



## **Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 2.7.22**

**Municipalities Participating:** Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook, Carol Stream, Darien, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lombard, Naperville, Oak Brook, Oak Brook Terrace, Roselle, Warrenville, West Chicago, Westmont, Wheaton, Willowbrook, Woodridge, DuPage Mayors and Managers

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

**DuPage County Health Department Participants:** Board of Health President, Sam Tornatore; Karen Ayala, Executive Director; Chris Hoff, Director for Community Health Resources; Dr. Rashmi Chugh, Medical Officer; 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. The PowerPoint shared during the call is provided with the meeting notes and highlights key discussion points covered during the call.

Executive Director, Karen Ayala shared that today's discussion will include discussion on the next phase of the COVID-19 response.

Mr. Hoff and Dr. Chugh provided the following comments and updates.

### **COVID-19 Updates**

#### **Situation Update**

- 1) Current COVID-19 case activity
  - Average age of cases from
    - March 2020 to present was 38 years of age.
    - From 1/22/2022-2/4/2022 is 35 years of age
  - Average age of hospitalized cases from
    - March 2020 to present was 60 years of age.
    - From 1/22/2022 -2/4/2022 is 60 years of age
  - Average age of deaths related to COVID-19 from
    - March 2020 to present was 79 years of age.
    - From 1/22/2022-2/4/2022 is 87 years of age
- 2) Cases over time data indicate the highest peak of case activity occurred with Omicron variant. Recent data now indicate there is a significant drop in case activity. While case activity is decreasing, it was noted that home testing results are not reflected in the agency's

dashboard data. Decreases in case activity are being seen locally, statewide, and nationally.

- 3) Testing volume remains high but indicators also point to decreases in testing activity. Dashboard data does not include home testing data and only reflect testing data from CLIA-certified labs.
- 4) Seven-day positivity is at 10.1% and also has decreased from previous weeks.

#### 5) **Hospitalization and Severe Outcome Updates**

- Hospitalizations related to COVID-19 reported among DuPage County residents remain higher than the spring and summer waves of activity, but not as high as March of 2020 or the winter of 2021.
- Health systems continue to be strained with staffing, resources and providing non COVID related care.
- Daily hospital census data of the six DuPage County area hospitals of individuals hospitalized with COVID-19 reflect that numbers have come down dramatically in the last few weeks with 154 individuals currently being hospitalized for COVID-19.
- Across Region 8 consisting of Kane and DuPage counties – in the last week ICU bed capacity is above the 20% threshold
- Dr. Chugh noted that increased transmissibility of Omicron resulted in infecting more individuals which led to an increased number of persons with severe outcomes, even though the percent of severe outcomes from Omicron is thought to be lower than the percent of severe outcomes caused by the Delta variant.
- The Health Department continues to monitor variant activity. Currently Omicron is the dominant strain with close to 100 percent of sequenced tests indicating the Omicron variant.

#### **Vaccination and Treatment Updates**

- Mr. Hoff shared chart data developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the effectiveness of vaccinations and boosters in vaccinated individuals vs. unvaccinated individuals. Links are provided in the slide presentation.
- Boosters are now available to anyone over age 12.
- Moderna Spikevax vaccine was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for those individuals ages 18 years and older.
- Pfizer has requested Emergency Use Authorization of their COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 6 months through 4 years of age.
- 75% of DuPage County population is fully vaccinated and 53% of fully vaccinated have received a booster dose.
- Information was shared on outpatient therapies.
- New COVID-19 testing site will be added in March at the DuPage County Fairgrounds.
- Legislation is pending in Springfield for regulating and licensing testing sites. The DuPage County Health Department is in support of this legislation.

## **Next Phase of COVID-19 Response**

Mr. Hoff shared information on the knowns and unknowns of COVID-19 and the Health Department's ongoing response efforts which are highlighted on pages 30 and 31 of the PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Hoff also shared information on a recent lawsuit and ruling regarding school masking and exclusion. The Health Department continues to recommend masking as part of layered mitigation strategies in school environments.

A synopsis is also provided on slide 36 of the presentation on proposed legislation for bill HB4640 – Access to Public Health Data supported by members of the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC) of which the Health Department is a member. This proposed bill has garnered significant attention and has been misrepresented in some public forums. Participants were encouraged to call the Health Department if they have any questions.

In response to effectiveness of masking, information on masking was provided. Director Ayala also shared that masking is one of several layered strategies in the prevention of spreading COVID-19 .<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

In response to a question on when an individual can receive their booster if they have COVID-19. Dr. Chugh shared the following: "Preparing for Your Vaccine" section at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Director Ayala provided final comments on the Health Department's strategy for focusing Public Health efforts moving forward as follows: The Health Department's goal is to help equip individuals, families, businesses, and communities with the information they need in order to make the decision for their health and the health of their constituents, employees, participants etc.

There was no further discussion. Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions. Participants also agreed to continue with monthly calls. Mr. Hoff concluded the call at 10:53AM.