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Rantoul Citizens

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This week has been extremely busy with all the new COVID-19 financial programs for self-employed and small business with 25 or less employees. I highly advise all who have an interest in these new financial benefits to go to CARES.gov website for a full description of these monetary programs.

As I informed you earlier this week Governor Pritzker held two teleconferences, one on Tuesday and another one today. He keeps advocating for Illinois and the need for medical PPE supplies for our state's first responders and medical facilities.

During this time, communication from the Federal government to state and local agency has been an ongoing necessity to inform those involved in supporting the battle with the COVID-19.

Also this past Wednesday I participated in a teleconference call from White House advisors who spoke on a wide variety of topics. They shared information related to the national CARES program, the Small Business Stimulus Act, the Air Bridge program that supplies new PPE for medical facilities and first responders and many other topics.

Re-opening of American was the primary emphasize and how to achieve better results through open transparency. Updated information was shared on new testing facilities which will be made available with each states approval. Right now the Federal government has 17 testing sites across the nation. As of Thursday two point nine (2.9) million Americans have been tested with 20% of them testing positive for COVID-19. Also Abbott Laboratories has developed a new test for the COVID virus that produces results within 5 to 15 minutes. This new testing will provide faster results making it possible for more Americans not infected by the virus to return to work. The driving force is the US economy and the safety of those individuals to stabilize the economic system.

A new COVID-19 relief fund has been established with 150 billion dollars available. I suggest that everyone visit the Treasury.gov/ CARES act polices website for detailed information.

When I spoke with you last week the new number of COVID-19 cases in Illinois was 1,529. Today that number is 1,842. Total cases in Illinois last week were 15,078 today that number is 27,575. Total deaths from the COVID-19 virus last week was 462 today that number is 1,134. New deaths reported for today are 62.

Even though everyone is anxious for this inconvenience to be over the threat of infection or death are still present. We have a few weeks to go before we will see any sufficient change or decrease in the number of new cases. Please be patient as our society works to preserve as many lives as possible by observing the Stay at Home order. Rest assured that we all feel the need to socialize and move around. Don't let a false sense of security jeopardize your safety and the safety of those around you.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and STAY AT HOME!