



The Key to Your Community

Judy Berman
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Dear Village Members,

As you no doubt are aware, a new form of the corona virus, COVID-19, is circulating in the world, and has recently appeared in the Washington metro area. Current information suggests that those most at risk are those over 60, and those with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems. Further, the CDC announced on Friday that they recommend that “older people and people with severe, chronic medical conditions...‘stay at home as much as possible.’” The CDC is further advising that people should prepare to stay at home by:

1. Obtaining extra necessary medications to have on hand or, if necessary, using mail order to obtain medications;
2. Checking your supply of over-the-counter medications and supplies, such as fever reducers, tissues, and other sick room necessities;
3. Ensuring you have household items and food at home so you are prepared to stay at home for a period of time.

The most important thing you can do is avoid close contact with people who may be sick.

If you have not already done these things, and would like help from the Village in getting prepared, please call us. If you are a volunteer, and wish to cancel any activities you’ve signed up for, please just let us know.

Staff and Board at the Village have been carefully monitoring the situation, and want to let you know what we are doing to reduce risk to members, volunteers, staff and interns, as well as what we intend to do should the situation worsen.

- First, following the advice of health experts, we have instituted enhanced hand washing and cleaning protocols at the office. This is to protect the health of staff, as well as volunteers and members with whom we all come in contact. I hope you are all doing the same at home, because it will protect you not only from COVID-19, but from the flu which, by all measures is actually more dangerous.
- We have agreed that, should schools and other public institutions in or near our footprint close, we will close the physical office and will convert to working remotely. Staff will continue to be available by phone from 9 am – 5 pm, and at all times for emergencies. You will simply call our number and follow instructions to dial the extension of the person you want to speak to.
- If the office closes, we will also stop sponsoring affinity groups and other meetings. Until that time, we will assess activities based on how much close personal contact they require and how much control we have over the safety of the space and, of course, the preferences of the affinity group leaders.



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CHV will do our very best to support you just as we have always done. We will continue to assist with errands, resources and referrals, and other necessities. We are developing a phone tree so that everyone who wants to can be part of an information exchange and safety check. For the safety of staff and volunteers, however, the one caveat is that no volunteers will be asked to drive or have direct contact with someone who is ill with what is or may be COVID-19. If you become or suspect you have become ill with COVID-19, please call your health care provider immediately. Then KEEP CALM and CALL CHV.

Wishing you good health in the months to come,

Judy Berman