



## **Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 9.13.2021**

**Municipalities Participating:** Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lisle, Lombard, Naperville, Oak Brook, Oak Brook Terrace, Roselle, Warrenville, Westmont, Wheaton, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

**DuPage County Representatives Participants:** Sheryl Markay, Chief Policy and Program Officer

**DuPage County Health Department Participants:** Karen Ayala, Executive Director; Rashmi Chugh, Medical Officer; Chris Hoff, Director for Community Health Resources; Dennis Brennan, Legislative Manager; Adam Forker, Director of Client Access, Penny Chanez, Executive Asst.

The purpose of today’s call with Mayors and Managers is to provide community and business updates and guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director Karen Ayala shared that today’s call will include updates on COVID-19 data and vaccination efforts.

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

### **COVID-19 Updates**

#### 1) Situation Update

- Current COVID-19 activity level remains high in DuPage County with a current 7-day rolling average of approx. 160 cases per 100,000 individuals.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has COVID-19 data community level available at [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view/Illinois|17043|Risk|community\\_transmission\\_level](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view/Illinois|17043|Risk|community_transmission_level)
- Testing volume continues to be high. This is a positive factor for helping to reduce community transmission. If an individual tests positive the implementation of strategies can result in helping to reduce potential transmission to other individuals.
- Current 7-day positivity rate is 4.4% and is moving in the right direction from a positivity rate of 5% from a few weeks ago.
- Severe outcomes remain a lagging indicator, however the current rates for both hospitalizations and death show positive declines. Real time daily census reports from the six area hospitals are indicating a decline in hospitalizations from a higher level that was reported at the end of August.
- Age distribution – currently 0-19 and 20-29 years old currently continue to have a high level of COVID-19 transmission.

- The majority of cases, hospitalizations and deaths are occurring in individuals not fully vaccinated. 4% of reported cases are considered to be breakthrough cases. Vaccines continue to provide a high level of effectiveness against severe outcomes.
- The Delta variant remains the predominant variant and has a high level of transmission.
- There has been one specimen sequenced and determined to be the Mu variant in DuPage County. The individual was fully vaccinated and did not have any severe outcomes. The Mu variant currently appears to be suppressed by the Delta variant which remains more transmissible.
- Approx. 60% of eligible DuPage County residents are fully vaccinated and approx. 200,000 of eligible individuals remain unvaccinated. Approx. 170,000 individuals are ineligible to receive the vaccine at this time. Ineligible individuals are currently defined either as ineligible because of age or having known allergic reactions to components of the vaccine.

Chris Hoff provided updates on the following:

- 2) Current Mask and Vaccination Requirements – Mr. Hoff provided the following updates.
  - Governor Pritzker’s recent Executive order 2021-20 which occurred at the end of August includes the following: On August 30, 2021, all individuals in Illinois who are age two or over and able to medically tolerate a face covering (a mask or cloth face covering) shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when in an indoor public place and all Health Care Workers must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine within 10 days after issuance of this Executive Order, and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 30 days following administration of their first dose in a two-dose vaccination series. A copy of the full Executive Order can be found here: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/resources/executive-orders/display.executive-order-number-20.2021.html>
- 3) Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Commerce provided a FAQ resource which can be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Documents/Mask%20FAQ.pdf#search=faq> and addresses additional questions on the Governor’s order for businesses.
- 4) White House Requirements – the recent announcement by the White House on vaccine mandates across multi sectors is still very fluid. DCHD will continue to follow and provide updates on implementation when more information becomes available.

Director Ayala and Mr. Hoff provided updates on the following.

#### COVID19 Vaccination Updates

- 1) Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Vax Verify
  - is an online portal system where Illinois residents can access their COVID-19 vaccination records. [https://idphportal.illinois.gov/s/?language=en\\_US](https://idphportal.illinois.gov/s/?language=en_US)
  - There is currently no system available to employers to check the vaccine status of their employees.

- 2) 3<sup>rd</sup> Dose Vaccine Recommendations.
  - DCHD's recommendation to immunocompromised individuals who qualify and want to receive a third dose of vaccine is to speak with their primary care physician.
- 3) Booster Planning
  - DCHD is currently developing plans for increasing capacity for the potential of COVID-19 booster shots and vaccinations for individuals under 12 years of age.
  - The DCHD Care Van is continues to provide mobile vaccination clinics and is available to be scheduled for future events.
- 4) Law Enforcement Concerns
  - Director Ayala shared that COVID-19 is now the leading cause of death in law enforcement officers and wanted to make participants aware that the Health Department is willing to partner with municipalities to promote vaccine efforts among law enforcement and address vaccine hesitancies.
  - Chief Kruger also shared the following: Public Safety personnel who were vaccinated on duty and gave their agency address may not have their records matched up on the IDPH portal if they had other vaccinations using their home address for things like flu etc. off duty. The employee has to have it corrected for it to show up.

### Questions and Answers

In response to a question if an employer is required to provide paid time off for testing for an individual who does not want to receive the mandatory vaccine but works in an employment setting where vaccines are required, Director Ayala shared that DCHD's recommendation is to check with your legal department. DuPage County's State's Attorney office has recommended that for the employees of DuPage County that paid time is advised for an individual who must adhere to the testing requirement.

In response to a question on natural immunity vs. immunity provided by the vaccine, Dr. Chugh shared that the greatest protection appears to be in those individuals who have natural immunity and are fully vaccinated. The CDC has noted that natural immunity provides some protection for at least 3 months.

In response to a question if the state has indicated mandating public employees be vaccinated, Mr. Hoff shared that the Health Department is not aware of any discussion on this issue.

In response to a question on unvaccinated individuals who have had contact with a person with COVID-19 and whether they must quarantine for the full 14 days or whether they can shorten their quarantine consistent with the CDC option (after 10 days w/o testing or after negative testing on day 5 or later)? A link to current quarantining requirements was provided: [https://www.dupagehealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/6545/DCHD\\_COVID-19\\_Updated-Quarantine-Recommendations\\_Updates\\_Final-8162021-PDF?bidId=](https://www.dupagehealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/6545/DCHD_COVID-19_Updated-Quarantine-Recommendations_Updates_Final-8162021-PDF?bidId=)

In response to a questions to clarify what defines FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine the following link was shared <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/misinformation-alert/anti-vax-site-claims-fda-approved-pfizer-vaccine-differs-from-vaccine-under-eua/>

In response to a question on public sector employees who in April 2017 signed a document to participate in continuity of government medical interventions provided by the DuPage County Health Dept. in cases of biological incidents and whether other medical interventions i.e. monoclonal antibody therapies, supplementals would be available under this document if directed by a physician for COVID-19, Director Ayala stated that the document covers only certain antibiotics for use in biological incidents.

A list of links to testing location resources was provided

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/testing>

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/community-based-testing-sites/index.html#:~:text=COVID%2D19%20tests%20are%20available,be%20available%20in%20your%20area>

<https://www.dupagehealth.org/662/COVID-19-Testing-Other-Test-Site-Location>

<https://www.dupagehealth.org/664/COVID-19-Testing-Odeum-Expo-Center>

There was no further discussion. Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions. Director Ayala concluded the call at 10:53AM.