

State Representative Karina Villa

District 49 News

March 26, 2020

ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE



Thank you

As we progress together under the COVID-19 pandemic the state and federal response has been a challenge to navigate for all of District 49. My staff and I continue to seek information to benefit our communities and share the resources through our newsletters. With the support of many of you, we have adapted and accommodated the changes to our daily routines. My continued thanks to those of you who are hard at work in an essential role, keeping our store shelves stocked, caring for those who are ill, watching our children and seniors, keeping our infrastructure working smoothly, and so many more. We see you and appreciate your efforts. Thank you to everyone who has continued to adhere to recommendations of social distancing. Today's newsletter will include some state and federal assistance and critical information. Please continue to care for each other and know that my virtual office is open and available to you for any needs you might have at this time at 1 (630) 326-9319.

When to Call 911

The Illinois Department of Public Health currently has a COVID-19 call center. Please call 800-222-1222 if you feel ill and in need of guidance. Wait time exists, but this line is available 24/7. Please be patient.

Additionally, if you are experiencing symptoms of any illness, including COVID-19, the first thing you should do is:

- Call a healthcare provider (such as your primary care physician or local health clinic). But please, *do not walk directly into an emergency room or a doctor's office*. We cannot stress this enough. Do Not Go Directly to the ER or your doctor's office
- A health care provider will ask about your symptoms and potential exposures. If they think you need medical care, they will help arrange medical treatment without putting others at risk of exposure.
- If you meet certain criteria, you may be tested for COVID-19, but as testing expands, those with severe illness and those at higher risk of complications are being prioritized.
- People whose symptoms are mild — which will be most people — will be able to isolate at home during their illness, and they should follow the directives of their health care providers.
- **As always**, only call 9-1-1 in case of a serious emergency such as difficulty breathing, chest pains and other such emergencies.

For employees and gig economy workers

Best chances for application are through the website. Again, wait times exist, please be patient.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR ILLINOIS FAMILIES

The Pritzker Administration and its local partners are working to help families affected by COVID-19:

APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

if you're without access to paid sick leave or
unable to work because of COVID-19

**CALL IDES AT 1-800-244-5631 OR
VISIT <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides>**

Gov. Pritzker called for a moratorium on shutoffs for all utility companies - including energy, telecom and water - and several have announced plans to maintain services and waive late payment fees

Cook County is suspending court-ordered evictions

The Pritzker Administration is filing a federal waiver to expand Medicaid services

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19? ☎ 1-800-889-3931 🌐 [DPH.ILLINOIS.GOV](https://www2.illinois.gov)

Financial Institutions Recommendation



Be Extra Vigilant for Scams and Fraud.



Avoid opening links and attachments, especially from senders you don't know.



Regularly update your device and mobile apps.
Use a strong, unique passcode.



Take advantage of multi-factor authentication.
Report any suspected fraud to your bank immediately.

Utilities

My office has confirmed with the municipalities of the 49th District the following in case you have a missed or late payments:

- West Chicago has temporarily suspended water shut-offs until further notice.
- Batavia has suspended water & electric shut offs.
- St Charles has suspended utility shut off.
- Geneva has suspended shut off of utilities as well as waiving all late fees and penalties.
- North Aurora has suspended water & sewer shut offs.
- South Elgin has suspended water shut offs.
- Village of Bartlett will not shut off services in April



In recognition of the evolving situation and the financial hardships caused by COVID-19 on customers, NICOR is providing energy assistance resources for those in need. Click [here](#) to learn more.



ComEd is taking steps to help its customers with payment assistance programs and by implementing a moratorium on service disconnections as well as waiving late fees through at least May 1st. ComEd customers who may be experiencing financial difficulty should visit ComEd.com/CARE or call 800-334-7661.



Comcast Xfinity is offering 2 months of free internet to anyone who qualifies as low income. For more information go to: [Internet Essential](#) or call 1-855-846-8376.



AT&T has announced their Keep Americans Connected Pledge. As of March 13, 2020, and for the following 60 days, AT&T will waive domestic wireless plan overage fees for data, voice or text because of the economic hardship related to COVID-19 for residential and business wireless customers.

AT&T acknowledges the hardships the coronavirus is causing and is willing to help those who find themselves suffering from financial difficulties or are unable to pay their bill. If you are an AT&T customer needing assistance, please contact them a 800-288-2020 or dial 611 from your AT&T wireless device.



The Authority is taking into consideration the undue constraints we are all facing and has extended the 2020 9% LIHTC application date to 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2020. For additional information go [here](#).

Transportation



Metra will begin an alternate weekday schedule on Monday March 23, 2020, to adjust for the reduced number of riders. The alternate schedules can be viewed at metrarail.com.

Additional Info:

- Cook Co suspends assessment notification and deadlines *indefinitely*.
- Kane & DuPage sheriffs have suspended evictions.
- [Letter to small business owners](#)



United Way COVID-19 Community Response & Recovery Fund has been created to support the rapidly escalating needs of our most vulnerable population with relief for bills, rent and food.

Stay up to date with [Governor Pritzker](#) or via the Illinois Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline and email for facts, symptoms and information from the CDC at 800-889-3931 or DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV.

For information on the federal government's response to COVID-19, visit [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#).