



COVID-19 Activity Log

- 3/2/20: First special senior management team meeting regarding COVID planning
- 3/9/20: Infectious Disease Teams Channel created in Management Team
- 3/9/20: Discussed moving forward with 3/12/20 Milestone with Pastor Dillard
- 3/10/20: Added mandatory handwashing stations at both facilities. Asked people to not volunteer if they showed signs of illness, traveled within the last 2 weeks, or fell into the high-risk categories. Updated to meal drop off only.
- 3/11/20: Milestone Celebration postponed. Modified drop-in services with limited length of visit, no laundry, case management by appointment, psych clinic by appointment.
- 3/11/20: Evanston Area COVID-19 Community Support Facebook Page launched and generates support for Connections
- 3/13/20: Evanston Public Libraries close
- 3/14/20: Updated website with COVID-19 Response and Opportunities to Support page
- 3/15/20: Evanston declares state of emergency
- 3/15/20: Interfaith Action host last night of Emergency Overnight Shelter. Continue morning hospitality. Do take out containers, provided by Connections, for evening meals.
- 3/15/20: Mayor instituted Evanston COVID-19 Task Force. Betty Bogg serves on task force. Monique Jones (ECF) is non-profit community point person.
- 3/16/20: Began new staffing pattern with most employees working remotely
- 3/16/20: Outlined requests to the city to create solutions for homeless population: handwashing stations, bathroom access, motel vouchers, emergency shelters in shuttered community spaces.
- 3/16/20: Announced location consolidation publicly
- 3/17/20: Consolidated all drop-in services to Dewey only
- 3/17/20: Exploring utilization of Lake Street Church space for emergency shelter and a temporary shelter in a residential space
- 3/17/20: Nia Tavoularis quoted in [Chicago Tribune article](#) regarding homeless shelters and service providers response to COVID-19
- 3/18/20: Opened Hilda's Place during the day to residents only
- 3/18/20: Launched conversation with Curt's Café to fill potential food gap while supporting their business.



connections

FOR THE HOMELESS

- 3/18/20: Staff announcement regarding staff member was in contact with an individual who later tested positive for COVID-19.

3/19/20: Conference Call with Alderman Robin Rue Simmons, Connections staff, community member, and Sue Murphy discussed temporary/short-term women's emergency shelter out of Simmons' newly acquired rental property. Touring space on 3/20/20 and 3/23/20 is expected open date.
- 3/20/20: Evanston Community Foundation, reaches out to Betty and offers very strong support and open line to communicate any and all needs. Also, in partnership with Northwestern Dance Marathon, ECF contributes 120+ outreach kits- volunteers pick up and deliver
- 3/20/20: Tour of Simmons property with alderman, made plan for final property preparation, loading in cots and lines, finalized staffing agreed to service times and services provided. Confirmed plan to open on Monday 3/23.
- 3/20/20: Shelter in place in Illinois put in order effective 3/21/20
- 3/20/20: Big screen set upstairs at Lake Street Church so HP residents stay occupied and spend time in a larger space
- 3/20/20: Randal, Connections CFO, researching porta-potty costs so that Connections can order and place them around soup kitchens and other locations where participants usually have access to facilities. And Sue Loellbach is researching local motels options for our most vulnerable participants, will continue to ask City for support on this, but may activate independently
- 3/21 – 3/22/20: Agency leadership communicates with Aldermen Sufferdin, Fleming, and Rue-Simmons, City Manager, and Evanston Community Foundation to coordinate accessing block of hotel rooms for community's most vulnerable
- 3/21 – 3/22/20: City of Evanston distributed porta-potties and hand washing stations across the city
- Supplies placed at Rue-Simmons' rental that will be available as an emergency shelter option beginning 3/23
- Request made for additional emergency shelter space to city leadership and faith partners
- 3/23/20: Lake Street Church has agreed to open MacLeish Hall for emergency shelter as needed. Alderman Simmons' home will also be available for emergency shelter as needed. Hotel operations open tonight. Placements managed in partnership with Interfaith and YWCA.



connections

FOR THE HOMELESS

- 3/23/20: Jennifer's Edibles will be another meal partner.
- 3/23/20: 63 people visited drop-in at Dewey today
- 3/24/20: First 2 people moved into hotel last night with more moving in today and throughout the week. Most vulnerable will be prioritized (street homeless, 60+, underlying health issues, youth, families, etc.) 11 moved in by end of day. Connections Advocacy Manager exploring more hotel partners.
- 3/24/20: Emergency shelter at MacLeish Hall at Lake Street Church being set up tonight with Interfaith Action cots. Will open on 3/25/20.
- 3/24/20: 49 people visited drop-in today.
- 3/24/20: Mass volunteer email went out requesting support. City is planning to create coordinated volunteer effort to streamline available options.
- 3/25/20: Curt's Café delivered 60+ meals to housing program participants yesterday
- 3/25/20: 45+ people visited drop-in services at Dewey today
- 3/25/20: MacLeish emergency shelter already full with 5 female-identifying and 15 male-identifying participants
- 3/25/20: Exploring new staff and volunteer patterns at all locations
- 3/25/20: Patch [article](#) published about efforts to support homeless population in Evanston and Connections' work.