

Press Release



Date: September 11, 2018

To: Village website

Re: **Illinois Department of Public Health Cancer Incidence Study Announcement**

This morning, the Mayor, elected officials, and Village staff had a very informative meeting with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Nirav Shah, M.D., J.D. and members of his senior staff. Attendees for IDPH included Mr. Shah, Deputy Director Bill Dart, M.B.A., and the Chief of the Division of Epidemiologic Studies, Dr. Tiefu Shen. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of IDPH's work around its Cancer Incident Investigation initiated by the Department for our community.

Director Shah became aware of the August 21, 2018 report issued by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) several days after its issuance and began the cancer incident investigation immediately. The investigation relies on a number of sources of information. First and foremost, IDPH will use its cancer registry which is recognized as one of the best in the country. Dr. Shen is a leader in the field of epidemiology and is the reason Illinois has such a nationally recognized cancer registry. IDPH will also use the modeling information and data from ATSDR. The Department has already been in contact with ATSDR and will work closely with the agency as the investigation proceeds. We have asked for the Department to provide us with a description of the methodology and focus of cancer incident investigations performed by the Department so that our residents have a complete understanding of the approach that is taken. Once we have that information we will share it with you.

Typically, these complex studies can take anywhere from 8-10 months to complete. Director Shah, being well aware of the concerns in the community, has asked his staff to complete the investigation in 6 months. We will receive periodic updates from the Department and will share those updates with you. Unfortunately, until the investigation is complete, the Department will not be in a position to tell us anything more specific on cancer risk in our community.

Lastly, we have received a number of questions from the community on health risks other than cancer. IDPH is not provided with the health information needed to allow the Department to perform similar investigations for non-cancer health impacts. We will be reaching out to ATSDR to determine the best source of information for those residents expressing non-cancer health impact concerns.

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