



Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 11.2.2020

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

DuPage County Representatives Participants: Sheryl Markay, Chief Policy & Program 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; Adam Forker, Director of Client Access, 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.

Director Ayala provided opening comments which included noting the concerning trend of increases in recent COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations, including area hospitals implementing their incident command structure to address the increases. Director Ayala reemphasized the need for wearing a mask, washing hands, social distancing and avoiding group activities. The amplification of this messaging will assist to help mitigate community spread.

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: 9,213,002
 - Deaths: 231,011
- State of Illinois
 - confirmed cases: 417,280
 - deaths: 9,792
 - Recovery rate of: 97%

- DuPage County
 - confirmed cases: 24,042
 - deaths: 616
 - Recovery rate of: 96.4%
- Average age of confirmed cases from
 - March to present was 43 years of age
 - From 10/19 -11/1 is 41 years of age
- Average age of hospitalized cases from
 - March to present was 61 years of age.
 - From 10-/19 -11/1 is 69 years of age
- Average age of deaths related to COVID-19 from
 - March to present was 79 years of age
 - From 10/19-11/1 is 79 years of age

Data/DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 Dashboard Review

Dr. Chugh and Mr. Hoff reviewed with participants the current data trends from the Health Department's COVID -19 dashboard found on the department's website.

- Case data- cumulative and by day
 - Current trends indicated the steepest increase to date in positive cases, far exceeding the peak which occurred in the spring.
 - The average seven day rolling average is 321.3 positive cases per day which indicates that community spread of the virus is essentially "out of control," compared to 35 cases per day toward the end of June.
 - County level data is at 12 -13% positivity rate
- Severe outcomes data
 - While admissions are not at levels seen in the spring the rate of admissions has doubled in the last 2 to 3 weeks, which does not take into consideration the reporting lag of 1-2 weeks and current IDPH data processing backlog of 3-4 days. This indicates a concerning trend.
 - Deaths remain at a relatively low level, but recent weeks are indicating a concern in the number of recent deaths reported, particularly given the reporting lag and the increases in positive case activity and hospitalizations.
- Trends by age group:
 - Dramatic rises continue to occur in all adult age groups.
 - High level of community transmission in younger aged individuals results in increases in positive cases in older individuals, as reflected by the recent increases shown in those ages 80 and older.
 - Those aged 0-4 years are now at the highest levels of positive case counts in this demographic since the virus onset.
- School Metrics for Week 43 ending on October 24, 2020

- All metrics, except for one are now in the category of substantial level.
 - Positive new cases are at 222 per 100,000 cases per week, with at least a 20% increase for 2 consecutive weeks in case count and youth case count trends.
- Regional (Kane and DuPage Counties)
 - Hospitalizations have increased significantly since the beginning of October.

Outbreaks/Restaurants and Bars

Director Ayala shared that there were many misinterpretations of the data provided on outbreaks in long-term care facilities and the number of COVID-19 cases within the County. The following information has been added to the outbreak tables and was shared addressing outbreak- associated cases.

1. **PLEASE NOTE:** Outbreak-related COVID-19 cases represent **less than 15% of our total COVID-19 cases** among DuPage County residents, with the remainder being individual cases reported from the community with no identified or reported link or association. This is a reflection of our **ongoing high levels of community activity**, which **increase risk of transmission** in various settings, such as in-person gatherings and shared meals with family/friends, workplaces, and long-term care facilities. These outbreak data represent the “tip of the iceberg,” since cases and outbreaks are largely under-reported and under-counted.” **Those interested in following the metrics should monitor both the outbreak tables and the overall case trends on our dashboard at:** <https://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data>

In response to participant questions on indoor closures of restaurant/bars and community outbreak activity the following was shared.

- The DuPage County Health Department is not the agency which determines indoor closures for restaurants and bars. This was a result of the Governor’s mandate.
- The Health Department receives dozens of complaints weekly on establishments not following universal masking and other health mitigation measures.
- A lack of cooperation from some in the public has led to challenges in contact tracing which could help better identify outbreaks leading to more strategic mitigation efforts.

The following was shared from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in addressing participant questions and concerns on the indoor closures for restaurants and bars.

1. An important element of understanding the types of locations that may lead to increased spread of COVID-19 in a community. Community and Close Contact Exposures Associated with COVID-19 Among Symptomatic Adults ≥ 18 Years in 11 Outpatient Health Care Facilities — United States, July 2020
Weekly / September 11, 2020 / 69(36);1258–1264
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6936a5.htm>
Excerpt:

"In this investigation, participants with and without COVID-19 reported generally similar community exposures, with the exception of going to locations with on-site eating and drinking options. Adults with confirmed COVID-19 (case-patients) were approximately twice as likely as were control-participants to have reported dining at a restaurant in the 14 days before becoming ill. In addition to dining at a restaurant, case-patients were more likely to report going to a bar/coffee shop, but only when the analysis was restricted to participants without close contact with persons with known COVID-19 before illness onset. Reports of exposures in restaurants have been linked to air circulation (7). Direction, ventilation, and intensity of airflow might affect virus transmission, even if social distancing measures and mask use are implemented according to current guidance. Masks cannot be effectively worn while eating and drinking, whereas shopping and numerous other indoor activities do not preclude mask use."

- Alternate Care sites
 - Should the need for expanded space for alternate care be needed, IDPH has indicated a site in Blue Island will be used and is currently being prepared for an influx of patients.
 - It was also noted by Mr. Hoff that should patient numbers continue to rise that require medical care, supplies including personal protection equipment and staffing are of concern.

Final Comments:

For participants requesting materials in Spanish, please contact the Health Department for assistance. President Tornatore concluded with a reemphasis on the important of universal masking and following public health mitigation steps to reduce spread and thanked participants for their ongoing efforts and messaging.

Messaging on universal masking was shared in the chat.

- Recent evidence suggests that up to 40% to 45% of people infected with SARS-CoV-2 may never be symptomatic but still can transmit the virus.⁴ Viral spread from people without symptoms may account for more than 50% of transmission events in COVID-19 outbreaks.⁸ **Since it has now become evident that individuals capable of transmitting SARS-CoV-2 cannot be identified solely by the presence of symptoms, universal mask wearing in the community for source control is recommended.**⁴

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2772459#jvp200233r4>

- CDC recommends all people 2 years of age and older wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. That's why it's important for everyone to wear masks in public settings and practice physical distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from other people).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

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