



Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 8.17.2020

Municipalities Participating: Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lombard, Naperville, Oakbrook, Oak Brook Terrace, Roselle, Villa Park, Warrenville, West Chicago, Westmont, Wheaton, Willowbrook, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

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

DuPage County Health Department Participants: DuPage County Health Board President Sam Tornatore, Karen Ayala, Executive Director; Rashmi Chugh, Medical Officer; Dennis Brennan, External Affairs Manager; Chris Hoff, Director of Community Health Resources

Purpose of the call today with Mayors and Managers is to address updated case counts, Community and business updates and guidance. Updates included administrative rules and the temporary testing site in Hanover Park.

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

Chairman Cronin opened the meeting by thanking all the participants and noting that the local leadership has persevered through difficult times as we've faced this pandemic as a team in DuPage County. With schools reopening, either in person or virtually, additional challenges are on the horizon for all of us as we seek the best solutions. Chairman Cronin closed his statement by thanking the health department for its work through this pandemic.

Executive Director, Karen Ayala agreed that this newest phase is challenging for all but that as always, it is the best course to have the data guide our efforts. She introduced Dr. Rashmi Chugh and Chris Hoff to review the newest data.

Dr. Chugh provided national case and death counts, state case and death counts and DuPage County case and death counts. Dr. Chugh used the DCHD dashboard to walk-through the cases on a day to day basis noting an uptick in cases in the last six weeks. Dr. Chugh noted the positive and negative percentage rates for all tests in DuPage.

Dr. Chugh said that the diagnostic testing countywide and in the state is not where we want it to be. She said that before surveillance testing, it would be advantageous to have a robust diagnostic testing system in place.

It was noted that the state's information on positivity rates has been lagging in the last couple of weeks. Our latest updated information on the website is August 6. When DCHD receives the

information from the state, it will be shared. Dr. Chugh and Chris Hoff noted that the positivity rate at the Fairgrounds testing site has been about 3 percent.

Hospitalization admissions is one of the indicators to keep watching during this time. Dr. Chugh said that the goal is to get to zero on admissions. There is a lag time on those admissions but over time, in DuPage, the admissions number has remained low.

The number of deaths has also been relatively low in DuPage but part of that may be driven by the average age for cases and hospitalizations decreasing. The average age of hospitalizations has been driven down while the average age of death has increased.

Dr. Chugh noted that since July 1, cases have increased the most for the age groups of 10 to 19 and 20 to 29. The 10 to 19 age group has seen a 200 percent increase in cases. Dr. Chugh explained that we need to interrupt the transmission of the virus to the more vulnerable age groups and people with underlying conditions.

Chris Hoff introduced two new aspects of the dashboard, showing a date selector that allows one to view a certain period. A user can also choose an individual municipality to see local numbers during a timeframe.

Karen Ayala noted that the death data does not update on this feature and Chris Hoff said the reason for this lack of update is to protect privacy of individuals because there is not a lot of people in certain age groups.

Mayor Chirico of Naperville praised DCHD for keeping everyone informed through the pandemic and said the department has done an “outstanding job”.

Dr. Chugh noted that the case activity is not going down and the best way to prevent severe outcomes such as hospitalizations and death, its to reduce the case count.

Karen Ayala and Chris Hoff showed the state graphic, which breaks down cases by county. As a county, DuPage is reporting a high number of new cases per capita but the other metrics set forth by the State of Illinois have DuPage within the recommended limits.

Karen spoke about testing in Hanover Park. She said that we know that there are pockets in the community for who testing in Wheaton will not be readily available for many reasons. Karen Ayala thanked Mayor Craig for his advocacy for the testing site to serve that area.

Once again, the meeting members discussed the IDPH Emergency Rule and the requirement to wear masks in public. Karen noted that we know that masking helps. According to the Governor’s order, masking is required when you are outside or inside. Karen pointed out that some people may believe that they do not have to mask if they are six feet away but that is no longer the case and masks are required.

Karen stated that DCHD does receive a lot of complaints regarding people not wearing masks. Many DuPage communities have done a good job of trying to change the perceptions with the hope that people will wear masks. Karen asked for cooperation on enforcing the Governor’s rule.

She noted that we are hoping for education and voluntary compliance rather than penalizing businesses.

Chris said we will provide a business COVID complaint email to the municipalities to allow both the county and municipality to educate businesses together.

Dr. Chugh said that PCR testing is preferred. Every long-term care facility is receiving an antigen testing machine along with tests. However, the cost of using it after that supply runs out is borne by the facility and not HHS, which is rolling out the machines.

Dr. Chugh said that we continue to advocate for diagnostic testing capacity with a quick turnaround of 48 hours or rapid testing.

Karen noted that there was disparity in testing and capacity noting that pro sports teams are being tested with rapid results available very quickly. The public has not been receiving such tests.

Karen and Dr. Chugh talked about the importance of the flu shot this year.

Nobody wants to have COVID and the flu this season at the same time. Wearing a mask and washing hands bodes well for the flu season but we are bracing ourselves for a possible difficult flu season while COVID continues.

Dr. Chugh said that while a flu shot is not 100 percent effective, it does reduce the duration and severity of the infection of those that are infected. Dr. Chugh noted it makes sense to promote the three w's and to get a flu shot. The 3 W's are Wear a Mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance.

Chairman Cronin asked if the flu shot is available now and when would be a good time to get it. Dr. Chugh said DCHD recommends vaccination as soon as possible. In a regular flu season, we would start OCT 1 but as soon as it is available people should get it.

Karen talked about the survey sent out to village managers. Chris Hoff thanked those municipalities that responded and noted that DCHD will be reviewing those responses to reinforce or modify responses and educational material.

With no further questions the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.