



# The Record

## Wyandotte County Issues New Public Health Order Requiring Residents to Stay at Home Except for Essential Needs

Mayor David Alvey announced Saturday that the Chief Medical Officer of the Unified Government issued a Public Health Order requiring residents to remain in place, with the only exception being essential needs. This measure is needed to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County.

The Order is effective Tuesday, March 24, 2020, as of 12:00 AM and remains in effect until Thursday, April 23, 2020, or until it is extended and is available along with other information at [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

According to Chief Medical Officer Allen Greiner, "It is critical to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID 19). The best way to do this is to stay 6 feet or more away from everyone possible—even if they do not have symptoms that include a fever, cough and shortness of breath. If we don't act, the virus can spread very easily. Sometimes people who have the virus don't know it. If you are close to someone like this, they can

infect you and many others. This is why we must follow the public health order for everyone to stay at home."

Dr. Greiner continued, "This public health order to stay at home

You may have heard that slowing the spread means "flattening the curve". The curve is a way to show the number of people who have the virus at any point in time. People will still get the virus, but we need to help doctors and hospitals take care of them. If we work together to slow the spread, we can protect ourselves, our families and our Wyandotte County community. For up-to-date information, go to [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19)." concluded Dr. Greiner.

"Today's order by the Unified Government's Chief Medical Officer for residents to Stay at Home is unprecedented. However, these are extraordinary times and we must take these types of preventive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 within our community," said Mayor/CEO David Alvey.

"This health order will have a disruptive effect on our day-to-day lives, but we are hopeful that the steps we take today will mitigate the spread, protect our vulnerable populations, and save lives in coming weeks."

The Order directs all residents to remain at their place of residence, except to conduct Essential Activity (defined below). Individuals may leave their residence only to perform an Essential Activity. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are urged to stay in their residence except as necessary to seek medical care. Individuals who are sick may leave their residence only as necessary to seek or receive medical care in accordance with guidance from public health officials. Everyone shall practice social distancing while performing essential activities by remaining at least 6 feet of distance from everyone other than household members.

All businesses and operations in Wyandotte County,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Silver Linings

By Dr. Jim Haas

During the London Blitz, in 1940, George Orwell began a new book with this famous sentence: "As I write, highly civilized human beings are flying overhead, trying to kill me." They failed to get him, but they did kill 28,000 of his fellow Londoners during 57 consecutive nights of bombing.



The COVID-19 pandemic we're enduring is a different kind of danger; while individual deaths are similarly unpredictable, it's a natural disaster, not the nationalist fury of an evil dictator. The only enemy we have is ourselves if we fail to rise to the occasion by acting on scientific facts and by understanding that beating a communicable disease depends on community action. We're in this together, equally, and while it will get worse before it gets better, it will eventually pass.

When it's over, we will have learned important lessons about our healthcare system, about our working lives, about how we govern ourselves, and much else. Disasters illuminate our strengths and our weaknesses and offer a rare opportunity to build a better community by changing what needs changing.

Healthcare needs changing. We have the world's most expensive healthcare and most expensive prescription drugs, and still have tens of millions of people uninsured or underinsured. We're the only rich country that fails to guarantee healthcare—and paid sick leave—for all.

The solution is some version of non-profit universal care including a public option for all who want it. We also need more hospitals and more doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals. Much of this can be paid for by shifting the huge profits that now go to insurance companies to actual care.

We can improve the health of our democracy with voting by mail. Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Colorado have been doing this successfully for years. Hawaii joins this year along with hundreds of cities and counties in California, Minnesota, Maryland, and elsewhere. Benefits include a zero risk of hacking, not spending billions on costly voting machines, and—most importantly—making voting easier for everyone. Voter participation in Oregon is the best in America and has risen significantly wherever mail ballots have been used. No crowds, less time, less cost, more democracy! This is a no-brainer.

Another critical opportunity highlighted by the pandemic is the effect of less driving and other reduced sources of greenhouse gases. Satellite photos and atmospheric analyses from central China and northern Italy show dramatic differences between March of 2019 and this month: the air is visibly clearer now and dangerous gas concentrations measurably lower.

The lesson is clear: working from home when possible, expanding clean public transportation, and shifting to electric vehicles (EVs) are quick and effective ways to minimize climate change, which is, in the long run, a greater threat than the current pandemic. Some countries are ahead of the game: 42% of new vehicles sold in Norway last year were EVs, the result of a government decision to provide hefty rebates on EVs and to raise taxes on fossil-fuel vehicles. Another lesson related to COVID-19 and climate change is that any federal bailouts for corporations should require that they meet the emissions targets of the Paris Climate Accord.

Kansas Governor Kelly's foresight in closing school buildings has teachers and parents working to keep the learning going. For parents, My Wife the English Teacher has created a Facebook group, **Parent Home Support for K-12 Teaching and Learning**, with resources and tips in math, English, art, and more. Just do a Facebook search. In the first two hours, 63 people joined.

This emergency is about community. Let's stay informed and do our part. We'll get through this.

Jim's columns are online at <http://greatsociety2point0.blogspot.com>

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## Sue's Soapbox

By: Sue Reich



Well, people, what can I say? It has been a very weird year already. I am home with Mr. Ed and trying to take care of him, my fur babies, myself, the house, and figure out foods he can eat because of his throat. Then, our freezer conked out. So did his TV in his bedroom, the vacuum sweeper, the bathroom stool (that is mine), and the stopper in the bathroom sink. He called a reputable plumber and got the stool fixed. David Young a wonderful friend of mine told me about a small chest freezer that his church was selling for \$25 so another wonderful person, our great neighbor, Gary O'Neal, had a pick-up truck so he and his also wonderful son followed David to his church and they brought it to our house. I am going to clean it up so we can use it. I crammed everything in my side by side and boy do I mean crammed. Hey, I even got toilet paper. We are not hoarding but I had to get things so Mr. Ed and I can eat.

Who, what, where and why is all this happening? I don't know. When I went to deliver papers on Tuesday, some places were closed, some would meet me at the door. Amigos was void of customers, so I just put them on that ledge inside the door. Sunfresh was busy, General Dollar, and Fantastic Sam's were too. Lil and Jo, the two salon shop ladies said their business has slacked off. Big Q took orders but the customers had to take it to go. No one could sit anywhere in any of those businesses. Sharon Lane is on lock down. If our ancestors could get through the ups and downs that they went through, I guess we can too. What gets me is the National sports teams, schools, everything that we are used to are no more. Poor high school seniors can't walk the gradua-

tion walk for their diploma, no parades. Oh one more thing, can't go to the hospitals, too many sick people there.

Filled out the Census for 2020 online a while ago. If we can do it online, I wonder why they are hiring people to take Census? It doesn't make Cense to me. (I did this on purpose). Listen, I care about all of you, don't take chances. I know some of us have to get out to purchase things we really need. Please don't hoard TP, paper goods and things that other people can use. Did you see those guys that had a whole garage full of hand sanitizer? They got caught and now they have to donate it or go to jail. The Humane Society at 54th and Parallel had hand sanitizer on their counter and someone stole it. Man, people are mean. Don't be mean when we are in a crisis. Our wonderful neighbor, Tracy, brought us some eggs over. Tracy and my son John are healthcare workers and I really worry about them. Just use some common sense. K?

"Only one person in the world can defeat you, that is yourself" *Apples of Gold* Lvyia all, Sue

### One More Thing...

Hi readers: I realize that this virus that is going around and isolating everyone and calling off all of the events that we love and enjoy is getting to some of us. A lot of you can't get out at all and there are others, (like me), that just get out for necessities. Just thought I would share some tidbits with you. Get this, A Sheriff in Kentucky asked the residents to "Stop all criminal activity until further notice due to coronavirus."

Here are some scams watch for. In fact, there are a lot of scams that are going around.

Scam #1 Self testing. Holding your breath 10 seconds without coughing. If you don't cough, you're ok.

Scam #2 Sip water every 15 minutes, it will wash possible trace of virus and stomach acid will kill all the virus.

Scam #3 Now get this. I know some of you remember reverend(?) Jim Baker. He is still on television believe it or not. He sure doesn't look like he did when he rooked all of his followers out of millions of dollars. White hair, white beard, glasses, still suave, but anyway he is holding up

a bottle of panther urine or something like that and claims it will CURE the coronavirus. Really? Imagine people falling for that line. Believe it or not, some do fall for it. Someone is now suing him because of that.

Please dear readers, don't fall for anything that these scammers try to make you believe it will cure everything, whether it is a powder, liquid, pill or whatever. don't stick it up your nose, under your tongue, up your you-know-what, behind your ears or any part of your body. Be careful, that's all we ask.



This "hippie" sweet little lady has been through a lot, but she is still kickin'. She is Ana Lu Brune, the mother of one of our Commissioners, Melissa Bynum. She sets a wonderful example of endurance. The wars, the depression, all the different diseases that swept our country, now our present dilemma. Also, a great example of womanhood.

## Some History of Our Community

By: Sue Reich

Just some tidbits about Argentine I thought you would like to know. Where the Kansas City, Structural Steel company was, now a Walmart, used to be a huge orchard. Can you imagine where Walmart and the police station are now used to be that? It really must have been beautiful. Now imagine this, Emerson Park. Way back when, that use to be a marsh swamp. A swamp! Wonder if it was tilled up, what would be down under that busy park. Go back some more years. Where the Joe Amayo recreation center is, (Parish House), that was a huge cornfield. A huge one. I suppose that the early pioneers or even the Shawnee Indians worked and survived off of it.

Okay, here's another one. Picture the area in Turner off of Swartz Road at 51st and Edgehill. All those little houses there that cover quite an area, was a two-story LOG MISSION. It was built to educate children. Like a school maybe? I am going to have to go to 51st and Edgehill and check it out. Look how

much time and people have changed things.

Argentine Association Activities had one heck of a huge membership because it was established in 1872 and had so many businesses that really built the Argentine up. When I suggested we close it down in 2018, we voted on it and poof, gone. There were no more businesses to support it. If the people then could see what it is now, they would probably be shocked.

One more thing. Maple Hill. A Shawnee Indian reservation was where the cemetery is now. It covered all of that area, where the busy shopping center was, (hurting now), where the houses are on Gibbs and the part where the Coachlite, Big Q, and that little strip there. Probably more.

Structural Steel was a huge profit-making company. Many, many men worked there, and it did more work for the World War II, and shipped its products all over the country. Before the steel company, it was a silver smelter. Boy, how things have changed around there. Would you have wanted to live then, or do you like the way things are now? Tough decision. But we are here, today. Like it or not.



Emergency vehicles, about six of them pulled into Crosslines in Argentine after I had just left. I didn't go in the building but put the papers in the foyer where the mailboxes are. Sirens and more sirens were blaring so I parked around the corner to see what was going on. A couple of firetrucks, a couple of ambulances and a HazMat vehicle. When the HazMat vehicle pulled in, two men got out and started putting on those white coveralls and helmets. I asked one person who came out a couple of days later and she said it was a gas leak or something. Still can't find out what happened.

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Gee whiz, it's really hard to go anywhere with all the cancelled meetings and building shutdowns. Even my old standby - the library is not open. Until we hear the status of some of these organizations, everything is up in the air. So many events have been cancelled or postponed and may be postponed even further depending on the next few weeks, it's hard to plan. We are just taking it day by day.

I've been coloring, working crossword, word

search, and sudoku puzzles until I am blue in the face. I got so tired of watching television I finally turned it off. I've cleaned out the closets and now I'm digging through my jigsaw puzzles to find a good one to put together. It's just been too cold to go outside. I have a feeling I am not alone and that others are feeling the same way.

Yesterday, the thermometer did hit 72 degrees after the rain. The wind was blowing but it felt good to go outside, smell the fresh air and have an opportunity to dig in the soil. Our crocuses, daffodils, and vinca were all blooming. Calvin had spread pre-emergence and fertilizer the day before on the grass and the grass looked sooo green. We also have a volunteer peony that has grown from seed and are anxiously waiting to see what color it will be. He took the opportunity to divide the miscanthus (an ornamental grass) and relocate

a lilac bush.

This is a good time to divide groundcover and other flowering perennials. Examples of groundcover are ajuga, vinca, and some types of sedum. Examples of other perennials are hostas, irises, gladiolas, wood poppies, black-eyed susans, gladiolas, and daylilies. Warm days are on their way.

Calvin took a few more flats of rosemary and Chinese spinach to the Farm School earlier this week. The Farm School on Gibbs Road is having a Perpetual Transplant sale. You can order and pay online, then drive up and they will load your purchase in your trunk for you. Their website is [info@kcfarmschool.org](mailto:info@kcfarmschool.org). It will take you to the transplant form. In addition, I also signed up for their newsletter.

It's time for me to find that jigsaw puzzle, so...

Until Next Time - Please keep vigilant, practice good hygiene, and stay safe.

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## SENATE NEWS

By Sen. Pat Pettey

### SENATE SESSION

The Senate is on the floor today (Tuesday, March 17, 2020) working several bills, including the budget bill that has to be taken care of before adjournment. For safety of legislators and staff, the legislature will be ending the session, if not today, very soon.

### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor Laura Kelly has issued an emergency declaration for the State of Kansas in response to COVID-19 (coronavirus). The declaration authorizes the use of state resources and personnel to assist with response and recovery operations in affected counties that meet certain criteria.

To help Kansans stay current on information related to COVID-19, or the novel coronavirus, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment provides daily updates on its website, [kdheks.gov](http://kdheks.gov).

### KDHE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

• On March 15, KDHE released new guidance on quarantine recommendations for those who have traveled. Please review this on our website at [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus).

• KDHE has created a toolkit of Kansas-specific guidance to help local public health departments engage with their community partners on COVID-19 planning. It can be found on the KDHE website: [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus). New information is added daily.

• KDHE has a phone-bank operation staffed Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. The phone number is 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF). KDHE also has an email address for general inquiries, [COVID-19@ks.gov](mailto:COVID-19@ks.gov). Please note these contact numbers are for general questions and cannot provide you with medical evaluations. If you are feeling ill, please stay home and call your healthcare provider.

### SCHLAGLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

As a part of Hispanic Day at the Capitol, I was pleased to meet with students from Schlagle High School who were in the Capitol with El Centro.

### PAGES

On Wednesday, March 11th, students from Holy Name Catholic School came to serve as Pages: Dominic Briones, Diego Melgoza, Jesse Cervantes and Yasmine Caro. These turned out to be our last pages of the session due to the Corona Virus.

### LEGISLATIVE COFFEE CANCELLATION

The Legislative Coffee scheduled for March 28th has been cancelled.

# Guest Editorial

## Social Distancing Can Have A Negative Effect

By: Tom Valverde

Health and longevity have been researched for more than fifty years. One early study reported that, people who were disconnected from others were roughly 3 times more likely to die, during the nine-year, California study, than people with strong social ties. As the Corona virus continues on, one of the best precautions is social distancing. But this can pose a significant health risk to some. The point of this article is to bring more attention to the effects of being apart from others, as is recommended by CDC. The California study noted that, "this major difference in survival occurred regardless of age, gender, health practices, or physical health status." Remarkably, researchers found that, Individuals with close social ties and unhealthful lifestyles --- such as smoking, obesity, and lack of exercise, actually lived longer than those with poor social ties, but more healthful habits.

Years ago, I had two close acquaintances; one would work out for two hours every other day, and the other, would run five miles each day before going in to work. Both men died in their early 40's--one at 42, the other at 43. They both died from a heart attack. Both would

comment on their physical health, and say they were in top condition, and were sure to outlive their friends. The New England Journal of Medicine published in 1984, the results of a study conducted on 2,300 men who had survived a heart attack. Men with strong social connections were found to only have a quarter the risk of dying within the next three years, as those men who were lacking social connections. And another study found the mortality rate in people with poor or no social connections, were 2.4 times higher than individuals with strong social connections.

So, if you know of anyone that lives alone, or isn't social, aside from providing food and other necessities, the best thing that anyone can do to help them survive the virus is to become a phone friend. We need to be able to speak with people who care for us, whether they are family or not. Put their phone number on your weekly planner, one or two times a week. Make sure that you block out the time, so that your call can be as long as needed. No one wants a "hello" and then a "goodbye" after only 3 or 4 minutes! What occurs to people who are alone and lonely is they will experience elevated levels of stress and

inflammation.

Chronic inflammation has been linked to type 2 diabetes, arthritis, heart attacks and even suicide attempts. Increased inflammation can undermine the well-being of nearly every bodily system, and most importantly, the brain. In addition, continued isolation causes development and worsening of cardiovascular disease, repeat heart attacks, autoimmune disorder, high blood pressure, cancer, and slow wound healing. Without social interactions, blood flow to vital organs is likely to be reduced and immune function may be undermined.

To enhance your body's immune function, make sure you take a Vitamin D supplement, as well as a multi-vitamin, each day. Drink milk, have leafy green vegetables, walk to get 15 minutes of sun, this helps the body to manufacture its own Vitamin D. So, please reconnect with your loner friends and family members. Phone calls and a Hallmark greeting card can help people in more ways than you can imagine! This quote was on my phone, and it pulls all of the above together: "You are here for a reason-- to help other people" *Marjorie S. Fisher Palm Beach, Florida November 5, 1923 -- June 12, 2016*

## Threat of coronavirus has far-reaching affect

By Murrel Bland

The threat of coronavirus has changed many things during the past several days.

This time of year, I am usually arranging my personal schedule so I can watch my favorite basketball team, the KU Jayhawks, as they do battle through the NCAA tournament. But the coronavirus scare has caused colleges, including KU, to cancel its sports activities. That includes Kansas City, Kansas, Community College which has closed its campus and extended its spring break through March 29; From March 30 through April 10, classes will resume through a virtual or hybrid delivery. All public and community events through May 20 are cancelled, includ-

ing the annual Mid-America Hall of Fame celebration.

Nursing homes and hospitals are limiting visitations. Restaurants and bars will be limited to carryout and delivery of food and drink. President Donald Trump, Governor Laura Kelly and Mayor David Alvey have all declared respective states of emergency.

All of these restrictions aim at limiting close human interaction which cause the spread of the coronavirus.

I made a short shopping trip to Wal-Mart in The Plaza at the Speedway on Monday, March 16. There was a rather large crowd of shoppers for a Monday afternoon. The experience was the same at the Price Chopper at the Wyandotte Plaza Shopping

Center; neither store had any toilet paper.

For the first time ever, the Board of Directors of Business West will be holding its board meeting on Wednesday, March 18 via a teleconference. The usual meeting place, the Board Room at The Dotte Spot Bar and Grill, is open for only carryout.

Jon Males of Recodnews, a printing and mailing company based in Basehor, reminds his customers in an email about the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control:

- Telephone your primary care physician for advice.
- Reschedule any appointments if you have a fever.
- Wash hands frequently, throw away tissues as soon

as you use them.

- Stay six feet away from other persons.
- Wipe down surfaces with disinfectants.

History tells us that the worst pandemic in modern history was in 1918-19. The "Spanish Flu" afflicted an estimated 500 million persons--about one third of the world's population. An estimated 675,000 died in the United States.

It is important to understand the seriousness of the coronavirus. People need to use the commonsense guidelines that the CDC suggests.

Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is the executive director of Business West.

## KCK Library Locations Closed Until April 6

KANSAS CITY, Kan. -- In response to COVID-19, all Kansas City, Kansas Public Library locations are closed until April 6. All current checkout due dates will be extended until April 6. The library will then re-evaluate with state and local government guidance to ensure the library system is in accordance with current guidelines before approving the system be reopened. The library's digital movies, music, and books can be accessed at any time through the eCommunity at [ecomunity.kckpl.org](http://ecomunity.kckpl.org). All individuals who reside in the Kansas City Metro can sign up for a digital eCard to access the library's digital materials on the eCommunity website. For more information on the library's closing and response to COVID-19, visit [www.kckpl.org](http://www.kckpl.org).

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3800 Fisher St

9 am: Meet at Fisher Park ready to work!

11 am: Celebratory Cookout w/ food + music



## Stay at Home Order.. from page 1

except Essential Businesses as defined below, are required to cease all activities. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).

### Essential Activity

People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence except as necessary to seek medical care.

Essential activities are activities or tasks essential to an individual's health or safety or the health and safety of their family or household members. These activities include:

- Obtaining medicine or seeing a doctor or other health care provider
- Getting necessary services or supplies for themselves or their family or household members, such as food, pet food, and supplies necessary for staying at home
- Obtaining supplies necessary for maintaining a household
- Obtaining supplies necessary for working from home



## Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Roberta Ellen Page, age 92, passed away March 10, 2020. Resident of Rosedale, 1945 graduate of Argentine High school. Argentine Presbyterian Church. Secretary for the Superintendent of Kansas City, Kansas Schools. Taught Emerson Park grade school many years.

Paul McDonnell, age 73, passed away March 12, 2020. USMC, Wyandotte High School.

Lyle Waggoner, age 84, passed away March 17th, 2020. The good lookin' dude on the Carol Burnett show from 1967 to 1974.

- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, or running

- Performing work providing essential services at an Essential Business

- Caring for a family member in another household

- Caring for the elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons

### Essential Businesses

Essential businesses are organizations that provide the goods or services needed for an essential activity. These include:

- Hospitals
- Childcare facilities
- Government operations
- Pharmacies, health care supply stores, and health care facilities
- Grocery stores
- Gas stations and auto repair facilities
- Garbage collection
- Hardware stores, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and other essential businesses
- Educational institutions, for the purposes of facilitating distance learning;
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, and goods directly to residences;

Residents who believe they may have COVID-19 should call their primary healthcare provider. Residents may also self-report symptoms online at [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

Resources provided by the Unified Government include:

- [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19): contains UG news releases on COVID-19 and a list of resources to learn more
- The Wyandotte County Help Line is available to residents at 3-1-1 for those with questions.
- In addition, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has also set up a hotline at 866-534-3463.

# FEMA Coronavirus Rumor Control

FEMA wants to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis, stay informed with our updated myth vs. facts related to the federal (COVID-19) response.

For more information on the coronavirus, please visit [coronavirus.gov](http://coronavirus.gov). You can also visit our coronavirus (COVID-19) response page for more updates on the federal response.

**Myth:** There is a national lockdown and the entire country will be quarantined for two weeks.

**Fact:** There is no national lockdown. As with all information online or shared via social media, it is important to verify the source of the information. You can find the latest information as well as links to additional resources at [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov).

**Myth:** FEMA has deployed military assets.

**Fact:** No, FEMA does not have military assets. Like

all emergencies, response is most successful when it is locally executed, state managed and federally supported. Each state's governor is responsible for response activities in their state, to include establishing curfews, deploying the National Guard if needed and any other restrictions or safety measures they deem necessary for the health and welfare of their citizens.

**Myth:** I need to stockpile as many groceries and supplies as I can.

**Fact:** Please only buy what your family needs for a week. It is important to remember that many families may be unable to buy a supply of food and water for weeks in advance. Consumer demand has recently been exceptionally high – especially for grocery, household cleaning, and some healthcare products. Freight flows are not disrupted, but stores need time to restock.

**Myth:** I heard that the government is sending \$1,000 checks. How do I sign up?

**Fact:** The U.S. Government

is not mailing checks in response to COVID-19 at this time. Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer. It's important that you only trust information coming from official sources. The Federal Trade Commission recently provided more information about this scam and other common COVID-19 related scams on their website.

**Myth:** Only those over 60 years of age and those with existing health problems are at risk from the Coronavirus.

**Fact:** It is an unfortunate rumor that only people over 60 years of age are at risk of getting this disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), those at higher risk include older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions. However, symptoms can range from mild to severe with and may have different complications for each individual. The CDC has a list of COVID-19 symptoms you may experience. Please continue to follow the official information from the CDC.

## Tax Day now July 15: Treasury, IRS extend filing deadline and federal tax payments regardless of amount owed

WASHINGTON – The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced today that the federal income tax filing due date is automatically extended from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020.

Taxpayers can also defer federal income tax payments due on April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This deferment applies to all taxpayers, including individuals, trusts and estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers as well as those who pay self-employment tax.

Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline, can request a filing extension by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov. Businesses who need additional time must file Form 7004.

The IRS urges taxpayers who are due a refund to file as soon as possible. Most tax refunds are still being issued within 21 days.

“Even with the filing deadline extended, we urge taxpayers who are owed refunds to file as soon as possible and file electronically,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “Filing electronically with direct deposit is the quickest way to get refunds. Although we are curtailing some operations during this period, the IRS is continuing with mission-critical operations to support the nation, and that includes accepting tax returns and sending refunds. As a federal agency vital to the overall operations of our country, we ask for your personal support, your understanding – and your patience. I’m incredibly proud of our employees as we navigate through numerous different challenges in this very rapidly changing environment.”

The IRS will continue to monitor issues related to the COVID-19 virus, and updated information will be posted on a special coronavirus page on IRS.gov.

This announcement comes following the President's emergency declaration last week pursuant to the Stafford Act. The Stafford Act is a federal law designed to bring an orderly and systematic means of federal natural disaster and emergency assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. It was enacted in 1988.

Treasury and IRS will issue additional guidance as needed and continue working with Congress, on a bipartisan basis, on legislation to provide further relief to the American people.

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