



UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

Volume 2 - Issue 4 - April 2020

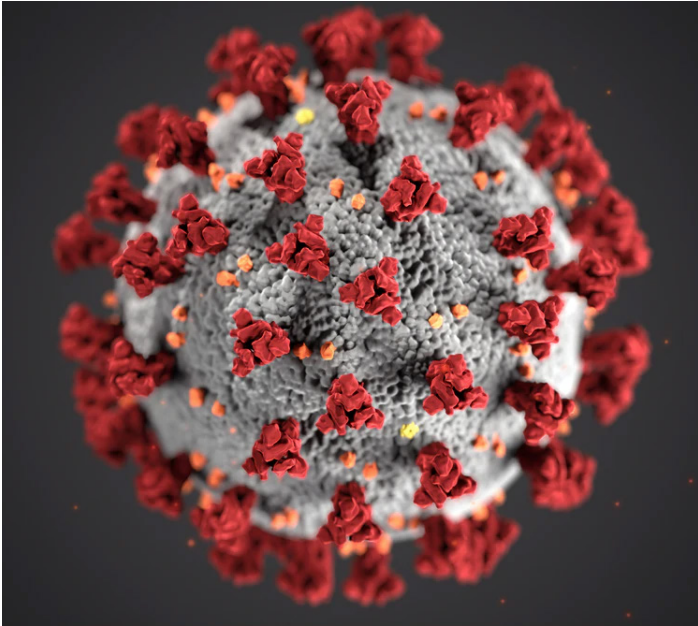
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

COUNTY RESPONSE EFFORTS & PRIORITIES

Counties are on the front lines protecting our communities from the coronavirus and other illnesses that have the potential to become a pandemic. Counties support over 900 hospitals and operate over 1,900 public health departments, which are the ground troops in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

Local health departments are working to protect public health by communicating with transportation officials, educating health care providers and communicating to the public best practices to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Local public health systems need sustained, predictable and increased federal funding to support their work.

The COVID-19 outbreak is demanding swift responses from local leaders. When permitted by state statute, a county may declare a state of emergency to increase flexibility and free up additional resources. This action can decrease government emergency response time and address the health and well-being of residents. Alongside the federal government and states, counties are declaring states of emergency in their jurisdictions to improve their ability to serve residents quickly. Click the map above to access county and state emergency declarations.



WHAT STEPS HAVE COUNTIES TAKEN TO ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS?

CONTAINMENT

Bergen County (N.J.) has provided detailed information to its residents on the coronavirus and how to contain its spread. One town within the county (Teaneck) has asked residents to self-quarantine.

Jackson County (Mo.) added COVID-19 as a target for its "Disease and Outbreaks" program and is encouraging residents to prepare an emergency kit with an online video and checklist.

San Luis Obispo County (Calif.) officials are sharing an updated map on COVID-19 infections. They have also restricted jail visits to medical care and essential personnel only, though they allow virtual visits.

Florida Association of Counties: COVID-19 County Response Dashboard

COMMUNITY MITIGATION

King County (Wash.) is currently limiting all large gatherings of more than 50 people. Many other counties are implementing similar restrictions (though with varying limits for attendees), including: San Diego County (Calif.), Dane County (Wis.), St. Louis County (Mo.), New York City (N.Y.), Santa Clara County (Calif.) and Sangamon County (Ill.).

Milwaukee County (Wis.) developed a "Public Health Emergency Supplemental Paid Leave Bank" of 120 hours for full-time employees that cannot perform

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**ON THE FRONTLINES OF THIS PANDEMIC, AMERICA'S
40,000 COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

NEARLY 1,000 COUNTY SUPPORTED HOSPITALS

AND 1,900 LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES

ARE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS, MITIGATION AND RESPONSE.

HEALTH

Eagle County (Colo.) is asking residents to fill out an online form if they believe they are experiencing symptoms, since they do not have the testing capacity. This allows them to track data in real time, and to target their COVID-19 testing.

Many counties are starting up drive-thru testing sites to help expedite the COVID-19 testing process, including: Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio), Westchester County (N.Y.)

JAILS AND JUSTICE

Orange County (Calif.) has suspended jail visits and is asking inmates to give attorneys to appear in court without them, among other changes, such as asking residents to stay home when not necessary (without ordering them to do so), moving meetings online, closing schools (while still providing free and reduced meals) and closing traffic and civil courts.

Bexar County (Texas) has suspended arrests for minor offenses so as not to crowd the jail system. The county has also declared there will be no juries for 30 days.

Alameda County (Calif.) is releasing 300 people from its county jails to reduce the jail population and spread of COVID-19 throughout the jail system. Only keeping violent offenders.

Ascension Parish (La.) is taking steps to reduce the jail population. Currently, the DA and judges are working to release some non-violent offenders on a case-by-case basis.

Los Angeles County (Calif.) is reducing arrests and releasing inmates early to stem coronavirus outbreak

In Cuyahoga County (Ohio), the common pleas court held a special

session for hearings aimed at reducing the number of inmates in the County Jail.

HOUSING

A number of counties have decided to postpone evictions and foreclosures until after the outbreak subsides. Among them are Alameda County (Calif.), Hudson County (N.J.), Miami-Dade County (Fla.), Montgomery County (Md.), Multnomah County (Ore.), Orange County (Fla.), Miami-Dade County (Fla.), Orange County (Fla.), San Francisco City & County (Calif.), Montgomery County (Md.), and Travis County (Texas) and others.

Sacramento County (Calif.) is partnering with hotels and motels to house residents who are homeless during the outbreak.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Henderson County (N.C.) has made grab-and-go pickup meals will be available at no cost to children ages 2-18 at 12 school sites. Meals On the Bus has also begun delivering meals.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Dona Ana County (N.M.) has mandated a fourteen day self-quarantine for all employees that travel outside the state of New Mexico. They have also provided more flexibility for employees to telework or stay home if sick or needing to care for children.

Hamilton County (Ind.) is giving all employees up to two weeks additional paid leave for COVID impacts, including having symptoms or a positive test, childcare, recent travel to a foreign country, or elevated health risk.

FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS



Springfield, IL – Low-to-moderate income families and senior citizens needing assistance filing their 2019 income taxes can receive free help through several trusted programs across the State of Illinois. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and AARP Tax-Aide programs are providing free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in over 300 locations statewide.

"Taxes are due in one month. If a qualified taxpayer needs help filing their return, there is free assistance available for them," said David Harris, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue. "In locations all across the state, working-families or elderly taxpayers can meet with a certified volunteer who will help them file their state and federal returns accurately and on time. By increasing participation and compliance, we build trust in our tax system and ensure every taxpayer receives any refund they are due."

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs offer free tax help for individuals making \$56,000 or less, persons with disabilities, taxpayers who speak limited English and individuals 60 years of age or older.

AARP's Foundation Tax-Aide program focuses on helping low-to-moderate income individuals, with special attention to those over 50 years of age. An AARP membership is not required.

"I want to thank the Illinois Department of Revenue, Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), and AARP Tax-Aide programs for providing this much needed service to older adults across the state that just need help," said Paula Basta, Director of IDoA. "I encourage everyone to spread the word to those that need assistance with filing their 2019 income taxes, all of which can be quite frankly overwhelming and confusing."

Taxpayers can search for a free tax assistance provider closest to them by visiting the Illinois Department of Revenue's website tax.illinois.gov.

Get the latest news and updates from the Illinois Department of Revenue by following the department on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Get the latest news and updates from the Illinois Department on Aging by following the department on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, or by calling the Senior HelpLine at (800) 252-8966.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON COUNTY FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES REGARDING COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS

Thank you to those who joined the call on county federal policy priorities regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) response efforts. A recording of the call is available here.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is focused on advocating for the needs of counties at the federal level, disseminating useful information to our members, and facilitating the exchange of effective strategies and approaches. Please

send any information or questions related to counties' response to this pandemic to research@naco.org and visit www.naco.org/coronavirus for the latest.

ACTION NEEDED

Reach Out to Members of Congress on County COVID-19 Priorities

As outlined in the federal policy updates during today's national conference call (recording

available at this link), Congress has passed two COVID-19 relief packages and is quickly working on a third. Now more than ever, we need a strong federal, state and local intergovernmental partnership to address this crisis. NACo urges county leaders to call your members of Congress and ask them to include key county priority items in the next federal legislative package.

DURBIN, DUCKWORTH, COLLEAGUES DEMAND EXPANDED INTERNET ACCESS FOR LOW-INCOME AMERICANS THROUGHOUT COVID-19 CRISIS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) joined Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) in leading a group of their colleagues to demand better mobile internet service for low-income Americans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Improved internet access would help American families better work and learn from home and access vital telehealth resources.

The federal Lifeline service program, administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), provides free and discounted voice, text, and cellular internet service to nine million low-income Americans.

In a series of letters to Lifeline internet service providers, the Senators wrote, "During this public health crisis, it is imperative that internet providers, like your company, act to ensure that the millions of American families who depend on the Lifeline program are not left behind by an ever-growing digital divide."

Basic wireless Lifeline service currently only provides 3GB of data per month, enough data to read emails and access the web, but not enough to telework or access telehealth resources. Many Lifeline providers also do not enable Wi-Fi hotspot capabilities for their devices, preventing children and families from using devices with larger screens, like tablets, laptops, and desktop computers to work or learn effectively from home.

The Senators requested Lifeline service providers take a number of steps to expand their service:

- Enable hotspot access for all Lifeline subscribers, so they can connect laptops or tablets to smartphones that support this feature;



Senators Richard J. Durbin (Left) and Tammy Duckworth (Right).

- Ensure all Lifeline subscribers have access to 4G service, where available, with at least the same speed and priority of service that other resellers of mobile services of that network offer to their customers;

- Provide no-cost upgrades to existing subscribers using older smartphones provided by the Lifeline provider that lack hotspot functionality;

- Allow consumers to roll over some or all of their voice minutes and data allowances from one month to the next;

- Work with their network operator — such as AT&T, Verizon or T-Mobile, who have all pledged to help American families during this crisis — to substantially increase the monthly data allowance beyond 3 GB, at no cost to Lifeline subscribers; and

- Provide subscribers with clear instructions on how to access their smartphone hotspot capability, including via text message.

"As a Lifeline provider, you have a unique opportunity to improve the education, health and economic outcomes of your subscribers during this pandemic," the Senators continued.

The Senators requested responses from the internet service providers by April 5, 2020. The Senators sent individuals letters to the following Lifeline providers: Virgin Mobile, TracFone, Q Link Wireless LLC, Telrite Corporation, I-Wireless, GlobalConnection Inc of America, Sage Telecom Communications LLC, Boomerang Wireless LLC, Amerinex Communications Corp, American Broadband and Telecommunications Company, TruConnect Communications Inc., TAG Mobile LLC, Tempo Telecom LLC, Airvoice Wireless LLC, TerraCom Inc., Yourtel America Inc., True Wireless Inc., Assist Wireless LLC, Cintex Wireless LLC, and New Phone Wireless LLC.

Joining Durbin, Duckworth, and Wyden on the series of letters were Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Ed Markey (D-MA), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Jack Reed (D-RI), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Maggie Hassan (D-NH).

EXECUTIVE ORDER IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (COVID-19 EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8)

WHEREAS, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area on March 9, 2020 (Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation) in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and,

WHEREAS, in a short period of time, COVID-19 has rapidly spread throughout Illinois, necessitating updated and more stringent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials; and,

WHEREAS, for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State of Illinois, and to ensure that our healthcare delivery system is capable of serving those who are sick, I find it necessary to take additional measures consistent with public health guidance to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in significant economic impact, including loss of income and wages, that threaten to undermine housing security and stability;

WHEREAS, the enforcement of eviction orders for residential premises is contrary to the interest of preserving public health and ensuring that individuals remain in their homes during this public health emergency;

THEREFORE, by the powers vested in me as the Governor of the State of Illinois, and pursuant to Sections 7(1), 7(2), 7(8), 7(10), and 7(12) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305, and consistent with the powers in public health laws, I hereby order the following, effective March 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm and for the remainder of the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, which currently extends through April 7, 2020:

Section 1. Stay at Home; Social Distancing Requirements; and Essential Businesses and Operations

1. Stay at home or place of residence. With exceptions as outlined below, all individuals currently living within the State of Illinois are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence except as allowed in this Executive Order. To the extent individuals are

using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence, they must at all times and as much as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in this Executive Order. All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses and Operations, all as defined below.

Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this directive, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to use in their operation COVID-19 risk mitigation practices recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)). Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location. For purposes of this Executive Order, homes or residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units, shelters, and similar facilities.

2. Non-essential business and operations must cease. All businesses and operations in the State, except Essential Businesses and Operations as defined below, are required to cease all activities within the State except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).

All Essential Businesses and Operations are encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses and Operations shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Executive Order, including by maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public at all times, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.

3. Prohibited activities. All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes permitted by this

Executive Order. Pursuant to current guidance from the CDC, any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited unless exempted by this Executive Order. Nothing in this Executive Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or residence.

All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, children's play centers, playgrounds, funplexes, theme parks, bowling alleys, movie and other theaters, concert and music halls, and country clubs or social clubs shall be closed to the public.

This Executive Order supersedes Section 2 of Executive Order 2020-07 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5), which prohibited gatherings of 50 people or more.

4. Prohibited and permitted travel. All travel, including, but not limited to, travel by automobile, motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, train, plane, or public transit, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined herein, is prohibited. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent feasible. This Executive Order allows travel into or out of the State to maintain Essential Businesses and Operations and Minimum Basic Operations.

5. Leaving the home for essential activities is permitted. For purposes of this Executive Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following Essential Activities:

a. For health and safety. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.

b. For necessary supplies and services. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

c. For outdoor activity. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements, as defined below, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, playgrounds may increase spread of COVID-19, and therefore shall be closed.

d. For certain types of work. To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operations (which, as defined below, includes Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure) or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Executive Order, including Minimum Basic Operations.

e. To take care of others. To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Executive Order.

6. Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of illness should take additional precautions. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including elderly people and those who are sick, are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. Nothing in this Executive Order prevents the Illinois Department of Public Health or local public health departments from issuing and enforcing isolation and quarantine orders pursuant to the Department of Public Health Act, 20 ILCS 2305.

7. Healthcare and Public Health Operations. For purposes of this Executive Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services through Healthcare and Public Health Operations. Healthcare and Public Health Operations includes, but is not limited to: hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; public health entities, including those that compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information; pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology companies (including operations, research and development, manufacture, and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials; licensed medical cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; reproductive health care providers; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; home healthcare services providers; mental health and substance use providers; other healthcare facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary healthcare services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

Specifically included in Healthcare and Public Health Operations are manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary

CONTINUED ON PAGES 8-11

care and all healthcare services provided to animals.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. Healthcare and Public Health Operations does not include fitness and exercise gyms, spas, salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, and similar facilities.

8. Human Services Operations. For purposes of this Executive Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any Human Services Operations, including any provider funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, or Medicaid that is providing services to the public and including state-operated, institutional, or community-based settings providing human services to the public.

Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; all entities licensed pursuant to the Child Care Act, 225 ILCS 10, except for day care centers, day care homes, group day care homes, and day care centers licensed as specified in Section 12(s) of this Executive Order; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, and children; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, vocational services, rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals. Human Services Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of human services, broadly defined.

9. Essential Infrastructure. For purposes of this Executive Order, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair Essential Infrastructure.

Essential Infrastructure includes, but is not limited to: food production, distribution, and sale; construction (including, but not limited to, construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long-term care facilities, public works construction, and housing construction); building management and maintenance; airport operations; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel

refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; ports; cybersecurity operations; flood control; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

Essential Infrastructure shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined.

10. Essential Governmental Functions. For purposes of this Executive Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, military, and other governmental employees working for or to support Essential Businesses and Operations are categorically exempt from this Executive Order.

Essential Government Functions means all services provided by the State or any municipal, township, county, subdivision or agency of government and needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies or to provide for or support the health, safety and welfare of the public, and including contractors performing Essential Government Functions. Each government body shall determine its Essential Governmental Functions and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions.

This Executive Order does not apply to the United States government. Nothing in this Executive Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Functions.

11. Businesses covered by this Executive Order. For the purposes of this Executive Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure.

12. Essential Businesses and Operations. For the purposes of this Executive Order, Essential Businesses and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure, and the following:

a. Stores that sell groceries and medicine. Grocery stores, pharmacies, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries, medicine, including medica-

tion not requiring a medical prescription, and also that sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and Essential Businesses and Operations;

b. Food, beverage, and cannabis production and agriculture. Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; licensed medical and adult use cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; and businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities;

c. Organizations that provide charitable and social services. Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities;

d. Media. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services; Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation.

e. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities;

f. Financial institutions. Banks, currency exchanges, consumer lenders, including but not limited, to payday lenders, pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products;

g. Hardware and supply stores. Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating material;

h. Critical trades. Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses and Operations;

i. Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services. Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alco-

holic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods or services to end users or through commercial channels;

j. Educational institutions. Educational institutions—including public and private pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible. This Executive Order is consistent with and does not amend or supersede Executive Order 2020-05 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 3) or Executive Order 2020-06 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 4) except that affected schools are ordered closed through April 7, 2020;

k. Laundry services. Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers;

l. Restaurants for consumption off-premises. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Executive Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site due to the virus's propensity to physically impact surfaces and personal property.

This Executive Order is consistent with and does not amend or supersede Section 1 of Executive Order 2020-07 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5) except that Section 1 is ordered to be extended through April 7, 2020;

m. Supplies to work from home. Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply products needed for people to work from home;

n. Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations. Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Essential Businesses and Operations with the support or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, household appliances; IT and telecommunication equipment; hardware, paint, flat glass; electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients and components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent; and firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security;

o. Transportation. Airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics provid-

ers necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Executive Order;

p. Home-based care and services. Home-based care for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness, including caregivers such as nannies who may travel to the child's home to provide care, and other in-home services including meal delivery;

q. Residential facilities and shelters. Residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness;

r. Professional services. Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services);

s. Day care centers for employees exempted by this Executive Order. Day care centers granted an emergency license pursuant to Title 8g, Section 407.400 of the Illinois Administrative Code, governing Emergency Day Care Programs for children of employees exempted by this Executive Order to work as permitted. The licensing requirements for day care homes pursuant to Section 4 of the Child Care Act, 225 ILCS 10/4, are hereby suspended for family homes that receive up to 6 children for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation.

t. Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries. Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pick-up and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, mining, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations.

u. Critical labor union functions. Labor Union essential activities including the administration of health and welfare funds and personnel checking on the well-being and safety of members providing services in Essential Businesses and Operations – provided that these checks should be done by telephone or remotely where possible.

v. Hotels and motels. Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services.

w. Funeral services. Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services.

13. Minimum Basic Operations. For the purposes of this Executive

Order, Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:

- a. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
- b. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

14. Essential Travel. For the purposes of this Executive Order, Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes. Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel must comply with all Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section.

- a. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations.
- b. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
- c. Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
- d. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.
- e. Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
- f. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the State. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the State remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.

15. Social Distancing Requirements. For purposes of this Executive Order, Social Distancing Requirements includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

Required measures. Essential Businesses and Operations and businesses engaged in Minimum Basic Operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, including where possible:

- i. Designate six-foot distances. Designating with signage, tape, or by

other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;

ii. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products. Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;

iii. Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations. Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and

iv. Online and remote access. Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

16. Intent of this Executive Order. The intent of this Executive Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible. When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to perform Essential Activities, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times and as much as reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements. All provisions of this Executive Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent.

17. Enforcement. This Executive Order may be enforced by State and local law enforcement pursuant to, inter alia, Section 7, Section 18, and Section 19 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305.

18. No limitation on authority. Nothing in this Executive Order shall, in any way, alter or modify any existing legal authority allowing the State or any county, or local government body from

ordering (1) any quarantine or isolation that may require an individual to remain inside a particular residential property or medical facility for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency, or (2) any closer of a specific location for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency. Nothing in this Executive Order shall, in any way, alter or modify any existing legal authority allowing a county or local government body to enact provisions that are stricter than those in this Executive Order.

Section 2. Order ceasing evictions.

Pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(2), (8), and (10), all state, county, and local law enforcement officers in the State of Illinois are instructed to cease enforcement of orders of eviction for residential premises for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. No provision contained in this Executive Order shall be construed as relieving any individual of the obligation to pay rent, to make mortgage payments, or to comply with any other obligation that an individual may have under tenancy or mortgage.

Section 3. Savings clause.

If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Executive Order, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are declared to be severable.

EXECUTIVE ORDER IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (COVID-19 EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18)

An extension of the state's disaster proclamation, requiring individuals to stay at home or their place of residence for an additional 30 days. Individuals may leave their homes only for essential activities or for essential operations. Extends the suspension of on-site learning in K-12 schools, with schools

transitioning from Act of God Days to Remote Learning Days. Provides the authority for the governor to sign additional executive orders to extend the Stay at Home order. This supersedes Executive Order 2020-10.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19): FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

A: There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus not previously seen in humans. COVID-19 was identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China, that has spread around the world, including the United States and all 50 states. The latest situation summary updates are available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web page 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

Q: What is the source of the virus?

A: Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats and bats. Early on, many of the patients at the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Person-to-person spread was subsequently reported outside China, including the United States.

Q. What does it mean that COVID-19 is a Global Pandemic?

A: A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people and can spread between people. Because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads worldwide. The virus that causes COVID-19 is infecting people and spreading easily from person-to-person. Cases have been detected in most countries worldwide, including the United States, which



has recorded cases in all 50 states.

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-2019?

A: People who are infected with COVID-19 have developed mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, and potentially respiratory distress 2-14 days after exposure. Call your health care provider for medical advice if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing.

Q: How does COVID-19 spread?

A: COVID-19 has been shown to spread between people. Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others, so CDC recommends these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home (depending on the severity of their illness) until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others. Human coronaviruses typically spread through the air by coughing and sneezing. How long someone is actively sick can vary so the decision on when to release someone from isolation is made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with doctors, infection prevention and control experts, and public health officials

and involves considering specifics of each situation, including disease severity, illness signs and symptoms, and results of laboratory testing for that patient.

Current CDC guidance for when it is OK to release someone from isolation is made on a case by case basis and includes meeting all of the following requirements:

The patient is free from fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 72 hours.

The patient is no longer showing symptoms, including cough.

It has been at least 7 days since the onset of the patient's illness.

This recommendation is to help prevent most, but may not prevent all, instances of secondary spread. According to CDC, the risk of transmission after recovery is likely very substantially less than that during illness.

Someone who has been released from isolation is not considered to pose a risk of infection to others.

Q: How is COVID-19 diagnosed?

A: Diagnosis occurs through laboratory testing of respiratory specimens. Some coronavirus strains cause the common cold

and patients tested by their health care provider may test positive for these types.

Q: Can someone spread the virus without being sick?

A: People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms. There have been reports of this occurring with COVID-19, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Q: Will warm weather stop the outbreak of COVID-19?

It is not yet known whether weather and temperature impact the spread of COVID-19. Some other viruses, like the common cold and flu, spread more during cold weather months but that does not mean it is impossible to become sick with these viruses during other months. At this time it is not known whether the spread of COVID-19 will decrease when weather becomes warmer. There is much more to learn about the transmissibility, severity and other features associated with COVID-19 and investigations are ongoing.

Q: What does the Governor's stay at home order mean?

A stay at home order directs Illinoisans to stop movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs. By limiting social interactions, the chance of spreading COVID-19 is greatly reduced.

Q: Why is this stay at home order necessary?

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented health threat. If Illinois took no action to combat the spread, current modeling indicates many thousands of people in our state could die.

Q: When is it okay for me to leave my home?

You may leave your home ONLY to perform the following allowable activities:

Health and safety – obtaining emergency services, visiting a healthcare professional, picking up medical supplies or medications

Outdoor activities – walking, hiking, jogging, biking

Supplies and Services – shopping for groceries, gasoline, take-out food, products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operations of homes

Care of others – travel to care for the elderly, family member, persons with disabilities or underlying health conditions, a friend or pet in another household

Essential businesses – travel to perform work providing essential products and services, such as health care and public health, public safety, governmental functions, banks, food and agriculture, and media

Funerals – permissible provided the gathering consists of no more than 10 attendees and the space utilized allows for social distancing (6 feet spacing between people). If possible, venues should make accommodations for remote attendance if you do leave home, stay at least 6 feet apart for other people. Everyone is encouraged to stay active outside during this time, provided they practice safe social distancing.

Q: What is social distancing?

A: Social distancing is deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness. Staying at least 6 feet away from other people reduces the chances of catching COVID-19. Other examples of social distancing with the goal of avoiding crowds, crowded spaces and mass gatherings include working from home instead of the office, closing schools and switching to on-line classes, visiting loved ones by electronic devices instead of in person, suspending worship services, and canceling or postponing large meetings.

Q: What is the state recommending for social distancing?

Gov. JB Pritzker has prohibited public and private gatherings of 10 or more people through April 30. This includes community, civic, public leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions and any similar event or activity that brings together 10 or more people in a room or space at the same. The governor also, by Executive Order, closed schools,

bars and restaurants through April 30. Restaurant kitchens can remain open and put in place drive-thru, curbside pickup and delivery options. The Illinois Gaming Board has suspended video gaming through April 30.

Q: Can I go outdoors?

A: Yes, go outdoors for fresh air and exercise. Ride a bike, walk the dog, go for a hike, jog. Social distancing does not mean staying indoors, it means avoiding close contact with people. Remember to wash your hands any time you enter from outdoors and before you eat.

Q: Can I go to the supermarket?

A: Yes. Buy as much as you need to lessen the number of trips and try and shop when the store is least likely to be crowded. Some grocery stores have designated special hours for the elderly (over age 60), pregnant women and those with compromised immune systems to lessen their exposure to large crowds and possible exposure to COVID-19.

Q: How can I help protect myself?

A: Follow these tips to help prevent COVID-19:

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick with respiratory symptoms.

Stay home when you are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you have not already done so, discuss influenza vaccination with your health care provider to help protect you against

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

seasonal influenza.

Q: Should I wear a facemask?

A: If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a health care provider's office. If you are unable to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

If you are not sick: You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

Q: What steps should parents take to protect children?

A: This is a new virus and we are still learning about it, but so far, there does not seem to be a lot of illness in children. Most illness, including serious illness, is happening in adults of working age and older adults. Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Encourage frequent handwashing and follow other prevention tips.

Q: Who is at higher risk?

A: COVID-19 is a new disease and we are learning more about it every day. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19. Based upon available information to date, the CDC has said those most at risk include:

People 65 years and older, People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility, People who are pregnant, eople of any age with the following underlying medical conditions, particularly those that are not well controlled: Chronic lung disease or asthma, Congestive hear failure or coronary artery disease, Diabetes, Neurologic conditions that weaken the ability to cough, Weakened immune system, Chemotherapy

radiation for cancer (currently or in recent past), Sickle cell anemia, Chronic kidney diseases requiring dialysis, Cirrhosis of the liver, Lack of spleen or a spleen that doesn't function correctly, Extreme obesity (body mass index (BMI) great than or equal to 40)

Q: Should I clean "high touch" surfaces?

A: Yes. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them using detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work.

Q: Is there a vaccine?

A: No. Currently, there is not a vaccine for COVID-19.

Q: What are the treatments for COVID-19?

A: Currently, there are no specific treatments recommended for illnesses caused by COVID-19. Medical care is supportive to help relieve symptoms.

Q: Can I get COVID-19 from my pet?

A: At this time, there is no evidence that pets or other animals can spread COVID-19 or that they might be a source of infection in the United States. The thousands of worldwide cases have been human-to-human transmission.

Q: Can I give COVID-19 to my pet?

A: To date, there is no evidence of human-to-pet illness in pets. There have been no reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19.

Q: Do I need to get my pet tested for COVID-19?

A: No. At this time, routine testing of animals for COVID-19 is not recommended.

Q: Can animals carry the virus that causes COVID-19 on their skin or fur?

A: At this time, there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread to people from the skin or fur of pets. Talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to

care for your pet.

Q: Should I avoid contact with pets or other animals if I am sick with COVID-19?

A: You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the new coronavirus. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. If you are sick with COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets.

Q: What should health care providers, laboratories and health departments do?

A: Health care providers and laboratories should report suspect COVID-19 cases immediately (within 3 hours) to their local health department, who should report cases to IDPH within the same time frame. For recommendations and guidance, see the IDPH Coronavirus Page or the CDC's web page 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

Q: What are public health departments in Illinois doing about this situation?

A: IDPH and local health departments have implemented heightened surveillance to identify and test patients most likely to have COVID-19. Public health experts are communicating with and educating health care providers and other public health partners about the current situation. Measures are being developed to prevent the spread of illness in Illinois. Frequent communication with the public will be available through the IDPH Coronavirus Page.

Find CDC Travel Information here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

217.544.5585

UCCI@unitedcounties.com | www.unitedcounties.com

United Counties Council of Illinois
Officers/Executive Committee Members

David Meyer, President
WASHINGTON COUNTY

Joseph Payette, Secretary
CARROLL COUNTY

Matthew Prochaska
KENDALL COUNTY

Samuel L. Newton
STEPHENSON COUNTY

David Zimmerman, Vice President
TAZEWELL COUNTY

P.E. Cross, Treasurer
HAMILTON COUNTY

Mark Kern
ST. CLAIR COUNTY

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR COUNTY?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have an article you would like shared in the next newsletter, email Ryan at

Ryan@FrontlineCo.com