



MESSAGE FROM **DISTRICT A COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO III**



To our neighbors across New Orleans,

Our office wants to help everyone stay up-to-date about available COVID-19 resources and programs. Information changes quickly, with new updates nearly every day. But one thing remains certain: you can help stop the spread of coronavirus by maintaining social distance and staying indoors.

I frequently update my Twitter and Facebook pages; follow [@cmgiarrusso](#) for real-time information. You can also text COVIDNOLA to 888777 to receive text alerts.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions at Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov. Stay home. Stay safe. Stop the spread.

Best,

Joe

REPORT SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Governor John Bel Edwards issued a statewide "stay at home" order, limiting non-essential activity and social gatherings.

All residents must stay home except for essential needs such as groceries, medicine, or to go to an essential job.



REPORT ALL ILLEGAL GATHERINGS TO NOLA-311

Stay at home. Stop the spread.

Find more resources at nola311.org.

S&WB

We are seeing an uptick in complaints about recent Sewerage & Water Board (S&WB) New Orleans estimated bills.

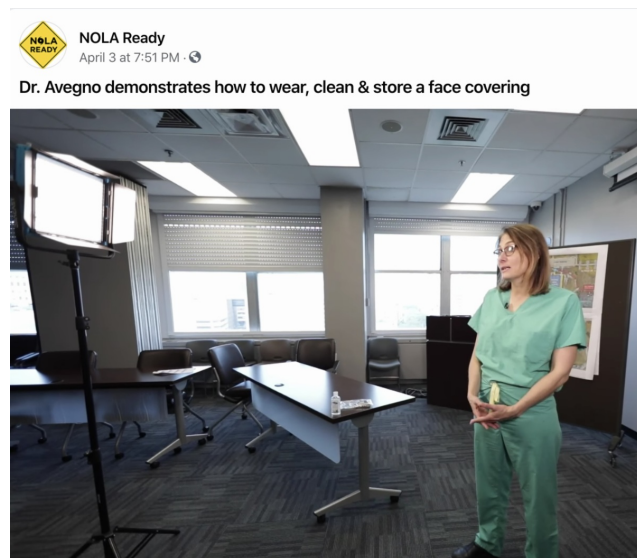
If you think you have received an estimated bill since the COVID-19 shutdown, please email our office with a screenshot of the inaccurate bill and the best phone number for S&WB to reach you.



WEARING MASKS

Health officials now recommend everyone, regardless of symptoms, wear cloth face masks in public to help slow the spread. Do not purchase N95 or surgical masks – those are needed for frontline workers. Instead, use cloth to cover your mouth and nose.

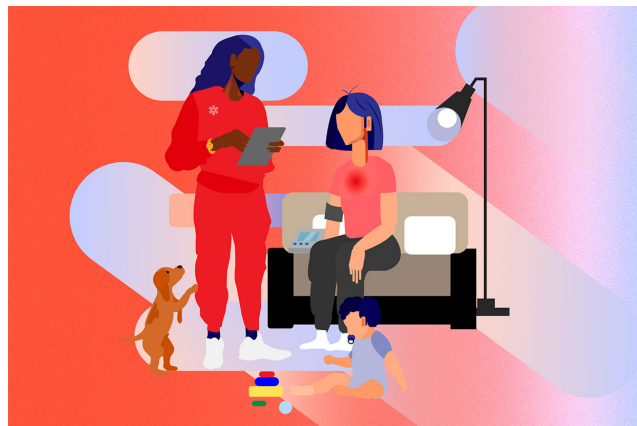
New Orleans Health Department Director Jennifer Avegno shared a video demonstrating how to wear, clean, and store face masks. [Watch here.](#)



AT-HOME TESTING

Ready Responders, an at-home healthcare company, is offering at-home COVID-19 testing for qualified patients. Patients must meet certain criteria, and patients will not be charged for the test - even if you don't have insurance.

To see if you qualify, or to receive health care in your home, contact Ready Responders at 504-331-4444 or visit www.readyresponders.com.



GROCERY HOME DELIVERY

We know it can be difficult to leave

your home during this public health crisis. Top Box Foods Louisiana is now offering direct deliveries of fresh produce to New Orleans families. You can even purchase a grocery box with SNAP benefits.

To learn more or to order, visit topboxfoods.com.



HOSPITAL UPDATES & RESOURCES

LCMC Health

LCMC Health has plenty of resources for patients worried about [coronavirus](#) and its impact on your health. LCMC has suspended non-essential surgeries and procedures, set up a hotline for COVID-19 information, established urgent care virtual visits, and provided resources for pregnant patients.

You can find community resources [here](#), with information on staying calm and boredom-busting activities. LCMC is also accepting donations of medical supplies, food, blood, and money. Visit LCMC's [donation page](#) for more information.

Ochsner Health

Ochsner has also developed several coronavirus response resources. Ochsner is offering two COVID-19 testing sites in Orleans and Jefferson parish:

Ochsner Urgent Care – Mid-City
Screening and Testing
4100 Canal Street

Ochsner Center for Primary Care and Wellness
Drive-Thru Location for Physician Orders Only
1401 Jefferson Highway

Ochsner is accepting food and care packages for their teams, as well as monetary donations for those on the frontline of this crisis. Several Ochsner pharmacies are now offering curbside pickup, and you may be able to see your doctor via virtual visits. For more information and to connect with your provider, [click here](#).

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Have you lost your job, been furloughed, or lost hours due to coronavirus impacts? You may be eligible for rental

assistance.

To see if you're eligible and apply, [click here](#).

Rental Assistance

Have you been impacted by COVID-19? You may be eligible for rental assistance; priority given to families with children, re-entering citizens, and low-income households.

To find out more and apply, contact the Mayor's Office of Community Development at [504.658.4200](tel:504.658.4200).

EVICTIIONS

Residential evictions have been suspended until April 24. This eviction suspension also applies to hotels.

It is illegal to put you out during a public health emergency. Please refer to this [Hotel Evictions FAQ](#) for more questions.



CAN I BE EVICTED FROM A HOTEL during the COVID-19 crisis in Louisiana?

Updated 4/1/2020

Can hotel staff put me out if I can't pay my hotel fee?

No. Only "appropriate lawful authority" may remove you, meaning a police officer or sheriff's deputy. La. Revised Statute § 21:76. Note: you can access all the laws referenced in this document through Google.

Can the hotel put me out if I am living in a hotel long term and pay weekly?

Some hotels are set up for long term living, with kitchens, mail delivery, laundry, and other amenities. If you are renting a hotel room long term and paying weekly, you are a tenant and the hotel should go through the court eviction process to put you out. Right now the Governor suspended evictions statewide through April 13th (likely will be extended to April 30th), so you cannot legally be evicted.

If this argument is unsuccessful, see below.

Can the hotel put me out if I have only been at the hotel a few nights?

Even if the eviction laws don't apply to you, the hotel must complete several steps before they can call an officer to put you out. First, the hotel must have given you written notice of the agreed-upon departure date and checkout time when you registered. Second, the hotel must give you at least 1 hour's written or verbal notice that you must leave. La. Revised Statute § 21:75.

Third, the law says that the officer cannot evict you from a hotel during a "serious medical emergency," so even if the hotel gave you proper notice, **it is illegal to put you out during a public health emergency declared by the Governor. La. Revised Statute § 21:76.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our community is at its best when we work together. There are several organizations recruiting volunteers to assist in COVID-19 community support:

Volunteer Opportunities



Medical & Behavioral Health Volunteers

Volunteers may be used for clinical and non-clinical tasks.
ready.nola.gov



Meal Delivery Volunteers

Volunteers will pick-up and delivery meal kits Monday and Thursdays. Must meet eligibility requirements.
handsonneworleans.org



Second Harvest Food Bank Volunteers

Volunteers collect food from restaurants, help with community kitchens, and repackage donated food.
no-hunger.org/volunteer



Hands On New Orleans Volunteers

Volunteers may deliver meals, collect food supplies, or provide virtual services.
handsonneworleans.org

Stay Home. Stay Safe.
[#StopTheSpread](#)

CORONAVIRUS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Because of economic changes stemming from coronavirus, several companies are immediately hiring new staff. WorkNOLA has a list of companies currently hiring.

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

The Small Business Association (SBA) has several resources to help our local small businesses navigate this crisis. The SBA is tasked with overseeing the distribution of millions of dollars in loans and grants to help our businesses survive.

1. **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL):** The SBA declared a disaster in the state of Louisiana and made Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses (including sole proprietors) and nonprofits. Impacted small businesses may apply for up to \$2 million in working capital to pay for fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the COVID-19 disaster. Loan terms (3.75% interest rate for small businesses; 2.75% for nonprofits) may be extended up to 30 years to keep payments affordable. With the passage of the CARES Act, up to \$10,000 of an EIDL is forgivable. **Separately, Emergency Economic Injury Grants are available up to \$10,000, and do not need to be repaid under any circumstance.**
2. **Paycheck Protection Program:** The CARES Act created the Paycheck Protection Program, which is an expansion of the existing SBA 7(a) program. Working through a network of approved lenders, this program forgives loans to employers, independent contractors, and gig workers who maintain their payrolls. Rent, mortgage payments, and some other eligible expenses are also forgivable. Reach out to your lender or an approved SBA 7(a) lender to apply.

Unsure of which program is best for your business? [This flowchart](#) can help you decide. The

SBA has also put together a guide helping businesses understand the CARES Act.

As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (504) 658-1010 or email me at Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov.



New Orleans City Council
Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, District A