What is the situation?

a. As of this afternoon, there are 52,918 cases in Illinois, with 2,355 deaths. In suburban Cook County, we have 15,022 cases and 713 deaths. We cannot stress enough how important it is to continue social distancing and staying home when you are able – we will save lives.

Inequities in Rates of Covid-19 Cases by Race/Ethnicity in Suburban Cook County

[Graph showing rates of cases per 100k people by location and by race/ethnicity in suburban Cook County, 4/30/2020 from https://ccdphef.shinyapps.io/covid19/]

[Graph showing COVID-19 cases by race/ethnicity in suburban Cook County, 4/30/2020 from https://ccdphef.shinyapps.io/covid19/]

Rate per 100,000 People
b. CCDPH is “aware of the critical importance of racial/ethnic, economic, and gender inequalities in shaping individuals’ exposure to-- and ability to protect themselves from-- SARS-CoV-2,… [These unfair] inequalities affects people’s ability to practice physical distancing, maintain economic wellbeing, and access appropriate healthcare when sick. There have been increasing calls for improved data to provide an evidence-base for action.” Our CCDPH data continues to show the impact of structural racism.

c. Based on data from scientists and health experts and after consulting with stakeholders across the state, Governor JB Pritzker announced a modified version of the state’s stay at home order that will go into effect tomorrow May 1. This order continues the life-saving progress made over the last month while also allowing residents additional flexibility in the safest way possible.

d. Cook County President Preckwinkle issued Executive Order 2020-10 to extend Cook County's stay at home order to May 30 to ensure that Cook County employees and residents are safe and that we remain in compliance with the Governor’s extension.

e. Respite housing is available for suburban Cook County healthcare professionals, first responders and correctional officers. “Given the limited supply of hotel space, and that we are taking a health equity approach, priority is being given to workers who may not be able to afford to rent a hotel room.” Those who are eligible for respite housing include, but are not limited to:

   i. respiratory therapists, certified nursing assistants, patient care technicians, nurses, cleaning staff, transporters, radiology techs and medical assistants, among others
   
   ii. police, fire, and emergency medical service (EMS) personnel employed or contracted by a governmental entity
   
   iii. correctional employees.

For information about and to request respite housing and go to our website information about eligibility and answers to common questions. Or please call: 312-864-COOK (2665) or email covid.intake@cookcountyhhs.org.

What is CCDPH doing?

a. CCDPH is working alongside the South-Southwest Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which is a newly formed collaboration of local hospitals, CBO’s, healthcare, education, faith based organizations, and businesses working to address COVID19 in the southland of Cook County.
b. Please join Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and other public health, behavioral health, nursing and school health experts for updates and resources related to school health. The First School Health Webinar is tomorrow, Friday May 1 at Register for the first of a series of school health webinars for Cook County here: https://www.eventbrite.com/o/cook-county-department-of-public-health-29817786591. This FREE webinar series is for Cook County school staff involved in helping students and their families optimize physical, emotional and social health outcomes.

c. CDPH is working to make safe workplaces a reality for all workers in Cook County. George Papadopoulos gave a brief presentation describing how CDPH is collaborating with the Illinois Attorney General to enforce workplace safety requirements.

Covid-19 Workplace Safety and Enforcement Role of Cook County Department of Public Health

George Papadopoulos, MPH, LEHP
Assistant Director, Environmental Health Services
Cook County Department of Public Health
Harvard Univ. Research: “Racial/ethnic, economic and gender inequalities shape individuals’ ability to protect themselves”  
(Chen & Crieger April 21, 2020 p2)

Bakery worker: “I’m around all these people and they don’t have the mask my doctor said I need.”

Sources: Crains Chicago Business 4.14.20; ABC News 4.17.20; Cicero Independiente 4.7.20

McDonald’s workers file federal complaint over COVID conditions

Violations of CDC and IDPH Covid-19 Workplace Safety Requirements

- No social distancing: Less than 6 feet physical distance between workers
- No personal protective equipment (PPE)
- No health policy in place: For example, no monitoring workers’ symptoms.
- No cleaning or sanitizing
How to Report an employer that is violating Covid-19 workplace safety requirements:

- Call 844-740-5076, Illinois Attorney General Hotline
- Email WorkplaceRights@ATG.State.IL.US
- Call 708-633-3319, Cook County Dept Public Health Hotline

What happens when a workplace Covid-19 violation report is made?

1. Violation reported to IL Attorney General (AG)
2. Request to CCDPH from AG to follow up
3. CCDPH:
   1. Contacts employer
   2. Provides Guidance, OR
   3. Inspection
4. Enforcement: CCDPH Assists AG if employer is uncooperative
What you can do?

a. Connect with Us. [Cook County ShinyApp](https://ccdphcd.shinyapps.io/covid19/) for the latest data. Call the CCDPH COVID-19 Hotline at 708-633-3319, M-F 9a-4p Main phone number 708-633-4000 Email ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org Follow us on Facebook.com/CCDPH and Twitter.com/CookCoHealth

b. Continue to practice physical distancing (‘social distancing’), hand washing, stay at home if you can, take protective measures at work if you have to go out to work; stay at home if you feel sick;

c. Get inspired by Hero of the Week, Sue Hecht, who works to ensure hospitals have critical equipment and supplies. CCDPH thanks Ms. Hecht for her commitment to doing the frontline work that is so important. Read more about her on our webpage.

**Next Conference Call: Thursday, May 7, 2020 4:00 p.m.**

May 7th Presenter: Fernando DeMaio, DePaul University

“What does an analysis using a method called geocoding, tell us about inequities in Covid-19 cases by zip codes in Illinois and metro Chicago?”