



April 8, 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**

Today, the Village of Oak Park Department of Public Health received notification of the following new COVID-19 cases:

10 Oak Park residents

The above newly reported Oak Park cases range in age from the 20s to 80s.

Excluding individuals for which street addresses are not yet determined, the State of Illinois reports a total of seventy-seven (77) total Oak Park COVID-19 cases. It is important to note that as patient tracking and case follow-up occurs, individuals listed within the number of Oak Park cases reported may change depending on residency confirmation.

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).

**Senior Housing Case**

Oak Park Public Health Director Mike Charley reported that a resident of a local a retirement and assisted living facility had tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. The resident is currently being cared for in a local hospital. Berkeley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 6909 North Ave, Oak Park, Illinois, a skilled nursing facility operated by Berkeley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center LLC, has been order to take specific steps that comply with Illinois

Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for protection of the health of facility's residents and its employees. In addition strict measures preventing the acceptance of any new residents or rehab patients are in place. Other measures include the prohibition of any visitors and canceling events or gatherings within the facility.

Failure to comply with the public health order is a Class A misdemeanor under state law, which carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$2,500 fine. In addition, the facility could lose its license and face civil liability.

Director Charley additionally reported today three new positive COVID-19 cases at the Oak Park Oasis, 625 North Harlem Avenue, Oak Park (all new cases are hospitalized). While these cases are included in the total cases reported about in Oak Park today, privacy precludes reporting of any additional information on the individuals. This brings the total to four cases at the Oasis - a retirement and assisted living facility. Staff continues monitor, work with and support the Oasis and its compliance with the Public Health Order that was issued by Director Charley on March 31, 2020 following the first reported case at the facility. The Village was additionally supported by the Illinois Department of Public Health yesterday as a call was held with representatives of Oasis including Susan Bledsoe with the Oasis/ ICare Consulting (corporate representative), Deji Adegoye the local Oasis Administrator, Evonda Thomas-Smith the Assistant Director – Illinois Department of Public Health and two other representatives of IDPH as well as Public Health Director Charley and several additional members of Village staff as everyone is working cooperatively to address this significant situation at the Oasis facility.

### **Rental Assistance Update**

The Village has a long standing program in partnership with Housing Forward to provide rental assistance to Oak Park residents facing homelessness and is the current agency being promoted in the community for rental assistance programs. Currently, Housing Forward has three main funding sources. The first is the State of Illinois Homelessness Prevention funds which provides up to 3 months of rental assistance. This program does have two state requirements that limit eligibility; the applicant must have a source of income and not received funds in the last 2 years. Housing advocates are encouraging the state to eliminate these requirements during the COVID-19 crisis. The second source of funding is Emergency Solutions Grant funds (ESG) provided by the Village, as well as from Cook County. The one barrier to utilizing these funds had been the fair market rent levels established by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development which in some situation establish rent levels too low. The Village has made a request to HUD to waive the fair market rent levels during the COVID-19 crisis, and therefore, it is no longer a barrier. Additionally, the ESG funds awarded to Cook County were increased by HUD and Housing Forward is expected to receive a substantial increase in funding from Cook County ESG. The third source of funds is the Flexible Rental Assistance Program which is funded by the Village's Affordable Housing funds and under Resolution 20-124 adopted by the Village Board on April 6, 2020 which extending the Declaration of an Emergency Affecting the

Public Health thru May 5, 2020 funds unspent in 2019 are being earmarked for Housing Forward as needed after Illinois Homelessness Prevention Funds and ESG funds are exhausted. Finally, Village staff is in contact with HUD to determine if the Village can use the CDBG CARES fund for additional rental assistance via Housing Forward based upon local needs established through the HUD award process.

### **Social Services**

During this week's social service call, the following information was reported: The Oak Park Township will be delivering 10 pack meals to 300 residents this week. The Oak Park Park District reported they are working with community volunteers to sew face masks for non-health workers. The Park District asked each agency to let them know how many masks they would like. The Oak Park Public Library has posted information for students dealing with online learning. The School Districts reported making plans for continued elearning through the Governor's Stay at Home order. The Oak Park Community foundation directed non-profits to [www.chicagocovid19responsefund.org](http://www.chicagocovid19responsefund.org) to learn about funding opportunities. The community congregations are planning an online service of comfort on April 30 which will be a multi-faith gathering. The Oak Park Chamber of Commerce is conducting a business impact survey. Beyond Hunger saw a 35% increase in food requests from the week before. They have implemented safety officers on each shift to ensure adequate social distancing practices are maintained for volunteers. Housing Forward is working with volunteers to provide breakfasts and lunches to participants and catering evening meals. Thrive reported an increase in online counseling.