



Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 6.15.2020

Municipalities Participating: Addison, Bensenville, Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lemon, Lisle, Naperville, Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, Roselle, Schaumburg, Villa Park, Warrenville, Westmont, Willowbrook, Winfield, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

DuPage County Representatives Participants: Sheryl Markay, Chief Policy & Program Officer

DuPage County Health Department Participants: Karen Ayala, Executive Director; 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.

Executive Director, Karen Ayala welcomed everyone and reviewed the topics to be discussed on the call.

- A review of flu season 2019/2020. Director Ayala shared 2020/21 flu season is approx. 2 months away, including the beginning of the 2020/21 flu vaccination season.
- Review of testing sites now offered in DuPage County
- Overview of case investigation and contact tracing
- Noted that reviewing the current spread of COVID-19 nationally, indicators show that the decisions made by the State of Illinois have resulted in positive direction for the state in comparison to other areas across the country.

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 lab confirmed cases at 2,095,043

Deaths at 115,747

- State of Illinois
 - 132,543 lab-confirmed cases
 - 6,308 confirmed deaths
- DuPage County
 - 8,434 lab-confirmed cases
 - 429 lab-confirmed deaths

Dr. Chugh and Chris Hoff provided information on next steps and answers to questions relating to the reopening of DuPage County to assist Mayors and Managers with making informed decisions. The following points were covered:

Moving from Phase 3 to Phase 4 of the State's reopening plan, the Health Department continues monitoring current trends line indicators and observed the following:

- In determining the direction to move forward with the reopening process, the number to review are those of the last 14 days.
- Since reported last week, positive case numbers continue to show an overall downward trend.
- New cases – very encouraging trend lines with approx. 30/50 per day confirmed daily lab cases. Significantly lower than previous months.
- Testing capacity has greatly expanded and continued statewide testing growth is expected. Results indicate downward trend of positive tests in relationship to the number of tests administered, hovering under 5% in the last few days.
- Other parts of the country with increased testing are also seeing increases in positivity in their results. When both the number of tests administered has increased and the percent positives are also increasing, this is of concern, and indicates that increased COVID-19 activity is growing. Currently the State of Illinois is not seeing this trend, and this can be correlated to the protective measures implemented.
- Lab confirmed deaths numbers also encouraging indicating a continued downward trend.
- Hospitalizations also indicate a downward trend.

Dr. Chugh also provided an update on the 2019/2020 influenza (flu) season per a request from the Mayor of Lisle at last week's meeting for information on flu activity.

- Severity – comparable to the 2018/2019 flu season, but distribution different from the previous year. Quantitatively similar to the previous year's activity, qualitatively unique. 2 peaks were noted, one which occurred in late December and the other occurred in February. The third peak in March likely indicates the presence of COVID-19 activity.
- ICU admissions of 91 individuals, which included 14 deaths (compared to 90 ICU admissions and 14 deaths during the 2018-2019 flu season).
- New feature in flu surveillance report is the vaccination status for ICU cases and this year's indicates just over 50% of ICU admissions were vaccinated. Lots of room for improvement to increase vaccination rates. Especially critical with COVID-19 presence to help to reduce the risk of an individual potentially contracting both. Stressed the need to work together as communities to improve vaccination rates.

Reopening Guidance

Director Ayala shared the following:

- Noted there is continued confusion surrounding pools and beaches. Reiterated that all beaches and pools need to remain closed under phase III of the State's reopening plans. There are a few exceptions under the pool closure measures and communities should review the plan for more specific details on these exceptions.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last week shared additional guidance for states in their reopening plans and compliment the phases approach plan the State of Illinois implemented with a time to allow for the assessment of any impacts during the reopening process.

COVID -19 Testing Sites in DuPage County

Mr. Hoff provided an overview of testing sites recently opened in DuPage County.

- DuPage County's new site at the DuPage County Fairgrounds
- Will open June 16 and is open Tues. – Sat. from 7:00AM to 3:00PM. Will be closed on July 3 and 4 due to the holiday.
- 400 tests available daily. Individuals seeking testing are encouraged to come earlier
- 75 people tested during the soft launch
- There is no cost and testing is available to anyone in or outside of DuPage County
- Notification of results is usually 3 to 4 days and coordinated through the Health Department.
- Special thanks to City of Wheaton

Two other sites with smaller scale operations for more high-risk populations

- Willowbrook by appt. only
- St. Andrew Church in West Chicago

A testing question was received in the chat room discussion.

Evan Summers, Bensenville

How long after exposure should a person wait to be tested?

Dr. Rashmi K. Chugh

5-7 days have been suggested, though an exposed person may become infected even through day 14 after exposure (so if without symptoms, quarantine should continue through 14 days after exposure). If symptoms develop, then self-isolation period of minimum 10 days begins from symptom onset date. Thank you.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Mr. Hoff provided the following comments:

- The Health Department continues to focus distribution to health care systems and first responders and building a stockpile. There continues to be a shortage of N95 face masks and gowns.
- State of Illinois has indicated that they intend to wind down their support of PPE distribution.
- It is also encouraged that municipalities work on stockpiles of PPE for their employees as they begin to reopen their facilities especially in light of the State's announcement.

Case Investigation and Contact Tracing

Director Ayala and Dr. Chugh noted the following comments:

- Funding is anticipated from IDPH and the DuPage County CARES COVID-19 funds to address more widespread contact tracing and case investigation.
- The Health Department will work on a public facing community awareness campaign, particularly in light of reports of some public resistance. Areas to be addressed will include what to expect, how long the interview will be, what you will and will not be asked.
- Once materials are available, participants are asked to please help with distribution within their communities.
- In response to a question on funding and if is this the best way to spend dollars addressing COVID-19, it was noted that contract tracing will not be looking backwards, but rather forward looking with an focus on the potential of an upcoming increase in case activity in the fall and will be broader in scope from immediate contacts to an individual's broader contact circle. Contact tracing alongside case investigation is one of the pillars of public health which is to reduce communicable disease outbreaks and contain community spread. This will also be important to identify pockets of outbreak activity and help to reduce the need for more drastic measures of shutting down broader community activity which results in an economic impact.

Final Comments

In response to Mayor Grasso's inquiry on drug therapeutic measures such as Remdesivir and COVID-19 treatment, Dr. Chugh answered there are no specific observations to report but as case/contact investigation backlog decreases, DCHD may start to review treatment modalities from a surveillance perspective.

The Health Department is working to get people back to work and has developed signage addressing back to work protocols to follow. These are available for distribution to anyone and can be found on the Health Department's website. Please feel free to use these materials to promote and reinforce COVID-19 messaging and back to work safety measures.

Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions. Director Ayala concluded the call at 10:56AM with no further discussion.