

CSA LI Retiree Unit

Unit Leader

Victor Ravens

Assistant Unit Leader

Renee Shulman

Treasurer

Alan Lichtenstein

Corresponding Secretary

Dr. Candice Scott

Newsletter Editor

Melanie Johnson

Webmaster

Joyce E. Bush

Committee Chairs**Program**

Ronald Berkenblit

Legislative

Morton Kugal

Membership

Victor Ravens

Outreach

Myrna Walters

Photography & HospitalityRhenaye Hornsby
Karla Marrero**Special Activities**

Jim Mehlman

Social

Dr. Candice Scott



A MESSAGE FROM OUR UNIT LEADERSHIP

Welcome to the latest edition of the CSA/ Long Island Unit newsletter "The Emeritus". I bring greetings from the Officers and Executive Board of our unit.

Hope this message finds you and your family and friends in good health and coping with living in our new reality of the Covid#19 Pandemic. These are difficult times for all and it is so important that we reach out during this time when we feel isolated from those we care about.

Since the Plainview Library closed, the Executive Board has been using technology to communicate. We have been holding our monthly meetings via Zoom.

Before the Pandemic, we had planned several trips as well as our June Luncheon, which had to be cancelled or postponed. We hope to reschedule these events at a later date. The Executive Board is busy planning for a time when we can meet again as a group.

We now have a beautiful website (csaliretires.com) and I encourage all our members to check it out. It has all the latest info about things of importance to our Long Island Unit. We will be using the website to communicate with our members

Stay well and safe!

Renee Shulman,
Assistant Unit Leader

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

ISSUE 1
JUNE 2020



Visit our website for up to date information, csaliretires.com

Complete the 2020 Census online at: my2020census.gov

VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2020

UNIT EVENTS - Due to the need to maintain social distancing, the Long Island Unit has not planned any gatherings at the present time. Our Unit Leadership meets via Zoom and continues to plan for better days when we will return to offering a full calendar of activities for our members. To update your email please email us at jbushcsa@gmail.com. Also, please remember that you can contact Renee Shulman at renee2003@optonline.net

NATTER CALENDAR - At the CSARC Executive Board meeting, we were informed that the Natter Calendar will NOT be published this year. The DOE has not issued a school calendar and therefore, the CSA will not be able to distribute a calendar.

THE 2020 CENSUS - We need 100% participation. If you have not replied to the 2020 Census please call 844-330-2020 or go to Census.gov right away.

NEW MEDICAL CARDS FROM EMBLEM

HEALTH-You should be receiving new cards with new numbers, which **take effect July 1, 2020**. In one mailing you will receive a new Emblem Health card with an 11 digit number starting with the letter K(if you are on Medicare your card will say GHI Senior Care) as well as a new Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield card with a 9 digit number starting with the letter K. If you or your spouse currently has an Emblem Health Medicare prescription drug plan, your cards will come in a separate mailing. The member ID number for your prescription drug plan is the same as your Senior Care member ID number. The ID number for your dependent is different. Your dependent has his/her own member ID number. It is an 11-digit number that begins with the letter R.

If your cards have not arrived by June 22 please call Emblem Health at 212-501-4444, Blue Cross at 800-433-9592 and Express Scripts (Prescription Card) at 800-585-5786.

Although our activities were placed "on pause," we continue to plan our 2020-2021 programs and activities and look forward to seeing you in September 2020.

If you need assistance – reach out to our leadership. Your union is here to help you get through these challenging times.

New York City Council of Supervisors and Administrators – Long Island Retirees Unit

HERE FOR YOU!



AFT COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Adapted from CDC

WHAT IS A NOVEL CORONAVIRUS?

There are hundreds of coronaviruses that we come in contact with—some can cause the common cold but most are harmless. However, the (SARS CoV-2) is a newly identified coronavirus referred to as “novel.” It is of great concern because it is easily transmitted and can cause a serious illness, COVID-19, in vulnerable individuals.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THE VIRUS?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people; others (such as canine and feline coronaviruses) only infect animals. Rarely, coronaviruses that infect animals have emerged to infect people and can spread between people. This is suspected to have occurred for the virus that causes COVID-19. Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) are two other examples of coronaviruses that originated from animals and then spread to people.

CAN SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD COVID-19 SPREAD THE ILLNESS TO OTHERS?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person. Someone who is infected with the virus and/or actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others. That is why CDC recommends that these patients be isolated—either in the hospital or at home, depending on how sick they are—until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others. How long someone is actively sick can vary, so the decision on when to release someone from isolation is made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with doctors, infection prevention and control experts, and public health officials; they consider the specifics of each situation, including disease severity, illness signs and symptoms, and results of laboratory testing for that patient.

WHO SHOULD BE TESTED FOR COVID-19?

If you develop symptoms such as fever, cough and/or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing

spread of COVID-19, stay home and call your healthcare provider. Older patients and individuals who have severe underlying medical conditions or are immunocompromised should contact their healthcare provider early, even if their illness is mild. If you have severe symptoms, such as persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face, contact your healthcare provider or emergency room and seek care immediately. Your doctor will determine if you have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and whether you should be tested.

WILL WARM WEATHER STOP THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19?:

It is not yet known whether weather and temperature impact the spread of COVID-19. At this time, it is not known whether the spread will decrease when weather becomes warmer. Some other viruses, like the common cold and flu, spread more during cold-weather months, but that does not mean it is impossible to become sick with these viruses during other months. There is much more to learn about the transmissibility, severity and other features associated with COVID-19; investigations are ongoing.

WHY MIGHT SOMEONE BLAME OR AVOID INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS (CREATE STIGMA) BECAUSE OF COVID-19?

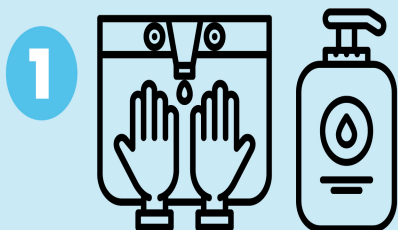
People in the U.S. may be worried or anxious about friends and relatives who are living in or visiting areas where COVID-19 is spreading. Some people are worried about the disease itself. Fear and anxiety can lead to social stigma, for example, toward Chinese or other Asian Americans or people who were in quarantine. Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger toward ordinary people instead of the disease that is causing the problem. People can fight stigma and help, not hurt, others by providing social support. Counter stigma by learning and sharing facts. Communicating the facts that viruses do not target specific racial or ethnic groups and how COVID-19 actually spreads can help stop stigma.



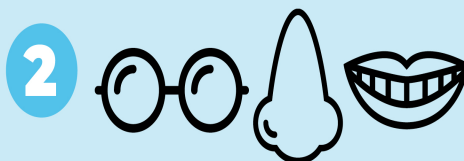
A Union of Professionals

Coronavirus

Staying Healthy



Wash hands with soap and water, or use sanitizer (if soap and water are not available), especially after visiting the bathroom and before eating.



Avoid touching your face—especially your eyes, nose and mouth.



Stay home for any respiratory illness, and consult your healthcare provider.

More information is available at
www.aft.org/coronavirus