

State Representative Karina Villa



IL 49TH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JULY 2, 2020

Changes are coming!

I would like to begin this week's newsletter with a special thanks to each of you. We've come together to weather the changes in Illinois and as we open into Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan our weekly newsletter will take a new approach. We will continue sharing any COVID updates and resources while resuming news specific to the 49th district. Today's newsletter is the first of this new format.

Please do not forget, we have resumed regular district office hours of Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For the safety of our constituents and our staff, our in-person availability is by appointment only. Please call 630.326.9319 or email us at StateRepKarinaVilla@gmail.com to schedule your appointment.

COVID-19 Update

Phase 4 began June 26, 2020. Under the [Restore Illinois](#) Phase 4

Phase 4

RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

Phase 1 Rapid Spread	Phase 2 Flattening	Phase 3 Recovery	Phase 4 Revitalization	Phase 5 Illinois Restored
<p>Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place, and only essential businesses remain open.</p> <p>Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.</p>	<p>Non-essential retail stores reopen for curbside pickup and delivery.</p> <p>Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating & fishing while practicing social distancing.</p>	<p>Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions.</p> <p>Gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed.</p> <p>Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</p>	<p>Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health.</p> <p>Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</p>	<p>The economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing.</p> <p>Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures.</p>

New case growth slows

Surge hospital capacity

10,000 tests per day statewide

Case positivity rate and hospital capacity benchmarks met

Testing for patients, health care workers and

Case positivity rate and hospital capacity benchmarks met

Testing available in region regardless of symptoms or

Post-pandemic:

Vaccine, effective and widely available treatment, or the elimination of new

Illinoisans have worked tirelessly together by staying at home and following experts' recommendations and have proven that these mitigation efforts and social distancing measures are effective so far. The result has been a lower infection rate, fewer hospitalizations, and lower number of fatalities than projected and we now find ourselves in Phase 4 - Revitalization.

I am cautiously optimistic. Going forward, we must adhere to the experts' advice to continue using face masks and practicing social distancing whenever possible. While many of our southern states are seeing dramatic increases in their COVID cases, Illinois remains on track increasing the testing of our citizens, while reducing the number of positive cases and seeing an overall decrease in Illinoian deaths.

Advisory Committees

We have resumed our advisory committee meetings virtually! This week our Education Advisory Committee hosted its meeting with participants from all levels of education, teachers, board members, and administrators representing several of the school districts within the 49th District. Focus of the topics included feedback on how the end of the year looked and what are some of the areas of concern going forward.

The general consensus was that although most schools were not immediately prepared to facilitate on-line, or E-learning, most overcame the obstacles quickly and effectively. For instance, the U-46 District worked a deal with Comcast to provide essential internet services to families in need. Other districts are already looking at where their schools may fall short under the newest ISBE guidelines, such as not all buildings in West Chicago District 33 have air conditioning. How will that environment affect children and staff wearing face masks? Each district has surveyed parents and students to obtain necessary feedback to improve learning as we move forward. Any questions you may have regarding school resuming in the fall should be directed to your specific school district.

The social/emotional well-being is at the heart of many discussions in all of the districts. We know that children learn best with those interpersonal relationships found with their peers and teachers. Additional concerns of educators and administrators included:

1. Educational gap at loss of teaching time Spring 2020;
2. A significant lack of participation by students in lessons/learning;
3. The need to identify families in need (not just those previously, but as a result of the coronavirus crisis) for gaps in technology and basic needs;
4. Language learner issues;
5. Sufficient and effective PPE;
6. Equity in learning;
7. Addressing needs of special education students;
8. Resources for teachers teaching remotely; and
9. Teacher fatigue

In these uncharted times we must work together for the good of the whole community. No response determined by these qualified members of our school districts will feel like a perfect response to everybody. We must acknowledge that many factors remain unknown and be willing to adapt as best we can, for our children and our communities.

Although the Education Advisory Committee met after ISBE released its guidelines for the 20-21 school year, the committee did not address specifics therein. You can find that guide at [Starting the 20-21 School Year](#).

The Advisory Committees are anxious to resume meeting. The new social distancing summer schedule is as follows:

<p>Education Chairs: Nick Caltagirone & Brian Turnbaugh education.49th@gmail.com</p>	<p>July 10 and August 7 at 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>Environment</p>	<p>July 23 and August 27 at 7:00 p.m.</p>

Chair: Laura Miller-Hill environment.49th@gmail.com	(the fourth Thursday of each month)
Mental Health Chairs: Kate Cuneo & Bernadette May mentalhealth.49th@gmail.com	July 16 and August 20 at 7:00 p.m. (the third Thursday of each month)
Seniors Chairs: Kathy Budde & Jody Kanikula seniors.49th@gmail.com	July 17 and August 21 at 10:00 a.m. (the third Friday of each month)
Small Business Chair: Brenda Hernandez smbusiness.49th@gmail.com	

If you are interested in attending an advisory committee meeting, please email the appropriate chair(s) your interest so that you may receive a meeting link.

As always, my staff and I are here to assist you. Please contact us at 630.326.9319 (English) or 630.326.9419 (Spanish) or by Email at StateRepKarinaVilla@gmail.com. Stay safe. Stay healthy. And with our combined effort, we will get through this together.