



## **Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 5.18.2020**

**Municipalities Participating:** Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lisle, Lombard, Naperville, Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, Roselle, Schaumburg, Villa Park, West Chicago, Westmont, Wheaton, Wood Dale, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

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

**DuPage County Health Department Participants:** Sam Tornatore, Board of Health President; 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.*** DuPage County Health Department Deputy Incident Commander, Chris Hoff facilitated the meeting.

Karen Ayala: Stated that work continues with Mayors and Managers to further refine opening plans for the Governor’s review and has been speaking both individually and on group calls for better understanding of community needs and messaging. Currently working on a broad initiative for local health protection and cautions around immediate developments on vaccine.

Chairman Cronin: Welcomed everyone on today’s call and stated his continued appreciation on communicating and collaborating. Chairman Cronin shared that he had a meaningful conference call with the Governor on the needs of DuPage County. The primary question is: How are we going to live and conduct business responsibly with virus among us and the lack of any vaccine?

The Chairman also participated in a conference call and had a conversation with the Governor’s top staff that included a focus on how to get robust testing in DuPage County and the importance of contact tracing to determine flare ups within the county and the ability to isolate individuals.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE ON ILLINOIS AND DUPAGE COUNTY CASES**

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

Nationally United States confirmed cases are exceeding 1.5million  
Deaths exceed 85,000

- State of Illinois
  - 94,191 lab-confirmed cases
  - 4,177 lab-confirmed deaths
  -

- DuPage County
  - 5,892 lab-confirmed cases
  - 296 lab-confirmed deaths

Dr. Chugh and Chris Hoff provided information on determining positivity rates for DuPage County to help with making informed re-opening decisions. The following are areas for consideration during the deliberation process:

- DuPage County now listed on Johns Hopkin's University dashboard as one of the top 50 counties within the United States with confirmed cases. Cook County is also included and currently listed as number one. Two factors contributing to being included in this list is the level of disease activity and the level of detecting disease activity. Illinois has ramped up testing relative to other states. DuPage is under 30,000 residents who have been tested. The state has tested 4.6 percent of the population /DuPage County is at 3.7% testing of the population.
- Wide distribution of cases is still occurring.
- Locally – indication of significant pediatric cases. Concerns that also require monitoring included pediatric cases nationally showing new complications from COVID-19 exposure.
- DCHD website now provides data by district/age group; rolling average trendline is now over 7 days; interactive version of specific breakdown by positives and negatives by lab tests; also included is data on ICU and severity.
- Hospitalizations by age group/sex in now included to provide a better understanding of community impact, as well as charts on race and ethnicity.
- Deaths and hospitalizations by date are now included on the website dashboard. Seeing encouraging trends in both metrics, but there is a need for caution due to the reporting lag time of 7/10 days.
- Positivity data are provided by the state.
- IDPH is including probable and confirmed cases on their LTCF outbreaks page on their website.
- Chris Hoff will inquire with county GIS to address the question by the Mayor of Bensenville on the one positive case indicated at O'Hare, which is reflected on the DuPage dashboard map.
- Employees who test positive and work at long-term care facilities are being recorded at their place of residency by DuPage County. The daily positive case counts reported by the DuPage County Health Department reflect DuPage County residents only.
- Mayor of Naperville questioned independent living communities and tracking. Dr. Chugh stated they are regulated differently than other long-term care facilities and to broaden disease surveillance at these locations would similar to apartment buildings and where do you draw the line (not considered congregate settings).

Director Ayala provided community guidance updates which are provided with a focus on the health of the community.

- Successful working with the Regional Office of Education in providing guidance to local school districts on graduation ceremonies.
- Inquiries on community activity and tennis courts. Direction includes: Outside tennis courts can be safely utilized with masking and signage. Restrooms should have appropriate handwashing

instructions. Individuals should present ready to play and that dressing room/locker rooms should remain closed.

- Chairman Cronin spoke on DuPage efforts to get community-based testing sites within DuPage County and is a primary focus of the plan to reopen DuPage.
- Chris Hoff spoke on staffing capacity to identify individuals and investigate cases including identifying contacts to limit further spread. The Health Department surge included 6 full time employees in the Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Dept. to 50 plus with an additional 22 being added this week. Of note : Individuals will be working with personal health information and it is important to have a process in place with appropriate training. This comes with a huge strain on Health Department resources.

Additional discussion on the Governor's reopening plan included questions on the following:

Mayor Grasso of Burr Ridge questioned the realistic timeframe of moving from phase 3 to phase 4. Director Ayala stated it would be difficult to determine until approximately 3 weeks into phase 3, in large part due to the virus's timespan from initial exposure to final outcome. Data collection will be imperative towards making the decision of moving from phase 3 to phase 4.

Dr. Lalmalani, Village President of Oakbrook questioned the recent announcement allegedly made by the Mayor of Chicago regarding the opening of Chicago restaurants in June, which is part of Phase 4 of the reopening plan for the state. Chairman Cronin indicated this requires a fuller exploration and that DuPage County does fall under the Governor's declaration. There was discussion on if home rule communities, such as Chicago and whether they have broader latitude on the governing of their communities. Chairman Cronin stated that this has not been clearly defined either legislatively or through any case law.

Director Ayala shared a primary concern for reopening is the lack of personal protection equipment for those most at risk from direct contact with individuals who may be sick. Current stockpiles are worse this week than last week.

Director Ayala concluded the call at 11:00AM with no further discussion. Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions.