



## **Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 11.16.2020**

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

**DuPage County Representatives Participants:** Dan Cronin, DuPage County Board Chairman, Sheryl Markay, Chief Policy and 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; 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 introduced Chairman Cronin and Board of Health President Sam Tornatore.

Chairman Cronin – Expressed optimism on the recent news of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, but also acknowledged the challenges for distribution when they become available. Until effective vaccine is available, the County continues to be immersed in dealing with the spike of the virus throughout the County.

Board of Health President, Sam Tornatore echoed the Chairman’s remarks and expressed his continued appreciation for the efforts being made to address the virus.

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

The Health Department’s Medical Officer, Dr. Chugh provided updates focused on local levels of positive case count activity.

DuPage County

- confirmed cases: 33,336
- deaths: 653
- Recovery rate of: 96.6%

- Average age of confirmed cases from
  - March to present was 42 years of age
  - From 11/2 -11/15 is 40 years of age
- Average age of hospitalized cases from
  - March to present was 62 years of age.
  - From 11/2 -11/15 is 60 years of age
- Average age of deaths related to COVID-19 from
  - March to present was 79 years of age
  - From 11/2 -11/15 is 79 years of age

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

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

- Age Group Data
  - All age groups continue to see increases in COVID-19 cases with adult age groups positive case numbers experiencing the largest increases.
  - Individuals who test positive twice are only reflected once in the positive case count numbers, even if their subsequent positive diagnostic test is greater than three months from their initial infection as potential reinfection.
  - Virus is so prevalent throughout the DuPage County, that it is increasingly difficult to determine where an individual was exposed to the virus, limiting the ability to determine potential outbreaks. Current outbreak reports most likely reflect a small amount, less than 15 percent, of the numbers of outbreaks within the County.
  - Discrepancies in the Illinois Department of Health and DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) dashboard data for COVID-19 cases is due to DCHD reports only representing confirmed cases. IDPH reports confirmed and probable case numbers as is stated on their website.
- Hospitalization and ICU Data
  - There is an increasing concern in the number of hospitalizations which is reflected by an uptick of more than 3x the number of hospitalizations from 4-6 weeks ago. The current numbers do not reflect the hospitalization reporting lag of one to two weeks.
  - There were 367 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 at hospitals in DuPage County as of Friday 11/13. Shortages in staffing resources and physical resources such as personal protection equipment are of concern. Hospitalization numbers reflect all individuals with COVID-19 requiring a higher level of care due to their COVID illness.
- Schools

- 270 of the 392 public and private schools, or 70 percent, located in DuPage County have reported over 1,500 cases among students and staff. There have also been several reported hospitalizations in pediatric age groups.
- The Health Department issued a [Return to School framework](#) at the end of August for school operations based on models across the country. At that time, community spread was in the moderate level. Due to the current level of escalated and substantial transmission the Health Department made the recommendation for 100% remote learning in October. The final decision on how a school determines its closure policy is determined by area school boards and Superintendents.
- Different learning model recommendations for primary grades versus middle school and high school are based on a school's learning environment. For example, grammar schools open for in-person learning while middle school and high school are all remote is based on the type of classroom settings; small cohort classroom settings versus multiple classroom and passing in halls to get to classrooms is one factor considered when making recommendations.
- Restaurants and Bars
  - The issue of indoor dining at local restaurant and bars continues to be a high-profile community issue.
  - The Health Department receives daily reports from the public on establishments not following the Governor's order for Tier 2 mitigations.
  - Some establishments remain in defiance, even after outreach by the Health Department to provide education on how to operate safely.
  - Potential penalties are the final step and the Health Department will reach out to community leaders in determining next steps for those establishments located in their communities who continue to operate outside of the Governor's orders after outreach efforts have failed.
- Vaccine preparedness:
  - DCHD staff have ongoing planning and distribution discussions with the State of Illinois. When vaccine becomes available, it will need to be administered by licensed healthcare providers.
  - The Health Department has secured 2 ultra-cold freezers needed to maintain in the integrity and stability of the Pfizer vaccine when it becomes available.
  - Mandatory vaccination is not anticipated, but some entities may make it a requirement for employment. Medical and religious exemptions would likely still be allowed.
- Masking
  - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a briefing on cloth mask usage and the science behind masking. See resources below.
  - In response to conflicting messaging seen on internet sites regarding masking, the Health Department is open to reviewing and vetting articles, but it was emphasized

that universal masking is one of the few options available to help prevent the spread of the virus in addition to hand washing, and maintaining physical distance.

A list of references and resources were provided in the chat box addressing participant questions and concerns on masking.

## **Masking**

### **How to Select, Wear and Clean Your Mask - CDC**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

### **Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 - CDC**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

There was no further discussion. Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions. Mr. Hoff concluded the call at 11:05 AM with no further discussion.