



## **Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 5.3.2021**

**Municipalities Participating:** Addison, Aurora, Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lemont, Lisle, Lombard, Naperville, Oak Brook, Roselle, Villa Park, Warrenville, Westmont, Wheaton, 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 Karen Ayala shared that the today's call will include updates on vaccines and the County's bold challenge "Our Shot DuPage"

DuPage County Board Chairman shared his continued appreciation of the efforts by the staff at the Health Department for their ongoing COVID-19 response efforts. Chairman Cronin also added optimism in beating back the pandemic and the County's goal to get 80% of the population vaccinated by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE DUPAGE COUNTY AND DASHBOARD REVIEW**

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

Dr. Chugh reviewed the following data:

Average age of confirmed cases from:

- March 2020 to present was 41 years of age.
- From April 19 – May 2 the average age was 33 years of age.

Average age of hospitalized cases from:

- March 2020 to present was 61 years of age.
- From April 19 – May 2 the average age was 52 years of age.

Average age of deaths related to COVID-19 from:

- March 2020 to present was 80 years of age.
- From April 19 – May 2 the average age was 74 years of age.

Dr. Chugh noted the recent complications associated with COVID-19 appear to be occurring in the younger and unvaccinated individuals.

## **Data and current trends**

- Total COVID-19 cases: 88,992 (confirmed cases: 81,786 /probable cases: 7,206)
- Community transmission level remains at substantial.
- Total COVID-19-related deaths:1,330 (confirmed deaths: 1,263 / probable deaths: 67). Data may be incomplete due to reporting lags.
- Positivity rate is at approximately 4.7% as of 4/29 and is based on a seven-day rolling average. This current percentage indicates a slight downward trend from previous weeks.
- The highest numbers of positive case counts continue to be in those aged 20-39 years of age, followed by those aged 40-59 years of age.
- Dr. Chugh stressed the need for everyone to continue with public health mitigation measures of wearing a well-fitted mask correctly and consistently, maintaining 6 feet physical distance, good hand hygiene, avoiding large gatherings and obtaining a vaccine as eligible particularly in light of the increase in positive cases in unvaccinated populations.
- Hospitalization numbers are indicating a downward trend since last week's report, with an average of 79 admissions to area hospitals. Most hospitalizations and deaths are now occurring in unvaccinated individuals.
- Data was reviewed on the Health Department's COVID-19 dashboard which provides information on cases by vaccination status. [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data)
  - Among DuPage County residents 0.2% of confirmed cases reported on or after 12/15/2020 occurred in individuals who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
  - Among DuPage County residents 0.5% of hospitalized cases reported on or after 12/15/2020 occurred in individuals who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
  - Among DuPage County residents, 0.5% of deaths due to COVID-19 on or after 12/15/2020 occurred in individuals who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

## **COVID -19 Vaccine Update**

Mr. Hoff provided a PowerPoint Presentation (a copy is included with the minutes) with updates on the Health Department's COVID-19 vaccine response. Mr. Hoff shared the following key messages and highlights of the call.

- As of May 2, 2021, 335,220 (36.10%) of DuPage County residents are considered fully vaccinated.
- As of May 2, 2021, 453,697 DuPage County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The number of first doses requested is 3,170 for the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Due to tremendous efforts of vaccinating individuals who were very interested over the last weeks and an surge in vaccine the past 2 weeks, the requested amount represents the current needs of DuPage County vaccine providers.
- As of May 2, 2021, 127,540 (88.6%) persons aged 65 and older in DuPage County received one dose of vaccine.
- As of May 2, 2021, 116,550 (81%) persons aged 65 and older in DuPage County are fully vaccinated.
- DuPage County continues to lead the way in vaccination efforts in the collar counties reporting 36.10% of the population as fully vaccinated.

- There are 210 vaccination sites/providers in the County.
- The Health Department continues to focus on vaccination efforts and building vaccine confidence in underserved communities.
- The Health Department is working with the Illinois Department of Public Health to access better data on vaccination efforts by zip code.
- Outreach to vaccinate students aged 16 and older is ongoing and districts are prioritized based on the percentage of their students who receive free and reduced lunch program is also a focus to ensure equitable distribution throughout the County. The Pfizer vaccine is the only approved vaccine for this age group.
- **NEW** – Effective today (5/2), the DuPage County mass vaccination site in Wheaton is accepting walk-ins for vaccinations. The process takes approx. 30 minutes.
- There are multiple opportunities for individuals to receive a vaccine outside of a mass vaccination site including vaccinations for those in a homebound setting, Community -based vaccine clinics in partnerships with municipalities and mobile clinics.
- **NEW** - in the coming 2/3 weeks the Health Department will no longer be distributing vaccine to providers. Providers will be able to order vaccine directly from IDPH.
- The Health Department is shifting focus from vaccinations to building vaccine confidence among individuals who are hesitant to get vaccinated and will use educational tools, messaging including new public service announcements and utilizing multimedia platforms to promote messaging.
- In response to participant questions:
  1. Dr. Chugh responded to a question for individuals working in Public Work settings and whether they need to continue to wear a mask. Physical distancing and vaccination status for individuals would need to be determined. Dr. Chugh added that each situation would need to be reviewed on an individual basis.
  2. Director Ayala responded to a question on fireworks and other summer activity planning. Statewide metrics vs. county wide metrics determine the Governor’s reopening plans and the State remains in phase 4 due to hospital capacity and increasing mortality numbers across the state. Once all the metrics have been met for the bridge phase the State will remain in this phase for at least 28 days to monitor current case activity metrics. Should the state maintain all three metrics it will move to phase 5, however should the opposite occur, the State will move back to day one of the 28-day review period.
  3. Dr. Chugh addressed a question on variants from India and shared she has not learned of the B1617 variant in DuPage County however, any cases relating to travel from this area are being sequenced. Dr. Chugh also added that she recently did hear that current vaccine appears to provide good coverage and protection against the B1617 variant but there is no real world evidence and is based more on simulated circumstances and lab testing. There continues to be a recommendation of seven-day quarantining for international travelers.

There was no further discussion. Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions. Mr. Hoff concluded the call at 10:45AM.