



## **Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 9.14.2020**

**Municipalities Participating:** Addison, Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Elmhurst, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lisle, Naperville, Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, Roselle, Villa Park, Warrenville, West Chicago, Westmont, Wheaton, Willowbrook, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

**DuPage County Representatives Participants:** Joan Olson, Chief Communications Officer

**DuPage County Health Department Participants:** Sam Tornatore, Board of Health President; 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 shared the following:  
Today's call will address that DuPage County crossed the threshold from blue to orange which is determined by the State of Illinois's and the Illinois Department of Health's (IDPH) metrics. This change reflects that there is still more work to do in the efforts to address increased COVID-19 activity throughout DuPage County.

Board of Health President, Sam Tornatore added his appreciation to everyone participating on today's call and thanked everyone for their continued diligence to provide direction and information to their constituents.

### **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: 6,521,887
  - Deaths: 194,107
- State of Illinois
  - confirmed cases: 261,371
  - deaths: 8,309
  - Recovery rate of 96%
- DuPage County
  - confirmed cases: 15,997
  - deaths: 544

- Recovery rate of 95.3%
- Trend lines continue to show increased positive case counts throughout the county with recent daily, confirmed cases at 112 versus the previous low of 35 cases per day.
- The level of increased activity has also resulted in a subtle increase in a positivity rate of 6.54%. A positivity rate of under 5% is ideal.

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

Dr. Chugh and Mr. Hoff provided the following updates and current data trends:

- Severe outcomes of hospitalizations and deaths continue to remain low; but health systems have been reporting a recent and concerning increase in the number of ICU and non-ICU cases. The numbers in today's graphs are not reflective of the entire picture due to the ongoing reporting lag in hospitalization and death data.
- The highest levels in recent case activity are in youth and young adults. This increase occurred before school re-openings and is widespread. There have been a few concentrated outbreaks relating to youth sports and school athletic activities. Hospitalizations are also occurring in this demographic with less severe outcomes.
- On Friday, September 11, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) risk level in DuPage County has changed from blue to orange on the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) County Level Risk Metrics Map for week 36 (8/30/2020-9/5/2020). An orange designation indicates warning signs of increased COVID-19 risk in the community.
- There are currently no additional restrictions required by the state at this phase. Participants were requested to continue to educate their constituents on the importance of following health protocols to minimize transmission of COVID-19 in DuPage County in order to prevent further restrictions, as well as future cases, hospitalizations and deaths related to COVID-19.
- At least two metrics must be met for a County's color designation to change. DuPage County's increase in death counts and the number of increased confirmed cases during week 36 (ending 9/5/2020) resulted in the change. The level of community transmission remains moderate.
- Instead of Friday afternoons, weekly school metric reports will now be posted by 10:00AM on Monday mornings to assist local superintendents with their school re-opening plans. Staff also have two weekly meetings with school superintendents.

### **MISC UPDATES and CHAT BOX Questions**

- The Health Department will be launching an educational media campaign that can be shared on what the public can do to help stop the transmission of COVID-19.
- The Health Department has created two dedicated teams to address questions from businesses and school leaders
  - For businesses with questions or to report a complaint of a business not adhering to the public health measure the Business team can be contacted @ [covid19Business@dupagehealth.org](mailto:covid19Business@dupagehealth.org). To date the team has assisted 470 businesses.
  - For daycares, schools, colleges/universities with questions the COVID-19 Education team can be contacted @ [COVID19Education@dupagehealth.org](mailto:COVID19Education@dupagehealth.org).

- The Health Department is working in partnership with schools, parents and students to create a learning models' community to address how to best reduce community transmission for a shared goal of returning students to school.

In response to Oakbrook President, Dr. Lalimalani's uncertainty as to the level of severity for the majority of confirmed cases, the few cases he is witnessing in his clinical settings and his concern on the continued level of caution being exercised the State of Illinois on how it determines the color change and any further restrictions, as well as the conservative approach by local Public Health leaders.

- Director Ayala emphasized that 16% of every 100 individuals with known hospitalization status require hospitalization and of those, at least 4% require admission into the ICU.
- Dr. Chugh also addressed the unknowns of long-term effects to those considered recovered from the virus, the evolving environment with a novel virus and the lack of any form of approved treatment or vaccination.

**Chat box questions:**

Mayor Trilla of Willowbrook: Is it possible to overlay total cases with hospitalization rate as well as death per day?

- Response: Director Ayala – we do not have that information, but will have information available on next week's call.

Mayor Pecak of Lisle -

Where are college student cases credited to? As an example, a student from DuPage who mat attend ISU, tests positive, and quarantines on campus. Do they count at ISU, or in DuPage County as a case?

- Response: Dr. Chugh - They are counted based on their address at symptom onset.

Regarding College student testing, Is the address at time of diagnosis based on the address given for the test? Is it up to the discretion of the student to give their school address or "home" address?

- Response: Dr. Chugh - this information is determined during the case interview and transferred to the jurisdiction where onset occurred.

Kevin Barr -

Do you expect to be making (or the State) some type of recommendation regarding Halloween?

- Response: Chris Hoff shared that it is anticipated that the State will be providing information in the next few days.

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