



## 1. What is the situation?

- a. Summary – Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Bill: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201>; Summary - <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/the-families-first-coronavirus-response-act-summary-of-key-provisions/>
  - i. **Expanded Family and Medical Leave.** The bill allows up to 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits after the first 10 days of emergency leave, which may be unpaid. After that time, an employer is required to provide paid leave at an amount not less than two-thirds of the employee's regular rate up to \$200 per day or \$10,000 over the benefit period. This applies to employees unable to work because they must care for a child whose school or care provider is closed due to a coronavirus emergency. Eligible employees include individuals working for employers with fewer than 500 workers and government employers on the job for at least 30 days.
  - ii. **Emergency Paid Sick Leave:** Employers with fewer than 500 employees, government employers and certain non-private entity employers must provide employees with up to two weeks of paid sick time if the employee is unable to work for reasons related to the coronavirus. There is a cap on sick leave pay of either \$511 per day or \$5,110 in total if the employee is sick or quarantined, and \$200 per day or \$2,000 total if the employee is caring for someone else.
  - iii. **Food:** The bill provides additional funding for WIC so that low-income pregnant women or mothers who become unemployed due to the coronavirus pandemic have access to nutritious food. It also waives certain requirements that might hinder WIC participation. There is \$400 million in funding for local **food banks** to meet higher demand during the pandemic. There is also \$160M in support for **Home-Delivered Nutrition Services** for seniors.
  - iv. **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).** The legislation allows states to provide benefits to households with children whose school is closed and who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch.
  - v. **Employer Tax Credits.** The bill contains a refundable tax credit up to 100% of qualified public health emergency leave wages and qualified paid sick leave. The credit is against the tax imposed on the employer for Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits.
  - vi. **Unemployment Insurance.** A provision within H.R. 6201 allows the U.S. Secretary of Labor to make emergency grants to states in the Unemployment Trust Fund. States must demonstrate they have taken steps to ease eligibility requirements and expand access for individuals directly impacted by the coronavirus.
  - vii. **COVID-19 testing.** The bill prohibits health insurance issuers from imposing any cost sharing for testing of the coronavirus as well as office visits to doctors, urgent care centers, or emergency rooms. Anyone who is uninsured and not covered by Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace, or any other individual or group health plan is eligible for testing paid for by funds provided to the Public Health Social Services Emergency Fund.



- viii. **Medicaid.** The bill provides states with a temporary 6.2% increase in matching federal medical assistance percentages (FMAP). As part of the increase, states must offer coronavirus testing under Medicaid without cost sharing, and refrain from implementing higher premiums or eligibility standards than existed Jan 1 2020.
- b. H.R. 748 – CARES Act: Bill- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/748/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR748%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=4>; Summary - <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>
- i. **Unemployment:** People who are unemployed would get an extra \$600 per week for up to four months, on top of state unemployment benefits, up to 100% of lost wages. More workers than are usually eligible for unemployment benefits are included, like self-employed people and part-time workers. The Act also adds 13 weeks of unemployment insurance.
  - ii. **Financial Assistance:** All U.S. residents with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 for married couples) would get a \$1,200 (\$2,400 for couples) “rebate” payment. They are also eligible for an additional \$500 per child. The payments would start phasing out for earners above those income thresholds. Most people will start receiving payments in about 3 weeks.
  - iii. **Small Businesses:** \$10B for grants to cover operating costs, \$350B allocated for business loans that are forgivable if the loan used to maintain the workforce or pay the business rent, as long as businesses keep workers employed through June, and \$17B to provide coverage for current Small Business Administration borrowers’ payments.
  - iv. Larger businesses would get a **tax credit for keeping idled workers on their payrolls** during the coronavirus pandemic, so long as the businesses meet certain criteria. They would get a refund for half of what they spend on wages, up to \$5,000 per worker. They also get to **defer the 6.2% tax** they pay on wages that is used to fund Social Security.
  - v. **Loans to industries:** \$500B total with aid going to hospitals, airlines, state and local governments, and defense.
  - vi. **Insurance coverage:** under the bill, private insurance plans are required to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment.
  - vii. **Strategic National Stockpile: \$16B** to increase stockpile equipment like ventilators and masks.
  - viii. **Food Assistance:** nearly \$25 billion, including \$15.5B for SNAP and nearly \$9B for child nutrition. Food banks and other food distribution programs in communities: \$450M
  - ix. Emergency assistance for **Schools:** \$13B for K-12; \$14B higher education, \$5.3B programs for children and families, including childcare.
  - x. **Student Loans:** interest-free automatic payment suspensions until Sept 30 for any student loan held by the federal government.
  - xi. **Housing:** Overall, the bill provides more than \$12 billion in funding for HUD programs, and includes support for Emergency Solutions Grants for homelessness assistance, Community



Development Block Grants, the Housing Choice Voucher program, project-based rental assistance, and public housing, among other programs.

- xii. The bill also institutes a **moratorium on foreclosures** for all federally-backed mortgages for 60 days beginning 3/18/20. Those with federally-backed mortgages may also request a forbearance for 180 days with an option to extend, and multifamily housing owners with a federally-backed mortgage can request forbearance for up to 30 days, with a 60 day extension possible, as long as the owner agrees not to evict tenants or charge tenants late fees.
- xiii. The bill also institutes a **moratorium on filings for evictions for renters** in homes covered by a federally-backed mortgage for 120 days of enactment.

c. **Illinois Executive Orders and other local actions:**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Resources/Pages/ExecutiveOrders.aspx>

- i. Executive Order 10: Illinois stay at home order, information on essential businesses. (see notes from call 3/24 for more notes on provisions).
- ii. Executive Order 11: Individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain any Human Services Operations, such as adoption agencies, long-term care facilities, residential settings for individuals with disabilities and day care centers for children of essential employees. Illinois school districts do not need approval by the school board for an e-learning curriculum.
- iii. Executive Order 12: Suspends Healthcare Worker's Background Checks - Individuals who are certified as a nurse assistant, but are currently inactive on the Health Care Worker Registry, may be hired under certain provisions, such as the inactive status being no more than five years and limiting conditional employment to three months pending the result of a more extensive background check.
- iv. An order from the Office of the Chief Judge **suspended all evictions in IL until mid-May**.  
<http://www.cookcountycourt.org/HOME/INFORMATIONREGARDINGCORONAVIRUS.aspx>
- v. Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle business relief package that pushes out due dates for Home Rule Taxes like the Alcoholic Beverage Tax, Amusement Tax, Tobacco Tax and Gasoline and Hotel Accommodations Tax. Also removes or reduces fines and fees under the jurisdictions of the Departments of Transportation and Highways, Environment and Sustainability, Revenue, Building and Zoning and Public Health.

[file:///C:/Users/ddurica/Downloads/covid-19-financial-relief-package%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/ddurica/Downloads/covid-19-financial-relief-package%20(1).pdf)

d. **Response Funds and other resources:**

- i. Illinois Covid-19 response fund: The Governor's Office, in collaboration with the United Way of Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations, established this fund to raise funds for non-profits across the state that serve individuals most affected by the pandemic:  
<https://ilcovidresponsefund.org/>
- ii. Chicago COVID-19: similar to the Illinois fund but focused on Chicago and the collar counties: <https://www.cct.org/chicago-community-covid-19-response-fund/>



iii. School districts throughout Cook County suburbs are providing meals to families in need.

Details on each school district's meal program: [www.bit.ly/CookCountyMeals](http://www.bit.ly/CookCountyMeals)

**2. What is the Cook County Department of Public Health doing?**

- a. CCDPH continues to help healthcare providers as they respond to cases of COVID19 in the community through support for testing, contact tracing, and case monitoring, and is in close coordination with the Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Public Health and the CDC.
- b. CCDPH added phone lines and operators to our **COVID-19 hotline**. Calls are taken **Monday - Friday, from 9 am – 4 pm at 708-633-3319**. After hours, callers can leave a voicemail, which will be returned the next business day.
- c. A Cook County established an **email** for COVID-19 questions: [ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org)
- d. **Text alerts** provide important messages from Cook County: text "AlertCook" to 888777 to join.

**3. What can your organization do? Be Aware. Get Prepared. Take Action.** Be prepared to take the right action to protect your staff and clients. Refer to the FAQs below for information about exposure and symptoms of COVID-19:

- a. **How do I know if I've been exposed?** You generally need to be in close contact with a sick person to get infected. Close contact includes: living in the same household as a sick person with COVID-19, caring for a sick person with COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes, or being in direct contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-10 (e.g. being coughed on, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.).
- b. **A staff member is not feeling well and has respiratory symptoms. What should I advise them to do?** Please advise your staff to stay home for at least 7 days after they first became ill, or 72 hours after their fever has resolved and symptoms are improving, whichever is longer. They should consult with their doctor if they have:
  - i. Fever, cough, trouble breathing, or other flu-like symptoms that are not better or are worsening after 24-48 hours, **or** you have mild symptoms and are pregnant or immunosuppressed or are an older adult have chronic health conditions.
  - ii. Remember that you are not responsible for providing medical advice to your staff. If in doubt, advise staff to call their health care provider.
- c. **Should people wear gloves?** There is currently a shortage of disposable gloves and unfortunately we do not know if wearing gloves outside the home will prevent transmission of the virus. Inside the home, if you have disposable gloves, wear them when cleaning and handling dirty laundry from an ill person. Discard them after each cleaning. If reusable gloves are used, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for and should not be used for other purposes.
- d. **Should I require staff to provide proof of testing before returning to work?** The CDC recommends that employers not require testing to return to work after a respiratory illness. It is recommended,



though to require anyone ill with respiratory symptoms to stay home for at least 7 days after they first became ill, and 72 hours after your fever has resolved and symptoms are improving. One option may be to request that staff provide a letter from their physician stating that they have been evaluated and explain when they can return to work. If your organization has an employee health service, contact them as soon as you feel ill for appropriate advice.

- e. **What if I have an employee who has a confirmed case of COVID-19?** If a confirmed case occurs in a staff member or client, initially close the facility short-term to allow for cleaning.
  - i. Only close contacts of confirmed cases (within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) need to be quarantined (meaning work, school, movement restriction) for 14 days after the last exposure with the case.
  - ii. Contacts of contacts have no restrictions. Facilities should not close because contacts of contacts of cases visited that location.
- f. **I have an employee who was directed to self-quarantine. Should other employees and public be told?** The Illinois Department of Public Health states that if an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by federal law. Employees exposed to a co-worker with confirmed COVID-19 should refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.
  - i. The CDC describes being in the same indoor environment (e.g., a classroom, a hospital waiting room) as a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time but not meeting the definition of close contact as **LOW RISK**.
  - ii. The CDC describes interactions with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 such as walking by the person or being briefly in the same room as **NO IDENTIFIABLE RISK**.
- g. **After the 14-day quarantine are people still contagious and encouraged to stay at home?** Someone who has been released from a COVID-19 14 day quarantine is not considered a risk for spreading the virus to others because they have not developed illness during the incubation period. Please follow recommendations from your local city or village or jurisdiction about staying home and social distancing for people who are healthy.
- h. **What is CCDPH planning in terms of isolation and quarantine options for experiencing homelessness or otherwise can't shelter at home?** CCDPH is working with Emergency Management to plan isolation and quarantine options for Cook County residents who need isolation space. Meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness is a priority and we are incorporating their needs into the planning process. Providers and Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Planning and Development staff are in regular discussions to address issues as they arise.

**4. NEXT CALL: Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 4pm. Call in number: 1-888-398-2342, passcode: 4724630.**