



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Virtual Meeting

New Items Agenda

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 10:00 AM

Third Set

[21-0541](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE FOR A REPORT FROM THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNING THE COVID-19 MASS IMMUNIZATION PLANS IN COOK COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Cook County, like the rest of the country and many parts of the world, is in the throes of another massive surge in coronavirus cases; and

WHEREAS, hospitals across the U.S. already have a higher load of Covid patients than ever before since the pandemic began, and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Robert Redfield, warned earlier this month that the next few months of the pandemic would be among “the most difficult in the public health history of this nation”; and

WHEREAS, as of December 11, 2020 there have been 151,761 confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 in suburban Cook County under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health with 2,849 reported deaths; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2020, the FDA approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine, and will decide on the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 17, 2020, marking a milestone in the fight against this insidious disease and important step to reduce illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths; and

WHEREAS, the approval will quickly ramp up the federal government’s distribution of the potentially lifesaving vaccine to 64 states, territories and major cities across the nation, and the government plans to distribute 2.9 million doses of the vaccine within 24 hours, followed by an additional 2.9 million doses 21 days later for patients to get their second injection of the vaccine; and

WHEREAS, initial doses of Pfizer’s vaccine will be limited as manufacturing increases, with priority given to health-care workers and nursing homes first, but with subsequent phases the distribution will become available to a wider portion of the populace; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) has been and is charged with making the COVID-19 vaccine available as soon as possible to people living and working in CCDPH’s jurisdiction of suburban Cook County; and

WHEREAS, CCDPH is working with partners at all levels, including hospitals, health care providers and community leaders, to develop flexible and responsive COVID vaccination programs that can

accommodate different vaccines; and

WHEREAS, it is paramount that as the vaccines become more readily available we work together and take advantage of all available resources in order to effectively administer the complex and herculean task of mass immunization so that we can overcome this healthcare crisis and look towards recovery; and

WHEREAS, equally important will be to ensure the vaccines are distributed in an equitable fashion, prioritizing those areas and residents of the county that have been most impacted by this disease as a result of longstanding disparities in healthcare system access and delivery;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee convene a public hearing to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's Covid-19 vaccination planning.