



COVID-19:

City of
Minneapolis
Community
Briefings Report
Back

April 2020

Community Briefings

PURPOSE: The City will share important COVID-19 information with and gather input from community members, leaders and stakeholders about their communities' needs and priorities so that we can respond appropriately and ensure that our communities know where to access the correct information. This input will also shape how the City shares information with the public.

CITY'S COMMITMENT: To ensure that community leaders and organizations know where to access the proper and most up to date information related to COVID-19.

LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT: Inform. To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The CDC and Minnesota Department of Health manage information and resources related to COVID-19.
- The City of Minneapolis shares this information on our web page, but also includes City specific information.
- Information is fluid and ever changing and managed at the state and federal level. We want to ensure communities know how to access the proper and most up to date information but cannot ensure we as a City can respond to everything.

AUDIENCE:

- African American community
- American Indian community
- East African community
- LGBTQIA+ community
- Southeast Asian community
- Latinx community is meeting weekly with Council member Cano

PARTICIPANTS:

- Community leaders and organizations
- Invite mayor, Council members
- Necessary NCR, Health, Race and Equity, CPED and other City staff
- Other jurisdictional partners

FORMAT: NCR community specialists will work with their community to invite community members, leaders and stakeholders. The Health Department and Council offices may have additional invites.

Specialists will assist in language access and ADA accommodations. Each community will hold one meeting. The briefings were one hour in length and done by Skype with a conference call-in option.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Mayor Frey
3. Council member
4. Health Department overview of COVID-19 response
5. Community response to City information
6. Wrap-up and thank you

City Presentation

Mayor Frey started each meeting reiterating the importance of following the governor's Stay at Home order as well as social distancing. The mayor explained the need to enact the state of emergency for the city, which closed businesses where large groups typically gather such as restaurants and adult day care centers. The mayor also shared information about the new format the City Council is operating under to ensure that our City leadership can respond as quickly as needed as this pandemic shifts by the minute. The mayor talked about the Gap Funding package recently passed by City of Minneapolis Council as well as the efforts the City has taken to address discrimination.

City Council members attended each meeting as their schedule allowed and shared resources that they were aware of serving their constituents. Constituents are welcome to contact their Council member.

Gretchen Musicant, commissioner of the Minneapolis Health Department and her team shared the efforts implemented by her team and has dedicated most Health Department staff to working on COVID-19 response. The commissioner shared that while efforts are underway to secure protective gear, there is still a significant shortage. She shared the department's "Home Care Guide," which is in multiple languages and provides information for caring for folks at home. Health is collaborating with NCR and other departments to gather information about resources for community and has developed a "donation form" and a "needs form". Organizations and individuals can let the Health Department know about resources they have as well as supplies that can be donated. Community members can request services and/or supplies by filling out the "needs form". Health is also establishing a community led COVID-19 Response Advisory Committee which will be enacted as soon as possible. The briefings concluded with community having an opportunity to share their needs and concerns and respond to the information that was shared by the mayor and City staff.

Resources collected throughout the community briefings are listed at the end of the report.

Community Response

Each community had an opportunity to respond in each briefing and share concerns, needs and community led efforts and resources. There was a total of 102 community members who participated and 60 City representatives. The following is a list of all the needs and concerns heard from all of the community briefings collectively. In the next section of the document each communities' specific needs and concerns are listed.

Collectively the participants in the community briefings said they need:

- Protective gear for those still working in community, especially assisting those who are in need of services and support such as food shelf volunteers and staff.
- Sanitary stations/handwashing stations – particularly where homeless/unstably housed communities congregate. Other large gathering places like the Somali malls, food shelf locations and park areas were other suggestions.
- Financial relief and assistance to access the resources that are already in place such as unemployment, personal loans and small business loans.
- Housing security. A moratorium on rent and mortgage is greatly needed as well as a cap on rent. While there is a cease order on evictions, there are reports across communities about landlords still harassing renters. Folks who are homeless and unstably housed or those in dangerous situations such as people experiencing domestic violence need to have a place to go such as hotels.

- Access to basic needs such as toilet paper, groceries, hygiene products, medications. Stores need to be encouraged to limit items, systems need to be in place to get basic needs to our most vulnerable populations. Food needs to be dietarily appropriate including culturally specific.

Collectively the participants in the community briefings said their concerns are:

- There needs to be concentrated services for our most vulnerable, especially our elders and disabled. Social isolation and physical activity are priority. More in-home services are needed.
- The language barriers and overall immediate access to accurate information for many people who don't have technology or access to internet, especially when confined to home.
- That public transportation is appropriately sanitized.
- That many community members are still not taking appropriate precautions – i.e. social distancing, handwashing and large gatherings.
- That our leaders and decision makers are understanding the urgency of peoples needs and are acting on them swiftly.
- Special consideration for our immigrant and refugee and non-English/limited English communities need to be included in every decision made by City leaders.
- Special consideration for folks who don't have access/limited access to internet to be included in every decision made by City leaders.

Community Briefing Detail

Southeast Asian Community Briefing Wednesday,

April 1st at 1:00 p.m.

22 community members, 10 City representatives

Needs:

- Child care
- Elder transportation
- Culturally specific food prepared and delivered for elders
- Information translated into the many languages in the Southeast Asian community
- Culturally appropriate spaces for Hmong funeral services (there is only one Hmong funeral home in the City of Minneapolis)
- City Hate Crimes Taskforce on hate crimes against Asian Americans

Concerns:

- Still large groups of SEA playing soccer out in the community – physical distancing
- Still shortage of rice in SEA markets
- Discrimination/ hate crimes against Asian Americans
- Indefinite delay of funerals
- Deportation

East African Community Briefing

Thursday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

14 community members, 26 City representatives

Needs:

- Neighborhood testing sites
- Legal services for small business owners
- Culturally specific food prepared and delivered for elders

Concerns:

- Small businesses wouldn't be able to produce documents for loans/resources
- Concerned about eligibility for small business and/or personal loans
- Community worship

African American Community Briefing Thursday,

April 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

6 community members, 24 City representatives

Needs:

- Handwashing stations in strategic areas of North
- Specific messaging for youth about COVID-19 and best practices to stay safe

Concerns:

- How do we support those working in the "survival economy" (i.e. sex workers, drug dealers)
- There is currently not good data collection for the African American community at the local level – African American community has been shown as disproportionately being adversely affected (higher rate of infection/death) – we need data at the local level
- Still large groups coming together, especially young folks (i.e. basketball games, etc.)

Senior and People with Disabilities Community Briefing

Thursday, April 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

18 community members, 28 City representatives

Needs:

- Culturally appropriate resources for seniors
- Resources specific to the needs of those with a disability regardless of age
- Safer settings to test older adults when test is available

Concerns:

- People with disabilities are even more at a disadvantage if they are non-English speakers and from cultural communities where resources are scarce
- Apartment complexes are not taking appropriate precautions to sanitize

- People who are disabled should be asked to give advisement on best practices for virtual meetings/briefings

LGBTQAI+ Community Briefing

Friday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

20 community members, 25 City representatives

Needs:

- To use EBT abilities for online shopping
- Accessible information for Deaf, Blind, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing community members
- Ability for folks who don't have bank accounts, or need to prioritize other bills over rent, to access government financial support
- Appropriate services – health care/shelter for BIPOC trans and gender non-conforming folks

Concerns:

- Discriminatory behaviors/actions by providers can block access to services
- People want autonomy about how financial support/resources are spent (i.e. cash assistance rather than specifically rent assistance)

American Indian Community Briefing Monday, April

6th at 2:30 p.m.

22 community members, 24 City representatives

Needs:

- Protective gear for volunteers and staff who are serving the communities most vulnerable
- Handwashing stations in strategic locations
- Portable restrooms

Concerns:

- Law enforcement should not target homeless/unstably housed for “stay at home” order
- Crime has increased and elders are targeted, especially elder housing
- Elders can't safely go outside
- Cultural community events need to be developed/supported to be held virtually

Latinx Community Briefing(s)

Mondays weekly at 12:00 p.m. hosted by Council member Cano

4 sessions have occurred as of this report (first meeting was March 20th)

40+ average community member attendance, 5 average City representatives

Needs:

- Access to financial resources regardless of immigration status
- Access to stable housing and housing support regardless of immigration status such as a statewide moratorium on rent and mortgage
- Support for undocumented workers who are either laid off or still working in the “front lines”
- Protective gear for folks who are still working

- Support for small businesses
- Technology and internet, especially for parents charged with educating children
- Resources for food shelves frequently used by Latinx community
- Smaller shelters need some form of assistance from the City to allow them to buy in bulk – as of now they have been restricted to the “limit 1” policies in the stores.
- City needs to communicate/share information faster in Spanish beyond just the radio show

Concerns:

- Fear of government will prevent people from accessing resources
- Financial recovery for both businesses and individuals will be exacerbated due to immigration status
- Philanthropic community is trying to fill the gaps, but need far exceeds availability
- Lack of access to health care and mental health services - especially paying for any treatments
- Parents are challenged with distance learning for their children, education system culturally is different than many parents personal experience.
- Rise in domestic violence
- Concerned about increase in crime
- Need policy that outlasts current crisis
- Communication needs to be better coordinated and more efficient
- Communication of information being shared throughout the community is often not accurate – need the City of Minneapolis to be the trusted source of information (in Spanish)
- People want autonomy about how financial support/resources are spent (i.e. cash assistance rather than specifically rent assistance)

Resources Shared in Community Briefings

311 – especially for those needing assistance connecting to City services in another language Minneapolis Health Department information and resources

- <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/>
- <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/WCMSP-223288>
 - Donation Form – for use by organizations/individuals wanting to donate items other than Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including thermometers
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1614aa3cfb5445eb94abf1c20983491c>
 - Request for Information and Resources – for use by organizations/individuals needing items other than Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a6ec5734947240a48d8782ceb5fdb908>
 - Request form for organizations to fill out if they are in need of PPE. Please have them email COVID19@minneapolismn.gov and we will follow-up directly with the organization and send them the form.
- For general information, please visit <http://minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/index.htm> and sign up for the COVID-19 newsletter from the City.

SmallBusiness@minneapolismn.gov for all small business needs in the City of Minneapolis

- <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/ba/SmallBusinessTeam/index.htm>
- Minneapolis Business Community Call registration link:
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5416130912683873036>

Elder services

- www.Helpolderadultsmn.org – senior and caregiver specific resources

- <https://states.aarp.org/minnesota/health-food-help-coronavirus-covid-19-minnesota> - senior and caregiver specific resources
- 1-800-333-2433 senior linkage line

Victims and survivors who need support

- contact the Minnesota DayOne Hotline by calling 1-866-223-1111 or texting 612-399-9995. Y
- contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline by texting LOVEIS to 22522.

COVID-19 Emergency Funding Opportunity for nonprofit orgs:

- https://www.bluecrossmnfoundation.org/covid-19-responsive-grants-2020/?fbclid=IwAR1kS-0k6kpErLBlut-wx9HCHSJpGpGEy62zl6r8wCu_v4xBgd-qzkH6mrE

Hennepin County for folks experiencing homelessness/unstable housing

- <https://www.hennepin.us/coordinated-entry>

City of Minneapolis gap funding resource

- <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/gap-funding>

The MDH COVID-19 Hotline is 651-201-3920 connect to other state agency hotlines and resources

- MDH's COVID-19 website with lots of information is <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>
- New website for the State and it connects to the different programs: <https://mn.gov/covid19/>

Local mutual aid for black and indigenous queer and trans artists:

- https://fundrazr.com/91dso7?ref=ab_78jO47_ab_1atqP7kSESf1atqP7kSESf

Sex worker fund

- <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/woodhull-freedom-foundation/woodhull-sex-worker-support-fund?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=1d7e36e0-46b4-4c95-a6d5-52c98a7c393a>

You can report discrimination online to Civil Rights Department. Info in the link on how to report available here:

- <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights/>

Food Shelves serving 4th Ward

- Mount Vernon: 1800 Dupont
- New Salem Church: 2507 Bryant Ave
- Minneapolis Central Church of God and Christ
- New Oil Christian Church—4050 Upton Ave: <http://www.newoilcc.org/>
- Food delivery for seniors, those who are sick
- Help at your Door: <https://helpatyourdoor.org/>
- If you or someone you know needs assistance with groceries 651-642-189

State of MN partnering with YMCA to provide child care assistance.

- 612-230-9622

Minneapolis Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

- <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira/index.htm>