



April 6, 2020

**COVID-19 Status Report
Oak Park Village Board of Trustees**

To: Village President and Village Board of Trustees

Fr: Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager

As means to share a brief summary of information regarding Village of Oak Park operational activities in response to COVID-19. In most cases, formal public guidance or employee guidance has been publicly disseminated via the Village website or Village social media channels.

New Public Health Guidance

Oak Park Public Health Director Mike Charley announced today that three more Village residents had tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. But the total number to date declined from yesterday's report as cases previously attributed to the Village were determined not to be residents. The three cases reported today are individuals who range in ages from their 30s to their 90.

Oak Park now has 68 confirmed cases with two individuals included in this total that listing addresses as an Oak Park Post Office (PO) box and four assigned to Oak Park through West Suburban Hospital without a local address from prior to today.

Recently, test results reported by West Suburban Medical Center have lacked addresses, so the State has assigned the individuals' to Oak Park until local hospital and public health staff can verify residency. In order to improve reporting, in the future, Oak Park Public Health Daily Bulletin will begin to report out separately positive tests for unknown addresses and known addresses.

Today there are 8 new positive tests not included in the bulletin (but will be updated tomorrow) that are assigned to Oak Park through West Suburban Hospital, without a local address.

Because of privacy laws, no additional information can be released about individuals who test positive. The Oak Park Department of Public Health is notified of positive tests as established by state and local public health protocol. Because of privacy laws, no additional information can be released about the individuals. It is noted, that privacy precludes location information regarding individuals tested to anyone other than Public Health Officials and First Responders.

The Oak Park Department of Public Health is working closely with officials from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), investigating and notifying anyone who may have had exposure to the individual who tested positive for COVID-19. Local public health officials, hospitals and first responders are following protocols consistent with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Website Traffic

Since the board made the initial emergency declaration, website page views have grown substantially. In a typical full month, the Village website will get 110,000 to 120,000 page views. But the Village website had 167,000-plus page views just since March 14.

The COVID-19 page is by far the most visited page since March 14 with 50,000-plus page views. To put that in perspective, in a normal month, our most visited page normally gets about 7,000 to 8,000 views, usually related to parking. The other most visited pages since March 14 are news stories related to COVID-19.

Communications staff is posting updated positive tests each day, sharing the information via email and on our social media sites. We also are sharing information of value to citizens, relying primarily on official sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Illinois Department of Public Health, which publishes information from the Governor as well. In addition, all bulletins, orders and guidelines issued by Public Health Director Michael Charley are disseminated to the community and posted on the website www.oak-park.us/covid19.

The approach has been to use official information from other sources via links, rather than copying and branding the same information as being local. Since the information is changing rapidly and often unexpectedly, this approach has been essential to help ensure any information on our website is up to date and eliminates out of date information from being inadvertently accessed on the Village site if the original source has made updates.

Staffing Updates

The Public Works Department announced the promotion of Rob Sproule to Assistant Public Works Director. This new position was established in the FY20 budget and the competitive recruitment for this position was initiated and completed prior to the Village Board's declaration of an Emergency affecting Public Health, with the announcement made to staff in mid-March. Rob has been with the Village since May 2014 serving as the Forestry Superintendent. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Fordham University and a Master of Forestry Degree from the University of Maine as well as several notable accomplishments including being a Board Certified Master Arborist. Rob has taken a lead role in many activities for the Public Works Department since coming on board and continues to show his strong leadership skills during the COVID-19 event.