Thank you for feeding our hungry neighbors!

COVID-19: Agency Alerts

March 23, 2020

Volunteer Preparedness Practices

What do I tell my volunteers?

Like you the Food Bank relies on the support of volunteers to keep production and distributions going. And like us, we are sure you are receiving questions from your volunteers regarding their work and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Volunteer Department has put together 3 documents to help provide information and communicate best practices with our hero's on the front line.

If volunteers are asking if they are exempt from the "stay at home" order in order to volunteer at your agency please share with them that food banks and food pantries have been identified as an essential business as defined by the Executive Order 2020-10 pertaining to COVID-19. This means that volunteers can travel to and from your agency because your neighbors rely on food resources packed and distributed by your volunteers.

Please edit and share the documents listed below based on your agency’s needs:
1. **Volunteer and Visitor Health Statement**
   - This document is used to help ensure each volunteer coming in for a shift attests to being in good health and has not been in contact with another individual that has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

2. **Volunteer Exemption Letter**
   - This document can be used to provide your volunteers with a letter stating they are traveling to volunteer for an essential business.
   - Please notify your regular staff and/or volunteers to bring their ID with them while traveling.

Our team has also created a COVID-19 Volunteer Preparedness and Safety Practices document. The Food Bank is using this document to manage our volunteer shifts in response to any state or federal guidelines that may change during the pandemic. Please feel free to view the document below and use as guidance while determining your agency’s practices.

   - **View COVID-19 Volunteer Preparedness and Safety Practices here.**

**What do I do if a staff person or volunteer becomes sick?**

- Please follow the CDC guidelines posted here.

**When can a volunteer and/or staff person return to work after being diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspected to have COVID-19?**

Per CDC guidelines, if a person is diagnosed or is suspected to have COVID-19 that person can NOT return to work until the criteria below have been met:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications *and* improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); *and*,
• At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

After returning to work, the staff or volunteer should:

• Adhere to hand hygiene and cough etiquette in CDC’s interim infection control guidance (e.g., cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, dispose of tissues in waste receptacles)
• Self-monitor for symptoms, and seek re-evaluation if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen

Lyft is helping to deliver food and medical supplies to those in need!

A message from Lyft:

First, we know no words will do justice to everyone’s individual experience over the last couple weeks. All of us at Lyft feel the weight of our responsibility to the community, particularly right now.

We know Lyft can be a critical lifeline for communities in need. Many people still need help reaching essential services, and many drivers count on this work for extra income. We’re taking immediate action to help with both.

Supporting drivers & maximizing community impact
While ride demand is temporarily down, we’re actively expanding services to create new opportunities for drivers, facilitate rides for those in need, and help distribute essential goods. To help protect drivers and the recipients, deliveries will be contactless. Here’s what we’re doing:
• Supporting delivery of medical supplies and providing access to necessary medical transportation, especially for low-income individuals.
• Supporting delivery of meals for those in need, including kids who receive free or subsidized lunch at school, and home-bound seniors.
• Using our platform to alert riders and drivers about key safety and public health updates, including curfews and shelter-in-place orders through our app.

Activating national LyftUp partnerships
Today, we activated LyftUp to donate tens of thousands of rides to those with essential transportation needs — especially for families and children, low-income seniors, doctors and nurses. We’re working with new and existing partners on this initiative including United Way, World Central Kitchen, and Team Rubicon.

All riders and drivers are asked to stay home if they are sick, and should work with a medical professional to discuss transportation options if they need to see a doctor. Per the CDC and local health officials, anyone who suspects they may have or is diagnosed with COVID-19 should not use ridesharing.

Coming together to help
Lyft has many available resources for those seeking to provide help for their communities.
• For governments, nonprofits, and healthcare entities, let us know how we can help.
• If you’re a foundation or philanthropic organization looking to help, email LyftUpCovid19Funding@lyft.com

As part of this work to support the community, we’re contributing our salaries to these efforts through the end of June. We’re grateful for you being part of the Lyft community and will continue to keep you updated.

Thanks,

John & Logan
Lyft Co-Founders
What you need to know.

- A limited number of Emergency Boxes have been packed and will be distributed to high need areas soon.
- We are actively sourcing empty boxes and bags to distribute to agencies.
- Only a handful of agencies have made the tough decision to close. Please visit www.solvehungertoday.org and click on COVID-19 Updates to see a list of all closures.
- Stay connected with us! Please continue reaching out to your Area Leaders with questions or concerns.
- Visit the Agency Tools webpage to view recorded COVID-19 webinars.
- Please consider opening your geographical boundaries to help serve all those that are in need of food.

To help prevent the spread of the virus, we encourage all agencies to consider:

- Refraining from asking individuals for their ID or any proof of residence.
- Altering your distribution method to ensure appropriate social distancing.

"Stay at Home" Order Issued

Beginning Saturday March 21 at 5pm through Tuesday April 7

What does the "stay at home" order mean?

On Friday March 20th Governor Pritzker announced that a "stay at home" order will go into effect for the state of Illinois beginning 5pm on Saturday March 21st and go through Tuesday April 7th. This order requires all non essential activity to cease operations in an effort to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
As defined in the Illinois COVID 19 Executive Order 10- essential businesses include "religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities;..."

**Does this mean volunteers can continue to volunteer?**
Yes, however, we do recommend that your volunteers carry the "Volunteer Exemption Letter" and sign the "Volunteer and Visitor Health Statement" as described above. If you have any additional questions please contact your Area Agency Specialist.

[See entire Executive Order here.](#)

**What can I do as a food pantry?**

- Remain open
- Continue to serve those in need while practicing social distancing

**What can I do as an Illinois resident?**

- Go to the grocery store/food pantry.
- Go to the bank.
- Go to the doctor.
- Go to the pharmacy.
- Get gas for your vehicle.
- Go for a walk, hike or bike ride while maintaining social distancing standards.

**What can't I do as an Illinois resident?**
• Go out for non essential reasons

Survey: How do you want to stay connected?

Please CLICK HERE to take the 4 question survey.

Please note: This message was sent through the email platform MailChimp. Please DO NOT UNSUBSCRIBE from this list, or you will miss out on important updates. Thank you!

Know someone who wants to SUBSCRIBE? Sign them up HERE!

Agency Team
Northern Illinois Food Bank
273 Dearborn Court
Geneva, IL 60134

T: 630-443-6910

Website: www.solvehungertoday.org

Copyright © 2020 Northern Illinois Food Bank - Agency Team, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you are a member agency of Northern Illinois Food Bank. Please do not unsubscribe as these emails contain important information!
Our mailing address is:
Northern Illinois Food Bank - Agency Team
273 Dearborn Court
Geneva, Illinois 60134

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list

Please DO NOT UNSUBSCRIBE from this list,
or you will miss out on important updates