February 27, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

Dear Lake County Municipal and Township Officials,

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an update on the Lake County Health Department’s response and planning for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

As we prepare for an increased threat of COVID-19 in Lake County, please remember:

- Current risk to Illinois residents remains low, but the state and Lake County Health Department are taking steps to prepare. As of today, Illinois has two confirmed cases. These individuals have since recovered and thus, there are no known infectious Illinois residents at this time.
- Illinois became the first state to provide COVID-19 laboratory testing in state.
- Currently there is no vaccine available for COVID-19.
- In the absence of a vaccine or medication, Illinois will also utilize community mitigation strategies. Community mitigation aims to slow the spread of a novel virus in communities using nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) better known as "everyday preventive actions", including staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, and routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- IDPH is also assessing the availability of personal protective equipment such as gloves, gowns, and masks for health care workers. However, please remind our public that handwashing and staying away from those who are sick is more effective than wearing masks and gloves.

Please continue to reduce public fear regarding COVID-19 and remind our residents that currently, it is more important to follow “everyday preventive actions” to reduce their risk of getting the flu.

In order to assure that you are all informed, the Lake County Health Department, in collaboration with the Lake County Municipal League, will be providing an update on COVID-19, preparedness and communication efforts, and how Lake County residents can protect themselves.

This presentation is solely for first responders, municipal, township, and county staff, and elected officials. The event will take place on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, from 6-8 p.m. at the Village of Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center, 2007 Civic Center Way, Round Lake Beach.

To confirm your attendance for the event, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coronavirus-informational-session-tickets-97019025517
We continue to provide regular updates of the Health Department’s website with information and recommendations on COVID-19 and are in daily contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). I have attached the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations on how to stay healthy and what to do to prepare for the spread of the virus. Please note that these recommendations are for influenza, but still apply to COVID-19. Please feel free to share the attached documents, information, and our webpage, lakecountyil.gov/coronavirus, with your residents.

In the event that a vaccine and/or treatment medication becomes available, the Lake County Health Department is prepared to set up mass vaccination/medication distribution sites throughout Lake County. We currently have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for dispensing with eighteen (18) high schools and ten (10) municipalities. We no longer utilize polling places in order to have larger and more strategically located clinics for all Lake County residents.

If there becomes a need for these sites, you will be notified immediately, and a map of the sites will be posted to our website. If your municipality has not signed an MOU with us, please reach out to Patricia Corn, Emergency Response Coordinator at the Lake County Health Department, and she will provide the document for your review and signature.

If you have any further questions on emergency management and mass vaccination/medication distribution sites, please call or email:

   Patricia Corn  
   Emergency Response Coordinator  
   Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center  
   T: (847) 377-8101 | C: (224) 221-8672 | F: (847) 984-5800 | E: pcorn@lakecountyil.gov

Thank you all for your collaboration and assistance in promoting the health and well-being of all who live, work, and play in Lake County.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Pfister, MSES, LEHP  
Executive Director  
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center  
T: (847) 377-8028 | E: MPfister@lakecountyil.gov