



## **Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 8.3.2020**

**Municipalities Participating:** Addison, Bensenville, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lisle, Naperville, Oakbrook, Roselle, Villa Park, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton, Willowbrook, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

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

**DuPage County Health Department Participants** County Board Chairman, Dan Cronin; 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.

Chairman Cronin – Expressed his continued his appreciation to all the participants.

Executive Director, Karen Ayala welcomed everyone, and shared the purpose of today's call which will include:

- Walking through latest numbers and data
- Information on vaccine trials
- Increased testing and education resources for vulnerable populations
- The importance of masking and public health protocols work, including avoidance of crowded indoor settings and large-scale gatherings.

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

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

Case Counts continues to rise nationally.

- Nationally
  - Confirmed cases: 4,675,628
  - Deaths: 154,861
- State of Illinois
  - confirmed cases: 181,943
  - deaths: 7,517
  - Recovery rate of 95%
- DuPage County
  - confirmed cases: 11,458

- deaths: 510
- Recovery rate of 94.1%

### **Data/DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 Dashboard Review**

- Average age of confirmed cases from
  - March was 46 years of age
  - Last 2 weeks is 38 years of age
- Average age of hospitalized cases from
  - March was 61 years of age.
  - Last two weeks is 60 years of age
- Average age of deaths related to COVID-19 from
  - March was 80 years of age
  - Last two weeks was 79 years of age

Dr. Chugh and Mr. Hoff provided the following updates:

- DuPage County continues to have increased and widespread case activity. Large gatherings in communities are likely contributing to the spread and as such, vulnerable populations will continue to experience more hospitalizations and deaths. Health experts fully anticipate the virus will take hold in more vulnerable populations due to non-essential public activities that continue to take place.
- Long-term care settings outbreak activity is less than when onset of virus began, public venues and businesses are where recent activity has increased. (averaging 2-10 cases per outbreak in these settings)
- Overall testing capacity continues to be improved since the beginning of the virus, but still not robust for all symptomatic individuals. Current CDC recommendations are for close contacts to also be tested, capacity allowing, but there is still not enough testing capacity to meet that recommendation. Diagnostic testing is still the priority.
- Positivity rates are much lower than the rates in April/May. DuPage County did exceed 5% positivity on July 15<sup>th</sup>, but overall positivity rates continue to hover just under 5%
- Since March, there has not been a day where there has not been a report of a positive case.
- Due to higher case numbers, increased hospitalizations and deaths are anticipated over the next few weeks; opportunities for prevention/mitigation may be considered sooner vs. later to prevent severe outcomes.

### **TESTING UPDATES**

- Hanover Park has requested approval for a mobile testing site.
- Municipalities do have the option to request mobile testing sites, which are short term and can accommodate 300 tests per day. The Health Department will help to facilitate requests for sites with the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Current testing capacity remains unchanged in the County, however the DuPage site at the Fairgrounds has received approval to increase its daily testing from 400 to 600 tests per day. Lack of increased testing is concerning to Public Health officials with the reopening of schools.
- Dr. Chugh also provided details on the process used by Health Department staff when conducting case investigation and contact tracing.

## **REGION 8 – DuPage, Kane and small portion of Cook**

Recent hospitalization data related to COVID-19 includes:

- 58 confirmed COVID-19 patients currently hospitalized in DuPage County 47 are considered non ICU status,
- 11 are in considered ICU status,
- 5 are requiring ventilation assistance, includes presumptive persons under investigation based on positive test.
- Health Department staff are working in close coordination with Kane County on strategies, triggers and opportunities to address COVID-19 in communities located within Restore Illinois Region 8.

## **School Reopening's and Daycares**

Question from Mayor Pecak in chat:

How can the Health Department re-assure the public as well as school teachers that congregate child care can be performed safely? Schools are considering remote only, while at the same time, daycare facilities are considering picking up childcare services and remote learning duties. How can one method be unsafe and the other safe?

Response from Dr. Chugh:

- Approximately 1/3 of daycares were open during Phase II under the Governor's reopening plan primarily for essential workers to have childcare resources.
- Policies and health protocols by some corporate child care providers were aggressive which helped to facilitate case investigation and contact tracing for any cases within the facility which helped to reduce spread.

Director Ayala emphasized that to make a school environment safer it is important to contain the spread of the virus in the community. The virus will continue to spread until there is a vaccine. Individuals need to prioritize and reconsider the necessity of an outing. Just because you can, does not mean you should go out, especially in large gatherings and indoor spaces. The war is with the virus not with public health vs. business, but a more proactive adherence to public health protocols are needed in certain business segments.

## **MISC UPDATES**

- In response to a question if flu reporting will occur this upcoming season. Dr. Chugh stated flu reporting will begin from September and will go through the flu season and will end in May 2021.
- DuPage Health Coalition is serving as a resource/mask distribution site for the public who cannot afford a face mask. More information will be provided to members.
- Vaccine testing trials are being conducted by Northwestern, University of Illinois Chicago and University of Illinois and all are looking for individuals to participate in vaccine trials.
- The Health Department does have available resources in Spanish to share with communities who need additional targeted messaging.

There was no further discussion. Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions. Director Ayala concluded the call at 11:03AM with no further discussion.