



Hello friends.

There are mass amounts of information being released to the public and in efforts to connect my constituents with timely and accurate information, we will be sending out a newsletter on Tuesdays and Thursdays as we move forward.

COVID-19 is an illness that creates change on an hourly basis which means that the response to this illness is also changing quickly. Although the reaction to COVID may feel alarming, the correct measures are being taken. This is an illness that can be contained and we can have many individuals recover as long as the proper measures are taken.

As we know, some of the measures taken at the state level include the closing of our schools, libraries, state parks and Department of Motor Vehicles. Houses of worship will not hold services, but will remain open for private prayer. Restaurants, bars, coffee shops and ice cream shops are closed until March 30th, permitting deliveries, limited order and go access as well as curbside pickup.

Regarding employment, if possible, make arrangements to work from home, and if you feel sick, stay home. Many members of our communities are part-time or hourly workers and cannot afford to take time off. My office has been in touch with the local food pantries and they are ready to serve people in this time of need.

It is important to note the governor has expanded unemployment benefits in Illinois with a plea to the federal government to extend the length of time to receive unemployment to protect Illinois families. Please contact 800-244-5631; www2.illinois.gov/ides for more information

Governor Pritzker has requested a moratorium from utility companies to suspend the disconnection of service and late payment charges many of which have agreed to cooperate during this crisis.

The governor has made additional requests to the federal government seeking waivers for medicaid treatment of COVID-19 as well as to supplement the SNAP and WIC programs.

During this crisis, the governor has clearly stated that all residents of the State of Illinois have the same right to medical care regardless of their legal status. If you suspect that you are infected with the virus, do not let your immigration status prevent you from seeking help for yourself or your family. Consult your doctor or nearest clinic if you have any concerns.

No Community Is Immune. As of today there were 160 confirmed cases with one confirmed COVID-related death. The measures that we are taking as a state are preventive measures to stop the spread of the virus and it is not intended to alarm the communities.

On Monday, March 16th, I sat with Congressman Casten, Dr. Susan Nedza and Superintendent Kristin Davis to discuss Coronavirus and our actions. You can view that discussion [here](#). We ask that you share this video with your social networks so that they follow information provided through our official sources. We need to unite as a community to support each other and to share this message widely. It is necessary for each of us to fully participate in order to control the spread of this virus.

Finally, this information is changing rapidly. We are working to provide you the best information that we have available at this time. We urge you to stay connected in order to receive the most accurate information and to stay updated. My district office is open remotely and available if you or someone you know is in need. We can be reached as follows:

English speakers: 630-326-9319

Spanish speakers: 630-326-9419

E-mail: StateRepKarinaVilla@gmail.com.

Thank you. We will get through this together.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karina Villa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karina Villa, MSW
State Representative
49th District