



1. What is the situation?

- a. As of this afternoon, there are 13,549 cases in Illinois, with 380 of deaths. In suburban Cook County, we have 3,612 cases and 109 deaths. We cannot stress enough how important it is to continue social distancing and staying home when you are able – we will save lives.
- b. Executive Order 16: suspends vehicle repossessions during the time of the emergency declaration.
- c. Executive Order 18: extends the disaster proclamation until the end of April. It also declares school days moving forward as “e-learning” days, meaning that these days are considered instructional days and schools should have a plan for reaching their students and engaging them in learning. This transition also ensures that the missed in-person school days do not need to be made up at the end of the school year.
- d. Executive Order 20: allows people to apply for public assistance by phone without having to send or make a recording of their verbal attestation during the application.
- e. Executive Order 21: allows for longer furloughs for IL Department of Corrections inmates.
<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/resources-for-executive-orders>
- f. Automatic increase for SNAP users: All will now receive the maximum SNAP benefit.
<https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=21356>
- g. Cook County [Executive Order 2020-9](#) creates the Community Recovery Initiative, an emergency relief fund for businesses and 1099 workers in suburban Cook County. The fund will grant loans to gig workers and small businesses. In addition to this fund, Cook County created a new technical assistance (TA) network along with the American Business Immigration Coalition, the Illinois Restaurant Association, and the National Partnership for New American. The TA network will help suburban small businesses and contract workers to successfully access the new small business loans created as part of the CARES Act passed by Congress.
www.cookcountyil.gov/recovery.
- h. Expansion in the state child care program. All essential workers will now qualify for the state’s childcare assistance program – that means that, regardless of income, most or all of the cost of childcare for essential workers will be covered. Child care centers that apply for and receive the emergency approval to provide care will be reimbursed 30% more than under normal conditions. <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>
- i. New IDPH guidance for pregnant women and mothers and newborns, including recommending social distancing between a positive mother and her infant, when possible. Included is guidance about breastfeeding (pumping during infection) and not rooming in when the facility space allows. <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/pregnancy-children>
- j. The CDC issued new guidance about wearing masks in public. Research indicates that the virus can be spread among close contacts when no symptoms are present or before they manifest. CDC now commends that all wear masks in public where social distancing is difficult to



maintain. Masks are a substitute for physical distancing.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

- k. Where people have followed the guidance to stay home, telework when they can, and where schools and restaurants have been closed, they have begun to slow the growth in infections. Data from California and Washington state shows that social distancing is working to slow the spread of infection. A research [paper](#) by Michael Greenstone and Vishan Nigam at the University of Chicago, based on previous modeling of the pandemic, concluded that moderate social distancing “would save 1.7 million lives between March 1 and October 1, with 630,000 due to avoided overwhelming of hospital intensive care units.” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/01/lockdown-coronavirus-california-data/>

2. What is CCDPH doing?

- a. New COVID-19 website with information for families, businesses, and healthcare providers, a searchable resource list, and a new map and data visualization tool that allows people to access COVID-19 counts for the county and for municipalities, along with other case data.
<https://ccdphcd.shinyapps.io/covid19/> and <https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/>
- b. Hotline – 9a-4p M-F at 708-633-3319.
- c. **Email** for COVID-19 questions: ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org
- d. **Text alerts** text "AlertCook" to 888777 to join.
- e. CCDPH continues to help healthcare providers as they respond to cases of COVID19 in the community through support for testing, contact tracing, and case monitoring, and is in close coordination with the Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Public Health and the CDC.
- f. CCDPH continues to work closely with congregate settings (like nursing homes) to ensure that they implementing best practices for resident safety. CCDPH staff is in daily contact with over 40 residential care facilities in the suburbs about new and existing cases, staffing issues, and requests for PPE, and to ensure that:
 - i. the facility is up-to-date on most recent guidance on COVID-19,
 - ii. the facility is not unnecessarily transferring patients to the hospital unless medically necessary
 - iii. staff mask appropriately
 - iv. staff is conducting symptoms checks before and after shifts.
 - v. visitors are restricted, and
 - vi. facilities are ensuring that positive patients are placed on droplet and contact precautions.



- g. Christine Haley, Cook County Health's Director of Housing, reviewed Cook County initiatives to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness:
- i. CCDPH is working with the Suburban Alliance to End Homelessness, homeless service providers and Cook County sister agencies to create a coordinated response.
 - ii. Homeless service providers in Cook County currently providing emergency shelter to over 300 households. Cook County is working closely with the shelter provider community to create new capacity.
 - iii. Last week, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development announced \$150,000 in grant funding to support homeless service providers respond to the pandemic.
 - iv. Cook County created an interagency work group to have a coordinated response to the pandemic. Led by CCH/CCDPH, the group includes participation from the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Asset Management, Housing Authority of Cook County and Justice Advisory Council. The goal of the work group is to coordinate funding and strategic initiatives to support people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.
 - v. The federal stimulus bill to support homeless households during the pandemic includes funding increases to the Emergency Solutions Grant that funds shelter activities and rental assistance, Community Development Block Grant, Housing Choice Voucher Program and project based rental assistance.
 - vi. During the week of 3/30, CCDPH and the IL Public Health Institute convened suburban hospitals to inform them of the shelters and their current needs in order to expand operations to new guests. Advocate Aurora Health is working to identify what supports they can provide to partnering shelters in the south and northern suburbs.
 - vii. Cook County Health's Infectious Disease Department is lending their expertise to help support area shelters. CCH has offered to provide one-on-one in person consultation to the shelters to answer questions they have on implementing national guidance on creating social distancing guidelines within congregate settings.

NEXT CALL: Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 4pm. Call in number: 1-888-398-2342, passcode: 4724630.