



JB Pritzker, Governor
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Dear Aging Network:

As you know, building on data, science, and guidance from public health experts - and after consulting with stakeholders across the state - Governor JB Pritzker has announced that we are now in [Phase 4 of Restore Illinois](#), a five-phase plan focused on saving lives, livelihood, and safely reopening Illinois. The Department has been holding meetings over the past month with our seven re-opening stakeholder workgroups to provide ADS, APS, and Senior Center guidance to ensure the health, welfare and safety of our seniors who are in the highest risk category for COVID-19. As we now know, symptoms of COVID-19 in seniors can be unique, and [individuals with chronic conditions](#) are especially at risk.

Long-Term Care Facilities may now allow outdoor visitation for residents when certain conditions are met. Visitation must be limited to two visitors at a time per resident, and visitors must schedule an appointment with the facility to visit a resident. For the duration of each visit, the resident and visitor are required to wear face coverings for the safety of both parties. The [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) has more information regarding outdoor visitation guidance; contact the long-term care facility for its specific requirements.

We continue to provide educational opportunities through the [Quality Webinar platform](#). This ongoing webinar series provides an opportunity for professionals with similar goals to share their knowledge and experiences to enhance our network's understanding of successful risk mitigation and best-practice approaches. Webinars are recorded for viewing at a later time. You can find upcoming webinars, as well as other [events on our calendar page](#).

As a reminder, IDoA, along with the Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP), and IDHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities and Division of Rehabilitation Services has launched Illinois Care Connections. Illinois Care Connections provides technology devices such as iPads or Tablets to older adults and persons with disabilities who are socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, to help facilitate social connections with family and friends. Your organizations know the needs of our older adults best, and the individuals who may benefit from a device. The [referral form can be found here](#), and referrals for devices must be made by an AAA or CCU.

Finally, I am proud to announce that the Department has launched a new public and professional awareness campaign to remind everyone about the importance of reporting suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation of persons ages 60 and older and persons with disabilities ages 18-59. Specifically, [Engage2Change](#) is a three-year campaign theme for our Office of Adult Protective Services. The \$2.1 million grant received from the Administration for Community Living will include ads on television, online and via email that will encourage every Illinois resident to engage to make the change. Some funds will also be used for training caseworkers and legal professionals.

I encourage all of you to take a look at the links provided above; **and conduct any necessary programming outdoors where possible**. Believe me, I know how much time and effort every one of you has put in over these past few months. As we continue to face these unprecedented times and challenges together, please take some time this summer and cherish it with your family. We are truly grateful for all of the work you are doing, and we must continue to do what we can to **support today, while planning for tomorrow**. Please stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paula Basta'.

Paula Basta, M.Div.
Director, Illinois Department on Aging

Respect for yesterday. Support for today. Planning for tomorrow.
www.illinois.gov/aging