



Northwest Central Dispatch System

1975 E. Davis Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Press Release

April 23, 2020

NORTHWEST CENTRAL DISPATCH SYSTEM (NWCDS) SEEKS COVID19 INFORMATION FROM THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HISTORY

NWCDS, its member communities, and the police and fire departments of those communities agree that in order to help mitigate the danger to first responders, as well as protect the public at large, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) should share information related to confirmed cases of COVID-19 for our service area. This information would be entered into the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system as premise warnings by NWCDS, so police and fire responders could be notified when dispatched to an address. NWCDS would agree to remove these premise warnings after an agreed amount of time.

ISSUE

NWCDS has made requests, both informal and formal, to Cook County Board President Preckwinkle and the CCDPH for the release of this information. Most recently, NWCDS sent a letter to the Joint Directors of the CCDPH, on April 13, 2020, asking for their assistance in obtaining this information. NWCDS asked for a response from CCDPH by Wednesday, April 15th. No response was received by NWCDS to this request from CCDPH.

ACTION

The NWCDS Board of Directors has authorized the filing of a Complaint for Temporary Restraining Order in Cook County Circuit Court asking a judge to order the CCDPH to provide the requested COVID-19 information to NWCDS. The NWCDS Board of Directors determined to file its Complaint on Monday, April 20th. However, the Board also tried to work with elected County Board Commissioners to gain the release of the information without the need for legal action and wanted to resolve this issue through the cooperation of President Preckwinkle and the County Board.

The Cook County Board met on Thursday, April 23rd. NWCDS truly had hoped that the County Board would take action to facilitate the release of the COVID-19 information to NWCDS at that meeting. Because the Cook County Board did not act to release COVID-19 information to the 9-1-1 center, NWCDS is moving forward with its legal action on April 24, 2020, and will request a hearing with a judge. NWCDS has also heard from other 9-1-1 dispatch agencies and police and fire departments within Cook County supporting this action.