



Public Health Statement – President Gallagher
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, August 17, 2020

Today, all regions of the state remain in Phase 4 of the governor's Restore Illinois plan. On 8/14, the IDPH reported 14 counties are at the warning level, and tomorrow new mitigation measures will be implemented in Region 4 to try and slow the resurgence of COVID-19 in the St. Louis area. Cook County is not at the warning level, but Kane and Will Counties are. Nevertheless, cases in Western Springs and throughout Cook County continue to slowly rise. As of 8/14, there have been a total of 3,159 tests administered and 150 positive cases in Western Springs.

In our region, Suburban Cook County, as of today the metrics show 4 days of positivity increases over a 7 day rolling average, 2 days of hospital admission increases on a 7 day rolling average, 31% of hospital bed availability - 11% over the 20% threshold - and 37% ICU bed availability on a 20% threshold. All of this information and more can be found on the IDPH website at www.DPH.illinois.gov.

Since the last update, the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules approved the IDPH's emergency rules to enforce the use of face coverings and gathering restrictions. The emergency rules have not changed. They include:

- all individuals over the age of two and who are medically able to do so, are required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in public and unable to maintain at least 6' of separation
- Businesses, services, facilities, and organizations shall take reasonable steps to ensure employees, customers, and others on their premises wear a face covering
- Schools - both public and private - from preschool up, and day care facilities, shall require students, faculty, and others on their premises to wear face coverings
- Gatherings of no more than 50 people, or 50% of capacity, whichever is less, are permitted.

Violations cannot be brought against individuals, only businesses, schools, or other institutions. The governor has said that there are multiple opportunities for compliance before any penalty is issued. These rules are simply a commonsense way to enforce public health guidance designed to protect the public as much as possible. Should the Village receive any complaints alleging violations of these rules against a business, we will refer the complaints to the Cook County DPH for enforcement.

At Village Hall, renovations are underway to make the building safe for visitors and staff. We continue to offer most services, and recreational programming is expanding while adhering to public health guidelines. Our local restaurants and businesses have endured the limitations on their operations. But these establishments continue to be impacted by the rules designed to limit the

spread of the virus. Capacity limits and social distancing means fewer patrons overall. Please continue to support our local businesses and restaurants whenever and however you can.

While each school district has its own plan for starting the school year, the Village will support our schools in any way we can. We ask our residents to do their part by being a positive role model for our youngest residents: wear face coverings, maintain social distance and, in general, follow the state's well-established public health guidance to help keep those near and dear to you as safe as possible – including yourself.

Countryside will offer free COVID-19 testing on August 21 and 22.