



**1. What is the situation?**

- a. Executive Order 23: gives authority to officials in the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to enact changes to requirements for permanent and temporary licensure of professionals who were licensed in another state, to address the need to increase the number of licensed professionals responding to COVID-19. <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>
- b. The Housing Authority of Cook County's waiting list for housing in Blue Island opened April 9, 2020: applications are taken [online](#).
- c. Housing Choice voucher waiting list is scheduled to open soon. Please [sign up for alerts](#) for information on when and how to apply for housing assistance.
- d. Earned Sick Leave Ordinance – information on who is covered: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/cook-county-earned-sick-leave-ordinance-and-covid-19>.

**2. What is CCDPH doing?**

- a. CCDPH COVID-19 website: resource tool. The tool has resources to address housing insecurity, food insecurity, crisis support, medical needs, legal aid, assistance for job seekers. If you have a resource that you want to add, email us. <https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/>
- b. CCDPH COVID-19 hotline - 9a-4p Monday-Friday at 708-633-3319.
- c. CCDPH is working with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency as they house individuals experiencing homelessness. CCDPH will collaborate and provide isolation/quarantine orders as needed. IEMA will provide staffing and basic wraparound services a homeless shelter will provide additional services, and a community clinic will provide medical/clinical oversight.
- d. Our environmental services unit is working with food establishments to provide guidance about what to do to keep workers safe, and what to do when a food worker becomes sick with COVID-19. You can email us for more information on those activities.
- e. Our Partner Engagement team is working to gather and update relevant COVID-19 community resources for website resources page, develop COVID-19 social media messages, and are working to create effective messaging and outreach strategies for vulnerable populations. They are also planning for a potential virtual School Health Conference later this spring.
- f. CCDPH is working to address COVID-19 outcome disparities. We are finding higher rates of COVID-19 illnesses and deaths among African Americans. In our suburban jurisdiction, the rate per 100,000 for non-Hispanic black residents is about 3.5X that of non-Hispanic whites. The rate of COVID-19 in the south suburbs, which are predominantly black, is 2X what it is in the north suburbs, which are predominantly white. In the west suburbs, the rate is 1.5X the rate in the north suburbs. African Americans have historically had higher rates of the underlying conditions that put people at increased risk for severe illness, complications and death from COVID-19, the result of years of racist policies like redlining; economic disinvestment, lower access to healthcare or health insurance; food insecurity; substandard housing; higher rates of



unemployment. We know that the underlying reason for these disparities is structural racism. Policy advocacy is needed for pro-equity policies on economic development, the built environment, transportation, income and wage disparities; to reduce inequities and the burden of chronic disease by cultivating environments, healthcare systems and a culture that promotes health; and to support and enhance the mental health and well-being of all SCC residents.

### 3. What can you do?

- a. If clients you are working with have concerns about safety at work they can contact the Workplace Rights Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office at 844-740-5076 or [workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us](mailto:workplacerrights@atg.state.il.us).
- b. Many people have questions about need for retesting for COVID-19 after symptoms improve. Current CDC guidance for return after illness: Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
  - i. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
  - ii. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
  - iii. At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.
- c. Call4Calm: support line where people can access counselors by texting TALK to 552020 (Spanish speakers can text HABLAR to the same number).
  - i. Texting keywords like "food," "shelter," or "unemployment" will provide information on how to get assistance for those items.
- d. Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund has issued a new call for grant applications.
- e. To apply for a grant, your organization must be an established direct service provider providing emergency response services to people in the Chicago area impacted by COVID-10 in the following areas:
  - i. Health Care (grants range from \$25K-\$100K)
  - ii. Stable Housing, Emergency Shelter & Supportive Services (grants range from \$25K-\$100k)
  - iii. Community Hubs Providing Emergency Supplies, Financial Assistance, or Outreach (grants at \$25K).
  - iv. Applications are due 4/20 at 5:00pm. Awards will be announced the week of 5/4. <https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=15085>
- f. Please nominate an Everyday Hero: recognize essential workers and volunteers you know who are on the front lines of suburban Cook County's COVID-19 response. CCDPH will feature them on our website social media sites: <https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/everyday-heroes/>

**NEXT CALL: Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 4pm. Call in number: 1-888-398-2342, passcode: 4724630.**