

Cook County COVID-19 Response Plan

To ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Preckwinkle's administration has created this **Cook County COVID-19 Response Plan: From Rapid Response to Equitable Recovery.**

This Plan combines our ongoing public health and healthcare priorities with parallel agendas that respond to the longer-term economic and social impacts of the virus.

It outlines the administration's current actions and proposed strategies for protecting residents, serving vulnerable populations and supporting businesses and municipalities through the duration of the pandemic and recovery.

Rapid Response

January 2020 > April 2020

Cook County prepared for the pandemic and responded to the most immediate challenges it presented.

Efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic will continue through its duration, even as we look to support the recovery of our residents, businesses and municipalities.

Equitable Recovery

May 2020 > May 2022

Cook County will build on our initial response and address the significant economic impacts residents, municipalities, businesses and civic institutions face.

Guiding Principles

- ▶ Provide support in areas where Cook County has the authority and resources to have the greatest impact.
- ▶ Prioritize support for Cook County's most vulnerable populations by using a racial equity lens.
- ▶ Maintain continuity of essential public services for residents and businesses throughout Cook County.
- ▶ Coordinate efforts with other units of government and strategically leverage shared resources.
- ▶ Focus on suburban Cook County, which has substantial needs but limited resources.

Provide support where Cook County can have greatest impact

Maintain continuity of essential public services

Focus on suburban Cook County which has great need but limited resources

Prioritize support for most vulnerable populations with a racial equity lens

Coordinate efforts and leverage shared resources

Visit www.cookcountyl.gov for more information.



Rapid Response

January 2020 > April 2020

Cook County prepared for the pandemic and responded to the most immediate challenges it presented.

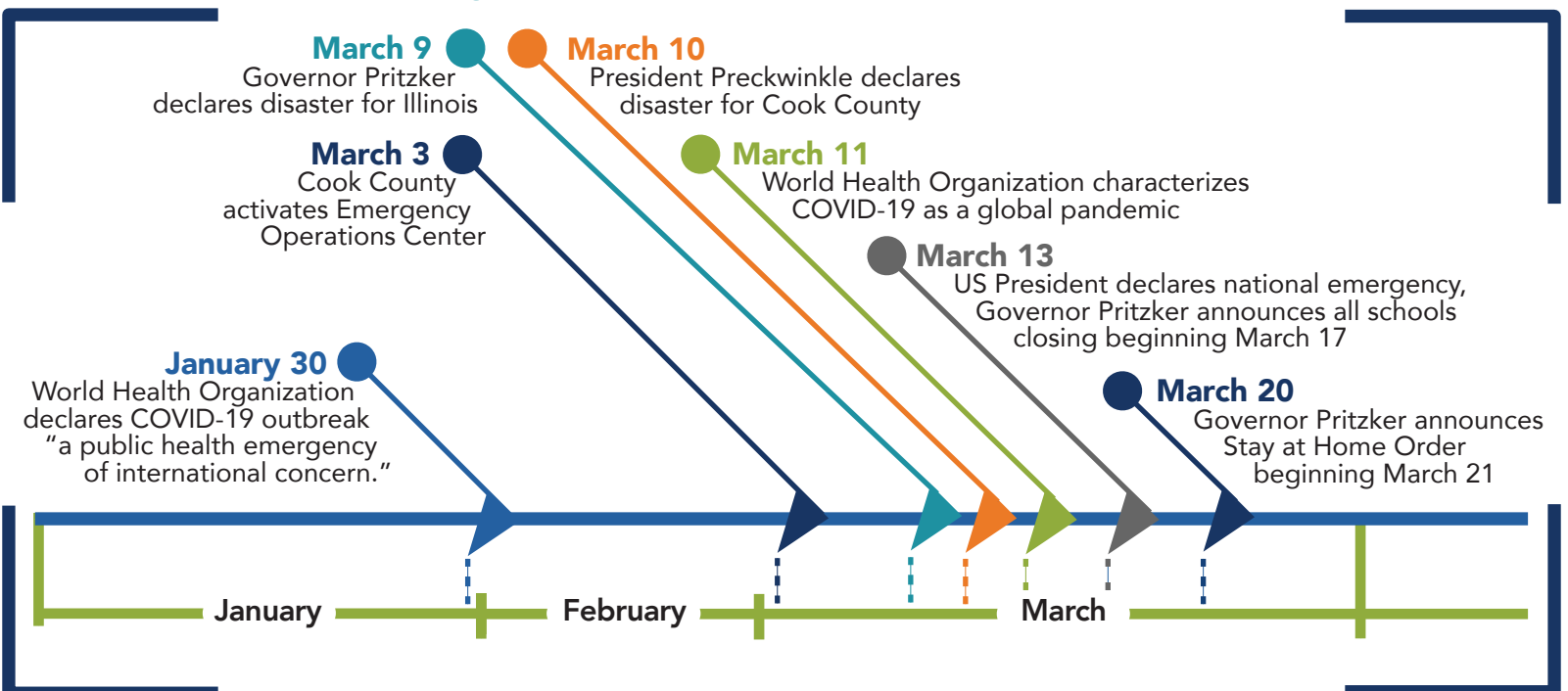
At the direction of President Preckwinkle and in partnership with the Cook County Board of Commissioners, other County elected officials and their teams and Cook County agencies, the Offices Under the President—the six bureaus and 34 departments that report directly to President Preckwinkle—have worked tirelessly since January 2020 to respond to the immediate needs created by the spread of COVID-19.

We are proud of all that our employees have done, and recognize there is much more to do as we begin the recovery phase of our efforts.

\$45M waived in various County fines, fees and deferred tax collections to help businesses facing financial challenges due to COVID-19.

27% reduction in population at the Cook County Jail since February 2020.

Timeline of Major Events



Rapid Response

January 2020 ▶ April 2020

- ▶ Cook County Health rapidly adapted health care operations
- ▶ Cook County Department of Public Health expedited public health services
- ▶ Cook County criminal justice agencies accelerated decarceration efforts
- ▶ Cook County surveyed 250 small businesses about their most pressing needs and in response created the Cook County Community Recovery Initiative
- ▶ OUP supported these efforts, maintained essential government services and much more

Cook County **Community Recovery Initiative**



Rapid relief loans, technical assistance and outreach for small businesses and gig workers.

179 businesses assisted
4,623 employees impacted
\$3.1M PPP loans received
\$39K average loan size

Cook County secured and distributed approximately two million units of personal protective equipment (PPE) to municipalities and first responders, health and medical entities, the Cook County Jail and other congregate settings like long-term care facilities throughout suburban Cook County.

468,880
432,225
1,019,800
21,119



N95 masks



Surgical masks



Plastic gloves



Face shields

Text "alertcook" to 888-777

Get the latest COVID-19 updates

www.cookcountyil.gov

- ▶ The Cook County Department of Public Health established a multi-lingual COVID-19 Hotline at **(708) 633-3319** and an email address at ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org to field questions from the public about COVID-19.
- ▶ The Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security set up ALERTCOOK, a text alert system, to share updates on Cook County's work and respond to public inquiries. As of May 11, 2020, over 36,000 users have enrolled.

Equitable Recovery

May 2020 ▶ May 2022

Cook County will build on our initial response and address the significant economic impacts residents, municipalities, businesses and civic institutions face.

As the Offices Under the President (OUP) migrates our attention to the longer term challenges of responding to the social and economic effects of COVID-19, as well as maintaining the public health and healthcare services necessary to mitigate additional spread, we continue to rely on the mission, vision, values, and six policy priorities set forth in our Policy Roadmap.

Using these structures as our guiding framework, OUP, as well as our partners across Cook County government, has identified its initial role in responding to the challenges Cook County residents and municipalities face. The work to drive equitable recovery begins with the publication of this plan and will continue to grow as new resident and municipality needs emerge. We are firmly committed to responding to the evolving nature of COVID-19 now, and in the future.

Healthy Communities

Health and Wellness



Cook County commits to:

- ▶ Increasing testing, which will be critical to safely transitioning from response to recovery.
- ▶ Developing and implementing a contact tracing program.

- ▶ Providing infection control guidance to organizations serving vulnerable populations.
- ▶ Developing a centralized system to increase residents' access to information about available resources.
- ▶ Advocating for and protecting worker safety by investigating and remediating workplace violations.
- ▶ Supporting Cook County employees' physical, mental and financial health.

Vital Communities

Economic Development



Cook County commits to:

- ▶ Leading regional economic recovery planning.
- ▶ Developing a plan to assist renters and homeowners.
- ▶ Developing a plan to monitor and respond to eviction threats and mortgage foreclosures.
- ▶ Supporting residents of the Housing Authority of Cook County.

- ▶ Supporting residents seeking employment.
- ▶ Developing a longer-term small business program.
- ▶ Assisting small businesses, non-profits and independent contractors in accessing relief resources through the Cook County Community Recovery Initiative.
- ▶ Launching a \$10 million fund to support suburban small businesses and 1099 contract workers.
- ▶ Evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on key industry sectors and identifying strategies to meet needs.

Equitable Recovery

May 2020 > May 2022

Safe & Thriving Communities

Criminal Justice



Cook County commits to:

- ▶ Providing housing to residents being released from detention facilities.
- ▶ Convening public safety stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of a smaller Jail and create a plan to push forward additional reforms.
- ▶ Funding violence prevention, restorative justice and recidivism reduction.
- ▶ Mitigating and containing COVID-19 through emergency management now and until we have a widely available vaccine.

Sustainable Communities

Environmental Sustainability



Cook County commits to:

- ▶ Pursuing initiatives to fight climate change and mitigate its disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities.
- ▶ Continuing to provide access to nature while protecting public health and safety.
- ▶ Overseeing and upholding Cook County environmental regulations so that environmental conditions that could exacerbate the effects of COVID-19 do not persist.
- ▶ Adopting an equitable environmental justice policy that coordinates Cook County's administration of programs, maintenance of assets and allocation of resources.

Smart Communities

Public Infrastructure



Cook County commits to:

- ▶ Expanding fiber optics infrastructure, so that all communities have access to broadband.
- ▶ Expediting the work of the Council on Digital Equity.
- ▶ Reopening Cook County buildings to employees and the public.
- ▶ Sharing best practices with all Cook County municipalities.
- ▶ Developing policies and guidelines that will ensure the safety of passengers and the efficiency of transportation.
- ▶ Supporting regional transportation partners in ensuring continued and effective service for residents.

Open Communities

Good Government



Cook County commits to:

- ▶ Reimagining the County's ability to serve residents virtually.
- ▶ Adopting a language access policy to ensure that all residents can engage with and access services.
- ▶ Establishing the Cook County Community Advisory Council.
- ▶ Conducting surveys to understand how County government can support residents and municipalities during the response and equitable recovery.
- ▶ Collaborating with OUP's Racial Equity Leadership Council to ensure the recovery is truly equitable.
- ▶ Standardizing the collection and display of race and ethnicity data.
- ▶ Developing a strategy for comprehensively engaging municipalities, particularly related to their COVID-19 needs.