaining social distancing. Will relaxed measures increase virus activity with negative outcomes?
- Expressed caution on the testing results provided in both national and international testing data. Are these results from an approved laboratory setting? How does that impact the numbers?
- Are deaths reported where an underlying condition is present a result of the underlying condition or from COVID-19? Difficult to determine, but COVID-19 is known to exacerbate an underlying condition and as such is the reason deaths are currently reported as COVID-19.
- Novel means new – there are many unknowns to this new virus, and it is important for Public Health officials to continue to collect all data when making a determination on how best to move forward.
- Vaccine availability – National Institute of Health and the CDC best estimation for the general population is Spring of 2021. Healthcare workers/first responders will be given prioritization on receiving vaccination. Treatment measures are a better method at this time, as part of a strategy in ways to offset increased virus activity as the result of relaxing current stay at home measures. Current treatment measures are minimal with uncertain success rates. The level of herd immunity is nowhere near the numbers needed to open fully to pre COVID-19 activity levels.
- Recognize and understand the level of frustration in the community

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Bartlett - Have we experienced in DuPage laying off hospital staff and furloughed as other parts of the State and Country?

- Response: Director Ayala - not aware of any layoffs or furloughs. Reassignments occurred in local hospitals to build capacity for surge.

Mayor Grasso – is there a way to connect those who want to donate plasma?

- Response: Dr. Chugh – the IDPH website now has a page with information listed on how individuals can donate plasma. Follow up information sent on 4/27/20.

Director Ayala concluded with the following updates:

- Current availability of housing for first responders, healthcare workers and those with positive COVID-19 diagnosis.
- There continues to be a need for PPE, especially for long term care facilities.