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JOUR 200 – Online
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Assignment #7 – COVID-19 Illinois Stay at Home Extension

Governor Pritzker Extends Stay at Home Order

State of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker extended the stay at home order through April 30 to reduce spread of COVID-19. He announced that he will sign a modified version of the state's stay at home order that will go into effect on May 1 in this midst of a pandemic.

The coronavirus in Illinois has claimed 2,125 lives to date. There have been 48,102 cases of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Symptoms now include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and loss of taste or smell. Illinois has flattened the curve with an increase number in testing.

The World Health Organization, states "the disease spreads primarily from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, which are expelled when a person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, or speaks."

The disease was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, and has since spread globally.

Beginning on May 1, individuals will be required to wear a face-covering or a mask when in public places where a six-foot social distance can't be kept. Some places include public indoor spaces, such as stores and restaurant. Everyone over the age of two will be required to wear a face covering.

Garden centers may re-open as an essential business. Many businesses will remain closed for the time being. Non-essential retail may fulfill online orders via curbside pickup.

"Make no mistake, Illinois has saved lives. By staying home and social distancing, we have kept our infection and death rates for the months of March and April thousands below the rates projected had we not implemented these mitigation strategies," said Governor JB Pritzker. "I

know how badly we all want our normal lives back. But this is the part where we have to dig in and understand that the sacrifices we've made as a state to avoid a worst-case scenario are working — and we need to keep going a little while longer to finish the job."

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign models predicted the death rate would have been 20 times higher without current social distancing restrictions.

Even though the most vulnerable people are being protected, the majority is being ignored. All non-essential hospital operations have halted, dental businesses have taken additional protection by closing, and even ophthalmologists cannot provide anything. People are now facing uncertainty of being able to purchase/update eye prescriptions. These are some of the important non-essential business being hit.

Amy Paplaczyk, of Berwyn and a Walmart Pharmacy Technician, is four months pregnant and her boyfriend can't come with to the doctor regarding pregnancy updates.

Chicago college students reported unstable sleeping schedules. University of Illinois at Chicago graduate student, Paul Mizner, said "people sleep all day and stay up all night" and also mentioned "the lack of socialization is rough". Wright College student Konrad Michalek said "I've been sleeping better", but has a lack of a schedule.

The conscience gathered is that everyone can better themselves based on this lockdown, thus since one month into the Coronavirus pandemic.

State Representative Darren Bailey filed a lawsuit against JB Pritzker's order.

State law allows the governor to declare a disaster for 30 days but does not mention modification of its length or continence. Pritzker argued during his comments that the ruling would set a dangerous precedent, as disasters don't always disappear in 30 days.

Research and science argue Darren Bailey's actions were dangerous. Clay County Circuit Court Judge Michael McHaney ruled in favor of solely Darren Bailey's lawsuit voiding the extended stay at home order. The Attorney General of Illinois will appeal the judge's order.

McHaney's ruling on stay at home order freed Bailey, a resident of Xenia, from being required to abide by the governor's executive order.

The governor called Bailey's controversy that the governor is trying to limit constructional limits or rights "reckless."

"That's not the intention here," Pritzker said. "The intention is to save peoples' lives."

State Representative Bailey was seen being congratulated entering the courthouse after the judge's ruling. The scenes depicted showed the opposite of the CDC's recommendation of social distancing. The crowd was packed, shoulder to shoulder, with photographers bumping into each other. Social distancing of 6 feet was not kept.

The coronavirus knows no boundaries. No community is protected from it, no one is invulnerable. Simply not putting others before yourself is dangerous. A person can be asymptomatic, not showing any symptoms, and easily pass the novel Coronavirus over to others.

This is especially prevalent in southern Illinois too. It is not just a Chicago problem. Southern Illinois has been hit just as hard as counties such as Cook and Lake. St. Clair county has 434 cases, similar to surrounding areas of Chicago.

"This virus doesn't care if you are bored," JB Pritzker said.

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