

COOK COUNTY  
HEALTH

# 2021 NACo Achievement Awards

## CCH Projects

- Housing is Health: Partnering to Establish a Medical Respite Center
- Managing and Mitigating COVID-19 in a Large County Jail

June 22, 2021



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# National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards

- Annual achievement awards for projects in 18 different categories
- Cook County Health submitted two applications, which were both selected for 2021 awards:
  - Housing is Health: Partnering to Establish a Medical Respite Center (Health)
  - Managing and Mitigating COVID-19 in a Large County Jail – in partnership with Cook County Sheriff's Office (County Administration and Management)
- Both awards highlighted the work and dedication of CCH staff in providing high-quality, compassionate care to our patients and Cook County residents, and also recognized the importance of these interventions in addressing health equity
- To be presented at NACo Achievement Awards Luncheon on July 11



# Housing is Health: Partnering to Establish a Medical Respite Center

- What is medical respite?
  - Acute and post-acute care for persons experiencing homelessness who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets but are not ill enough to be in a hospital
- CCH & City of Chicago Medical Respite Center, South Side YMCA
  - May 2020
  - COVID-19 isolation housing with lower barriers to entry than any other program
  - CCH designed and implemented infection control policies, implemented team-based approach with onsite and remote clinicians, and strengthened partnerships with community organizations to manage behavioral and medical comorbidities
  - 100% of 51 clients completed COVID-19 isolation
- CCH & Housing Forward Medical Respite Center, Oak Park
  - Opened December 2020 with funding through September 2021
  - Expanded scope of care beyond COVID-19 isolation to provide low-barrier post-acute care
  - Through May 2021, 52 patients served



# Oak Park Medical Respite Center



- 19 beds
- Serves individuals and small families
- Referrals CCH & suburban Cook County hospitals
- Services provided
  - Temporary Housing & Meals
  - 24/7 clinical support
  - CCH physician volunteers (general medicine, preventive medicine, podiatry)
  - Housing case management
  - Transportation to/from medical appointments
  - Coordination with external service providers
- If the MRC can absorb 70% of days that would otherwise be provided by a nursing home or in an inpatient unit at Stroger or Provident, the MRC could yield nearly half a million in annual cost savings



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Cook County DEPT.  
**of**  
**Public Health**

# Managing and Mitigating COVID-19 in a Large County Jail

- Correctional facilities have seen higher rates of COVID-19; detainees have higher rates of medical vulnerabilities compared to general public
- First COVID-19 case was detected in Cook County Jail detainee on March 18, 2020, with hundreds of detainees and staff testing positive over next several weeks
- Unique challenges of correctional congregate setting, safety/security, and daily movement of staff and detainees in/out of Cook County Jail required rapid and coordinated mitigation efforts between Cook County Health and Cook County Sheriff's Office, including:
  - Testing and quarantining all new detainees
  - Universal masking for staff and detainees
  - Restricting movement within the jail and suspending programming and visitation
  - Expanding social distancing through use of single cell occupancy and expanded housing
  - Implementing contact tracing and expanding testing to asymptomatic detainees
- COVID-19 positivity rate in Cook County Jail fell below City of Chicago average following mitigations and remain relatively low to date

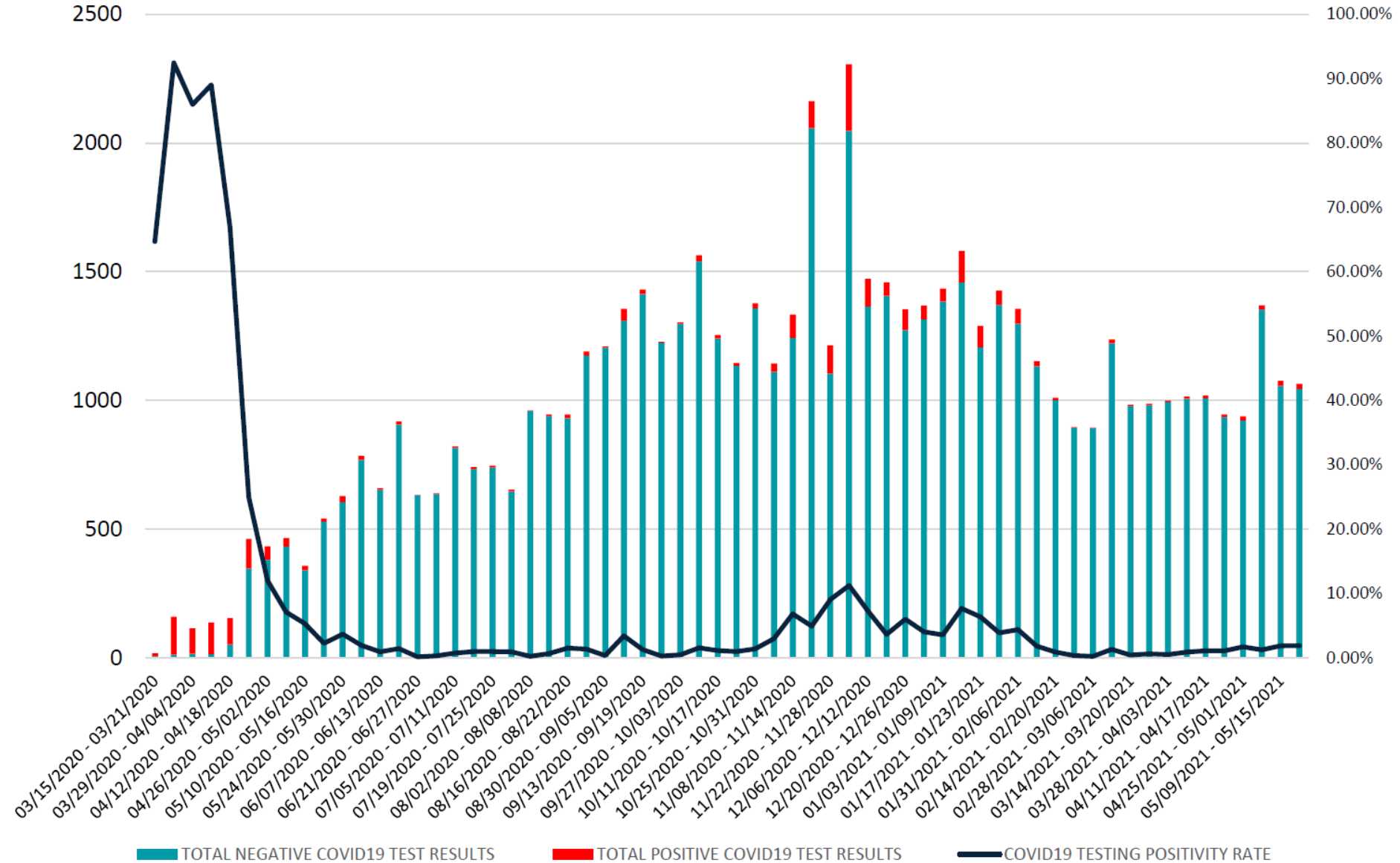


# Cermak Update

## The Importance of Testing

*This graph illustrates the impact of testing availability. As was true in the community, our initial testing was constrained exclusively to symptomatic patients. The availability expanded eventually to include patients without overt signs of infection and then to surveillance. Testing continues to inform care and housing and plays a critical role in focused interventions and ongoing containment.*

Total Covid 19 Test Results On Cermak Patients By Week



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**Rolling 7 Day Positivity Rate as of 5/25/21 = 1.5%**

# Questions



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