



Rejoice Together at Home This Easter

Cure Rate Higher Than Death Rate for Coronavirus



By Dr. R. Pletsch

I spent about five hours in the emergency room of a local hospital recently. I was happy to see it running well with no apparent problems. All patients were greeted with respect and were arranged with social distancing in mind. I hope it remains this way. I had a conversation with one of the doctors who had been keeping track of ventilators requested by the governors. He said by his count, they would need a half million ventilators to make everyone happy. A former Army surgeon, he doubted that that many exist even in the whole world. It was definitely an interesting day. An article in the L.A. Times quoting the Imperial College of London stated that worldwide only about 1% that contacted the disease resulted in a fatality and that includes about

9% of those over 80 with pre-existing conditions. This article warns us that the statistics might be off because of the reliability of some of those reporting.

They noted that the same countries we have been hearing about in the news are ones they are worried about. Also there may be many more cured than listed by the Center for Disease Control because many people do not have to be hospitalized with the virus and they just don't go back to the doctor to say "hey, I'm okay".

What does all this mean? As of Sunday evening, the CDC official site says that in the US there were over 336,000 confirmed cases and over 9600 fatalities and over 17,000 have recovered completely enough that they can donate plasma to try and help the others. We should note that the last two numbers are never subtracted from the number that have contracted the disease. So if you looked at those numbers it would be about 27,000 less active cases.

So by the numbers, they will continue to grow, but so will those cured. Those 17,000 cured is not a huge number, it is a way to help the adults give hope to our kids. We must continue to follow the instructions that we hear, because no one wants the problem in their family. Help your children stay upbeat and remember to pray for all those deceased, those ill, our families and our country.

Support Services For Sr. Citizens

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot joined Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services Lisa Morrison Butler, AARP Illinois State Director Bob Gallo and AARP IL Volunteer State President Rosanna Marquez for a telephone town hall to address the senior population amid the COVID-19 public health crisis.

City led projects have included: Securing home-delivered meals for seniors who are unable to prepare for themselves or have no other mechanism to procure. Working with local grocery stores to create and implement "senior only" so residents are able to

quickly and safely do their shopping.

Securing screening that will help to determine eligibility for more than 2,500 city, state and federal benefits such as prescription drug coverage, weatherization, energy assistance, taxes, energy assistance, housing options and in-home support services.

Providing care services for seniors that are in-line with public health guidance. Creating and providing resources for families taking caring of seniors which have included in-home respite services, workshops for guidance and legal assistance. Providing adult protective services including investigative responses to reports of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, confinement and financial exploitation.

Providing long-term care ombudsmen advocacy, complaint resolution and rights protection of residents in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities. Providing professional staff on site when families that care for seniors are away.

Heat and electricity suppliers have suspended shutoffs due to a resident's inability to pay, indefinitely. The Chicago Department of Water Management will continue its moratorium on shutoffs from inability to pay. The Cook County Sheriff has also suspended evictions while the health crisis continues.

For more information and updates on COVID-19, text COVID19 to 78015, email coronavirus@chicago.gov or visit chicago.gov/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus. For school-specific updates, visit www.cps.edu/coronavirus.

We're Not Playing Campaign Opens

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced a campaign, "We Are Not Playing," in partnership with Chicago's professional sports teams to combat the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019. The Chicago Bears, Blackhawks, Bulls, Cubs, Fire, Red Stars, Sky, White Sox – have signed on to the initiative, to drive compliance with the statewide Stay at Home order.

The campaign will roll-out with digital and social advertisements in phase one, and celebrity/all-star player social videos set to come online afterwards.

As the City continues to respond to COVID-19 it will pursue additional measures as needed to contain the virus. Residents who are mandated to stay at home and who do not have access otherwise should contact 311 to be connected with food and other social services.

Friends Of Parks Recommendation



Friend of the Parks has received numerous complaints of police shutting down parks at will, even when they weren't particularly busy. The Chicago Park District got a commitment from the Chicago Police Department to communicate across its system that it is not ok to say that parks had been closed when they are not among those covered by the mayor's order. FOTP staff recommend you stay physically distant while still enjoying the physical and mental health benefits of our parks for as long as possible.

Send your selfies, nature shots, etc., to info@fotp.org to share with others. Post them on social media using hashtags: #IsolationInspiration, #HealthyParksHealthyChicago or #ParksAreOurFriends.

5K Run-Walk At Montrose Harbor



A Safe Haven Foundation will host its 10th Annual 5K Run! To End Homelessness at Grove 16 at 600 W. Montrose Harbor Dr. on Sunday, July 19th at 8 a.m. Proceeds will go to support the mission of transforming lives from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Music and a free Kids Fun Run! (Registration required) will also be included. Race fee is \$40. Price increases to \$45 after May 15th. For more details, visit RunToEndHomelessness.org.

CBA Offers Legal Service

As consumer and employment complaints relating to the Coronavirus are surging, the Chicago Bar Association is reminding the public that attorneys are available to provide

legal assistance online or over the telephone. The lawyer referral fee will be waived in the wake of the public health pandemic.

The Lawyer Referral Service has been in operation for nearly 80 years and offers services including consumer protection, personal injury, domestic relations, estate planning, real estate, and employment law.

The Federal Trade Commission is reporting that public inquiries related to the coronavirus have increased significantly in recent weeks, including complaints related to travel refunds, online shopping, mobile texting scams and government and business imposter scams.

The CBA sponsors a monthly "Call A Lawyer" program through the Lawyer Referral Service, making attorneys available to take calls from the public. On Saturday, April 18th, the public can call (312) 554-2001 and explain their situation to an attorney who will then work to suggest self-help strategies or provide advice to help resolve their issues.

These services can also be accessed on the CBA's website at www.chicagobar.org.

Relief Package For City Small Business

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced a new \$100 million economic relief package to support small businesses that are experiencing a temporary loss of revenue as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The new Chicago Small Business Resiliency Loan Fund will provide low-interest loans to small businesses over the coming months, targeting under-resourced communities.

The economic relief package is designed to provide cash flow relief for neighborhood entrepreneurs and includes extended due dates for business-related tax payments until April 30th.

The fund leverages a \$25 million grant by the City of Chicago, \$50 million in capital by the Chicago Community Catalyst Fund as well as \$10 million from Goldman Sachs' Urban Investment Group, \$1 million from Fifth Third, \$250,000 from Clayco and \$15 million from additional private funding sources.

Up to \$50,000 in working capital loans to neighborhood entrepreneurs will help support rent and payroll expenses. A network of Community Development Financial Institutions will be responsible for providing support with application screening, credit underwriting, loan disbursements and servicing.

Eligible businesses must have experienced a more than 25% revenue decrease due to the impact from COVID-19. Furthermore, to qualify

as a small business, each establishment must have fewer than 50 employees. Beginning on March 31st, the City's CDFI partners will begin accepting loan applications from local businesses. In the meantime, business owners and entrepreneurs are encouraged to fill out an interest form and a City representative of the fund will reach out on next steps.

The City is temporarily suspending debt collection, and limited ticketing and towing practices. New economic relief package will temporarily defer all business fine collections as well as license renewal and late fees until April 30th.

Due dates for payments will be extended until April 30th for the following City taxes: bottled water, checkout bag, amusement, hotel accommodation, restaurant and parking.

For more information and updates on COVID-19, tune into CDPH's "The Doctor Is In" Livestream weekdays at 11 a.m., for mobile updates, text COVID19 to 78015 or email: coronavirus@chicago.gov.

Suspension Of Debt Collection

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced that the City of Chicago will be temporarily suspending debt collection practices and non-safety related citations and impounds, as well as penalties for late payment.

The penalty relief package includes a temporary suspension of late fees and defaults on payment plans, including city tickets, utility bills, parking and red-light citations, booting and other non-public safety related violations. Additionally, there will be no new interest accumulated on current compliance plans.

The City will not be issuing violations for city stickers, expired plates, street sweeping and residential permit parking until April 30th.

Motorists are still required to pay parking meters.

BrightonParkLIFE.com

To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information.

We encourage our readers to check back often for new updates!

Executive Order Protects Immigrants

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot signed an executive order explicitly ensuring that all benefits, opportunities, and services provided or administered by the City of Chicago are accessible to all residents, regardless of birth country or citizenship status.

To address the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic poses, the City has implemented numerous programs to aid all residents during this time, including:

Establishing the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant program, which provides disaster relief aid for the housing costs faced by individuals and families impacted by the pandemic; Offering online Enrichment Learning Resources through Chicago Public Schools for all students at all levels, Starting a \$100 mil-



MAYOR LIGHTFOOT

lion Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund to provide disaster relief cash flow during the pandemic, which is available to any entrepreneur.

Extra Benefit For SNAP Recipients

The Illinois Department of Human Services announced that more than 450,000 Illinois households will receive additional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. All who are eligible should receive them by April 20th. The additional funds are intended to help Illinoisans obtain food and support for their families during the pandemic. The maximum SNAP benefit amounts will be implemented for April and May.

Increased benefits will be automatically loaded onto recipients' Link cards, and there is no need for anyone to re-apply, visit an office, or call. All new applications authorized in April will also receive the maximum allotment for their household size.

The federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act gives states the option to provide SNAP households with the maximum allotment, which is based on household size.

Application For Early Learning

Chicago Early Learning has over 600 preschool sites across the city. Children who will be age 3 or 4 on or by Sept. 1st can access quality no-cost or low-cost preschool options online at chicagoearlylearning.org.

Application for the 2020-21 school year is open. Subscribe to the newsletter online and be the first to receive updates about the preschool application. Information about services for infants and toddlers is also available online. Visit chicagoearlylearning.org/connect or call (312) 229-1690.

Households which are not currently receiving the maximum allotment will receive additional benefits which bring their allotment amount to the maximum. Households already receiving the maximum benefit will not receive additional benefits.

Illinois recipients receive their benefits at different times each month, so increased benefits will be loaded on different dates for recipients.

Property Tax Exemptions Due

All Cook County Property Tax Exemptions are due Friday, April 10th.

The Assessor's Office administers exemptions that may contribute to lowering the property tax bill for your home. There are several commonly administered exceptions.

Homeowner exception: Provides property tax savings by reducing the equalized assessed value of an eligible property. Most homeowners are eligible for this exception if they own and occupy the property. Senior exemption: Provides property tax savings to qualified seniors age 65 or older by reducing the equalized assessed value of an eligible residence. Senior/Freeze exemption: Allows seniors age 65 and older with a gross household income of no more than \$65,000 to freeze the equalized assessed value of their properties for the year preceding the year in which they first apply and qualify for the exemption.

For a full list of available exemptions and information on how to apply, visit www.cookcountyassessor.com.

LAVAN Insurance Agency

3956 S. California Ave. Chicago, IL 60632

50 YEARS
1969-2019

AUTO HOME COMMERCIAL

SR22 • Tickets/Accidents OK • Prior Insurance Not Required

Se Habla Español

773.247.6765
www.lavaninsurance.com

• BATTERY • TUNE-UP
TIRDS • TRANSMISSION

Services For Domestic Violence

The Illinois Department of Human Services has launched \$1.2 million plan to increase the capacity of its statewide network of services for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors during pandemic.

The plan creates a one-stop access point for shelter needs. Survivors may call the Helpline at (877) 863-6338 and be connected to shelter through existing Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention shelter services or to emergency shelter through available hotels and motels. Survivors also may contact their local domestic violence programs for shelter assistance.

DVPI providers will receive a three-month advance of their current grant to support continuations of services and respond to the needs of domestic violence survivors, such as hotels, emergency supplies, transportation, food, tech-

nology supports and other related services.

IDHS will provide the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault with a grant advance to enhance the capacity of local rape crisis centers statewide to aid sexual assault survivors. The agency also will advance grant funds to Partner Abuse Intervention Program grantees for programs costs related to COVID-19. For more information, visit www.CoronaVirus.Illinois.Gov.

NLEI Suspends Events Until May

The National Latino Education Institute, W. Pershing road, has cancelled or postponed all events until May. Enrollment for new classes are placed on hold until further notice. Information on programs is available through education@nlei.org.

Property Tax Auction Postponed

A Cook County Circuit Court Judge has postponed the Annual Tax Sale of delinquent properties scheduled to begin May 8th because of the spread of the new coronavirus.

Treasurer Maria Pappas asked for the delay to protect the health and safety of residents in light of the pandemic.

There are more than 52,000 properties whose delinquent taxes would be sold to investors if the Tax Sale were held. More than 30,000 are homes; more than 23,000 owe less than \$1,000; and 2,000 are owned by senior citizens.

Postponing the Tax Sale would delay payment of an estimated \$48 million in property taxes that would have been collected during the sale.

The Treasurer's Office is required to put delinquent taxes up for auction, the first step in the legal process that can end with the loss of property if the taxes are not repaid.

Two New Lions At Brookfield Zoo



The Chicago Zoological Society, which manages Brookfield Zoo, announces the arrival of its newest additions—two male African lions named Brutus and Titus on March 17th. While the zoo has been closed to the public due to the current state of the country, animal care staff proceeded with its plan to have the two 4-year-old brothers transferred from Hogle Zoo, Utah.

When the zoo reopens, guests will be able to see Brutus and Titus along the Big Cat walkway. Born on February 24, 2016, Brutus's mane is long, dark, and straight. Titus's mane is shorter as well as lighter in color. In addition, Titus is a few inches taller than Brutus. Brutus seems to be the calmer of the two, while Titus is more active with enrichment items. The brothers are very bonded and often sleep next to one another.

They came to Brookfield Zoo based on a recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' African Lion

Species Survival Plan.

Those interested in helping care for Brutus and Titus can contribute to the Animal Adoption program. Two options are available. For \$35, a recipient receives the Basic Package, which includes a 5-inch x 7-inch color photograph of either Brutus or Titus, a personalized certificate of adoption, an African lion fact sheet, Animal Adoption program decal, and an invitation to the annual Animal Adoption Evening (ticket purchase necessary). The \$60 Plush Package includes all the benefits of the Basic Package, plus an 8-inch plush lion, and four free tickets to the annual Animal Adoption Evening. To purchase one of the packages, visit CZS.org/FeaturedCreature.

Resources For Covid 19 Crisis

Hotel Utilization: Individuals who do not require hospital-level care can be transferred to downtown hotels rented by the City of Chicago to quarantine affected individuals. For more information, call (312) 746-4835.

Meals on Wheels: The home-delivered meal program for seniors is managed by The Chicago Department of Family & Support Services. Contact Information and Assessment at (312) 744-4016.

Rental Assistance: If you need information, call the King Center, 4314 S. Cottage Grove, at (312) 747-2300.

Chicago Public Schools Food Program: Schools are open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide breakfast and lunch to those under 18 years. If you have trouble getting to the site, contact (773) 553-5437.

Greater Food Depository: The benefit outreach team helps people in Cook County with SNAP, Medicaid and other public benefit programs. They can be reached at (773) 843-5416.

Mental Health Resources: Call 311, the NAMI Chicago Helping (833) 626-4244, or the TURN Center (883) 887-6123 for a counselor.

BPNC Now Open Remotely

In an effort to limit social contact and the spread of COVID-19, the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council has closed its offices and is working remotely.

For more information, email: communications@bpncchicago.org, Liliana Almazán at lalmazan@bpncchicago.org or leave a voicemail at (773) 270-0467.

Lattuca Honored

Carmelo Lattuca has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2019-20 academic year.

A sophomore meteorology-climatology major, he is enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. A qualifying 3.7 grade-point average is based on a four-point scale and a minimum of 12 graded semester hours.

Scholarship For Accounting Degree

College students pursuing accounting degrees are invited to apply to the Illinois CPA Society's Accounting Scholarship Program for the 2020-21 academic year. More than 40 scholarships of up to \$4,000 each will be awarded.

Applicants must be accounting students enrolled at Illinois colleges who demonstrate financial need, academic achievement, and leadership qualities.

The available scholarships include: Illinois CPA Society Accounting Scholarships for seniors or graduate students; Herman J. Neal Accounting Scholarships for African American juniors, seniors, or graduate students; James A. Siskich Visionary Scholarships for seniors or graduate students; Jovencio P. & Violeta R. Mangahas Accounting Scholarships for seniors or graduate students. Women's Executive Committee Advancing Women in Accounting Scholarships for female seniors or graduate students.

Students submit one application and may apply to any or all scholarships for which they are eligible. The application deadline is April 1st.

Racial and ethnic minority high school seniors are invited to apply for Illinois CPA Society Freshman Scholarships by May 1st.

For more information and to apply, visit www.icpas.org/scholarships.

Literacy Center Needs Tutors

The Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st, needs volunteer tutors to help adult immigrants learn English during 90 minutes per week. All tutoring is in English. Opportunities are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The next tutoring workshop will hopefully be conducted Friday, May 1st from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, May 2nd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendance on both days is required. For more information or to register, contact sabrina@aquinasliteracycenter.org or (773) 927-0512.

Update For Social Security

The Department of the Treasurer announced on April 1st that Social Security beneficiaries who are not typically required to file tax returns will not need to file an abbreviated tax return to receive an economic impact payment.

The IRS will use the information on the Form SSA-1099 to generate \$1,200 economic impact payments to beneficiaries who did not file tax returns in 2018 or 2019.

For more information, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases>.

Illinois State Museum To Remain Closed

To prevent the further spread of COVID-19, the Illinois State Museum announced the closure of its flagship facility in Springfield as well as its Research and Collections Center, also in Springfield. Dickinson Mounds Museum in Lewistown and the Lockport Gallery. All affiliated locations

will remain closed until further notice.

Established in 1877, the Illinois State Museum promotes discovery, lifelong learning, and stewardship of the natural and cultural heritage of Illinois. To learn more, visit www.illinoisstate-museum.org.

Many of your local restaurants have remained open for delivery and pick-up

Consider ordering out to help support these businesses in your community during this time.

Tio Luis Tacos
3856 S. Archer (773) 843-0098

LaCoco's Pizza & Sports Club
3350 W. 47th St. (773) 523-2205
10 a.m. to 4 a.m.

Palermo's On 63rd Street
3751 W. 63rd St. (773) 585-5002

Tierra Caliente Restaurant
4070 S. Archer (773) 847-9755
Mon - Fri. 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sat - Sun. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The Hut
3601 S. California Avenue (773) 847-0240

Dino's Carry-Outs
4135 S. Archer Ave. (773) 376-4693
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Frank's Chicago Shrimp House
4459 S. Archer Ave. (773) 523-4624
Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun. 12-8 p.m.

La Palapa
2000 W. 34th St. (773) 376-9620

To be added to this list call (773) 523-3663 or email brightonparklife@aol.com

**5954 S. Narragansett Ave.** Clearing area, 3 flat brick, 2-3 bedrooms, 1-1 bedroom apartment. 2 car garage, side drive. Needs some TLC but price to sell. Call for appointment today (773) 582-9300.

6012 W. 55th St. - Price Reduced Single family detached oversized 2 story brick 3 bedrooms, possible 4. Basement semi finished, 2 furnaces, 2 central air. Newer thermo pane windows. Brand new roof. Two car detached garage with double overhead doors, concrete side drive, fenced in yard. Immediate possession. Call (773) 582-9300.

**6918 W. Archer Ave. - Price Reduced** Commercial brick building. Large store front & 3 offices, 1/2 basement, 85x125 lot. Parking in rear and additional parking across the street. Immediate possession! Call (773) 582-9300.

4772 S. Archer Archer and Lawndale. Immediate possession! Zoned C-2-1. Value in land. Rehab or tear down 2 flat frame, 2 car brick garage, over 19,500 SF of land. Multiple uses. Extra income from Billboard! Call for details (773) 582-9300.


RENTALS: House/Apt/Condo Good credit, no smoking, no pets. Call for details (773) 582-9300.

Try the rest, then call one of the Best!
(773) 582-9300
6165 S. ARCHER
(At Austin)
CALL FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS.



Happy Easter

At this holy time of year, I wish you and your family all of the blessings life can hold. May the spirit of the season fill your heart with a sense of hope and renewed faith.



Edward M. Burke
14th Ward Alderman
14th Ward Democratic Org.

Celebrating 55 Years

Recently on Chicago's Best - see us at <http://chicagosbesttv.com/2016/12/12/chicagos-best-italian-4-palermos-of-63rd/>
Enjoy the pizza that made Palermo's Famous - Find Out About Our Banquet Specials
Find out about our catering specials at www.palermosof63rd.com

PALERMO'S Of 63rd Street
3751 W. 63rd St. • (773) 585-5002
Call after 3 p.m. - Se Habla Espanol
21014 S. La Grange Rd, Frankfort IL (815) 464-5300

Pick-Up or Delivery	Pick-Up or Delivery
\$1⁵⁰ Off Any Palermo's Lrg. Pizza or Free 1 Liter RC •Thin •Deep Dish •Stuffed Good at Chicago or Frankfort Limit one coupon per order. Exp. 4/30/20.	\$2⁵⁰ Off Any Palermo's Ex. Lrg. Pizza or Free 2 Liter RC •Thin •Deep Dish •Stuffed Good at Chicago or Frankfort Limit one coupon per order. Exp. 4/30/20.
Banquet Special up to 150 people Banquets - Up to 150 People \$25 per person (Coffee No Included for Catering) Meals Include: Fried Chicago • Italian Sausage • Bread • Mostaccioli • Soup/Salad • Coffee • Italian Ice COMIDA INCLUDE: Pollo Frito • Salchicha Italiana • Mostaccioli • Sopa y Ensalada • Cafe • Nieve De Limon Valid for Parties Booked. Exp. 4/30/20.	Catering Package Starting At \$6.95 per person. Carry-Out Only 30 people minimum or by the tray for any amount of people. Call for details. Not valid with any other offer. Exp. 4/30/20.

Coupon
Buy One Dinner Get One 1/2 Price of equal or less value
Dine-in only. Not to be used with any other offer. Limit 2 per table.
Offer expires April 30th, 2020.