

Travis County Issue a Shelter in Place Order

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon VILLAGER Columnist



Mayor Steve Adler

VILLAGER NEWS - Since COVID-19 has progressed, the United States has become the third-highest infected country. States like New York, Illinois, California, and New Jersey have seen their cases of COVID-19 spike as well. As a result, the Governors have issued a stay in place order. This order means people should stay indoors and restrict their movements.

In Travis County, there has been a slow growth with the various COVID-19. However, the city of Austin wants to slow the growth of the

coronavirus or flatten the curve. Some of the things they have done include; issuing the social distance requirements and limiting the crowd amount level to 250 then to 10 people. First of all, social distancing means that people should stand at least three to six feet away from one another.

However, these measures have not stopped the COVID-19 spread. Consequently, Mayor Steve Adler of Austin, Texas and Travis County Judge Sarah

Eckhart have a shelter in place order as of Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Moreover, the issuing would mean that only essential workers will be allowed to do their jobs. Essential workers may include; restaurant workers, doctors, police officers, emergency workers, grocery store workers, and delivery workers. The governor has not issued a statewide shelter in place order due to the fact, not all Texas counties are affected by the COVID-19 virus.

Cindy Gee For Pflugerville ISD

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon VILLAGER Columnist



Cindy Gee

VILLAGER NEWS - Although the election has been pushed back due to COVID-19, Mrs. Cindy Mrs. Gee is running for the Pflugerville Independent School District board place 7. Gee believes, her longtime experience with the Pflugerville school system makes her the right candidate for this position. According to Mrs. Gee, "I moved to Pflugerville ISD in 1986 where I was involved in youth sports and civic activities. I served on the Brookhollow PTO, PHS Booster Club, and Panther Celebration Committee. Also, I served as the past President of the Pflugerville Circle of Friends/Circle of Giving, the Little League Board and on the Relay for Life Leadership Team."

Furthermore, Mrs. Gee has dedicated four decades to education. She has gained experience in public rural, suburban, and urban

schools as well as private schools. Moreover, Gee has held various leadership roles at the campus and district level, as an assistant principal, principal, and executive leader. The last position she held while employed by Pflugerville ISD was Assistant Superintendent of the Pflugerville Learning community. "In this role, I had direct oversight of Pflugerville High School, all its feeder schools and Provan Alternative

School," mentioned Cindy Gee.

Finally, Mrs. Gee has been a very active member of the community, serving member of St. Elizabeth Church, in a number of ministries. Mrs. Gee has been dedicated to serving the community in which she lives and the children who are its most valuable resource. Finally, She is a student advocate who will put the needs of children at the center of every decision.

The African Diaspora Responds to COVID-19

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon VILLAGER Columnist



Drissa Compaore

VILLAGER NEWS - Over the past days, all regions of the African continent have seen a drastic increase in its COVID-19 cases. Throughout West Africa, countries like Senegal, Togo, Mali, Nigeria, and others have seen their cases double. However, Burkina Faso is more of the hardest-hit country in West Africa. As a result, its Diaspora living in the United States has sought to make a difference.

According to Jan,

"Burkina Faso is the hardest hit of the sub-Saharan African countries, and here containment and treatment are complicated by war with terrorism and a refugee crisis. In a worst-case scenario, we could see fatality rates five to ten times higher than the global average." As a result, the Burkinabe community believes they must move fast to curve the growth of COVID-19.

According to Drissa and Michael, "we are launching a campaign

today because the time is serious. The country needs us! As I write to you, our health care workers on the front line in emergency rooms and intensive care units are lacking masks and protective equipment against the COVID-19. With your participation, we will remain very active in raising awareness of our people, and your contributions will allow us to materialize our support for caregivers and affected people to avoid the worst in Burkina Faso."

Trump Officials Weigh Reopening Obamacare Enrollment



Defender News Service - The Trump administration is considering whether to create a special enrollment period for Obamacare coverage because of the coronavirus emergency, a CMS spokesperson confirmed.

A number of Democratic-leaning states that run their own health insurance marketplaces have recently reopened enrollment, encouraging uninsured residents to get covered amid the pandemic. Most states, however, use the federal marketplace overseen by the Trump administra-

tion, HealthCare.gov.

Major health insurance lobbies on Friday said they would support reopening enrollment in Obamacare markets if the government covered anticipated losses, despite some initial reluctance. Some insurers feared getting saddled with huge costs if many coronavirus patients signed up for coverage.

The insurer lobbies, America's Health Insurance Plans and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, called on Congress this week to include fund-

ing in the upcoming coronavirus stimulus package to offset potential losses from covering more people.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the administration was weighing a special enrollment period.

A spokesperson for CMS, which oversees the insurance marketplaces, said people should also check HealthCare.gov to see if they already qualify for a special enrollment period because they lost their job or other circumstances.

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Symptoms and Testing Information

Q: How is COVID-19 testing conducted in Austin-Travis County?

A: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) lab in Austin is now capable of completing COVID-19 testing, along with private labs. If you are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, avoid the risk of spread at clinics and hospitals by using telehealth or calling your health provider. Your physician will determine if there is another plausible diagnosis with similar symptoms (i.e. influenza).

For suspected COVID-19 cases, your doctor will fill out a form. Austin Public Health will use this information to assess risk and criteria to determine whether a test is appropriate. You will be notified on whether you qualify for a test and will be provided with a test-site location. Until then, stay at home and self-distance.

<http://austintexas.gov/article/covid-19-information-those-who-are-sick>