



To: Community event organizers in DuPage County

From: Karen J. Ayala, MPH
Executive Director, DuPage County Health Department

Date: March 12, 2020

Re: Recommendation to cancel large scale community events or gatherings (e.g. with more than 250 participants)

Based on the increasing number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the region and the expectation of ongoing transmission of the disease in our communities, the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is recommending that event organizers postpone, cancel, or offer virtual participation for community events expected to have over 250 participants until further notice.

This recommendation is based upon guidance for community mitigation activities from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help slow transmission of COVID-19 in communities. Community mitigation is a set of actions that persons and communities can take to help slow the spread of respiratory virus infections. Community mitigation is an important, evidence-based strategy that is important because there is currently no vaccine or treatment available at this time.

Based on the scalable mitigation strategies outlined by the CDC, we recommend the following activities at this time to reduce the spread of illness in DuPage County. These recommendations may be scaled up or down depending on the evolving local situation:

- Cancel community events with more than 250 participants expected.
- Consider offering video/audio of events as appropriate or practical.
- Consider moving events to smaller groupings of participants.
- For organizations that serve high-risk populations, cancel gatherings of more than 10 people. High-risk populations include individuals at increased risk for severe illness, including older adults and persons of any age with underlying health conditions.

More information on the recommended strategies to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the community can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>.

If you have specific questions about your event, please contact the DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 hotline at 630-221-7030 or visit www.dupagehealth.org/COVID-19 for additional information.