COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear friends:

My heart is breaking for all those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 and I wish you and your family members well in the days ahead.

The impact of COVID-19 on Wayne County has been devastating, but I want you to know that we on the Wayne County Commission have been working hard to ease its impact.

Realizing the disproportionate effect this pandemic has had upon African Americans, we continue to fight for equality in testing, treatment and care.

We have also fought for a greater county role in nursing home inspections to better protect our most vulnerable residents.

In addition, county health officials are working hard every day to assure our first responders have the protective equipment they need to safely perform their duties. Protecting our first responders is something I take very seriously as Chair of the commission’s Committee on Public Safety, Judiciary and Homeland Security.

The economic impact of COVID-19 has been devastating as well, but we have worked hard to help our local businesses. Through a partnership with TCF Bank, we also provided an additional $2 million in financial aid for our county’s small businesses. That raised the total amount available to $14 million.

Yet, COVID-19 has also dealt a severe blow to county finances. We are grappling with a projected $152 million deficit for the current budget year, which expires September 30, and additional losses are projected over the next several budget years. We must take tough action, but we are working to keep essential county services in place and minimize the impact of furloughs on our valued county employees.

These are unprecedented times, but by working together we will meet today’s challenges and those to come. Please continue to practice social distancing and to follow all health-related orders to keep COVID-19 from spreading.

You can call or email me with your concerns and I will continue to keep you updated on county issues through my Facebook page.

Stay safe,

Irma Clark-Coleman
District 5
Commissioner Clark-Coleman provides lunch for community’s hard-working first responders

Wayne County Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman showed her heartfelt appreciation for the heroic work of first responders from her district with a delicious boxed luncheon served from Table No. 2, located on Livernois’ Avenue of Fashion. The luncheon was held April 27 in appreciation for the heroic efforts by police, fire and EMS personnel.

“It makes me feel good to tip off this project and say ‘Thank You’ to the professionals who go to work everyday to keep us safe,” Commissioner Clark-Coleman said. “They are the ones who put their lives on the line and I wanted to show them that we appreciate everything they do. Also, it shows support for our small businesses, including Table No. 2, which have suffered greatly during this lockdown.”

The event was held in cooperation with the Livernois Avenue of Fashion Business Association and University Commonwealth.

Commission meetings continue on Zoom app

Due to stay in place orders involving the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wayne County Commission is continuing to hold its meetings by teleconference until further notice.

The public can participate in the meetings, as they occur, via the Zoom app. Zoom can be accessed via computer, tablet or smartphone. Individuals can join meetings by visiting https://zoom.us/j/8599664354 and dialing (312) 626-6799. The meeting ID number is contained on the meeting agenda. Meeting agendas are available on the county webpage, www.waynecounty.com. Zoom also allows the public to comment and ask questions.

Meetings are held in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act and under the commission’s standard rules of order.

Guidelines for re-opening businesses continue

While stay-in-place orders remain in effect throughout Michigan, staff members from the Wayne County Economic Development Department and Public Health Division are working on guidance agreement guidelines to protect staff and customers once businesses and government offices re-open.

Though details have yet to be finalized, guidelines being discussed include:

• Remote work arrangements.
• Environmental cleaning and disinfection.
• Personal protective equipment (PPE) and social distancing for employees.
• Social distancing for customers.

Other guidelines being discussed include rotating work schedules to maintain social distancing and employee screening procedures, including taking temperatures.
COVID-19 poses concerns for African Americans

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, health officials have noted that African Americans appear to face greater risk for infection and death.

Recent statistics from the State of Michigan show that African Americans account for at least one-third of those hospitalized for COVID-19 as well as 40 percent of those who have lost their lives.

Under those state statistics, Detroit accounts for just under 30 percent of all cases and slightly more than one-quarter of all fatalities.

Testing sites are now available

Testing criteria for COVID-19 has been expanded in Michigan and now includes individuals with mild symptoms and essential workers still reporting to their regular workplace, whether or not they are experiencing any symptoms. COVID-19 testing is available at many sites throughout Wayne County. Testing procedures vary by site. Please call the testing site or your health care provider before you seek to be tested.

Detroit-area testing sites include:

PHARMACIES
- Walgreens, 11516 Grand River Ave., Detroit.
  Take an online assessment to determine your eligibility for testing at www.walgreens.com/coronavirus and, if qualified, you will be directed to select a location and appointment time for testing.

HEALTH PROVIDERS
- Central City Integrated Health, 10 Peterboro Street, Detroit (313) 578-6123.
  Patients are assessed in person upon arrival. Those without symptoms are referred to schedule a telemedicine appointment with CCIH. Those with symptoms will be tested onsite. Patients can also contact CCIH by phone where a similar process will occur.
- Coronavirus Community Care Network, 778 W. State Fair Ave.
  Free testing is by appointment only. Patients need to first get a doctor’s order and then either the doctor or the patient can call (313) 230-0505 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday to schedule the appointment.
- Community Health & Social Services (CHASS) Center – 5635 W. Fort Street.
  If you would like to schedule an appointment for COVID-19 testing please call CHASS Center at (313) 849-3920 and press 0 when prompted. You must call for an appointment. No drive-ups or walk-ins

HOSPITALS
- Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.
  If you have a fever, cough or other respiratory symptoms, please call (833) 981-0738 prior to visiting one of our Ascension facilities, so you can be screened by a nursing professional.
- Henry Ford Hospital
  Established Henry Ford Health System patients who have symptoms of COVID-19, can call the Henry Ford Health System COVID Hotline at (313) 874-1055 for advice and next steps on how to get tested.

The website WebMD recently published a report indicating that health experts believe several factors could place African Americans at greater risk.

These factors include poverty, access to adequate medical care, lack of opportunity to work from home and underlying health factors, including obesity and diabetes. Also, African Americans must take extra care in following such practices as social distancing, extended hand washing and sanitizing and using protective masks and gloves in slowing the spread.

Everyone needs to be counted in 2020 Census

If you have yet to complete your 2020 Census form, please take the time to fill out the information as it is vitally important in determining everything from how much federal revenue Wayne County will receive to how county, state and U.S. Congressional districts are drawn.

You can respond to receiving the Census form in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail.

Beginning this month and continuing through July, homes that haven’t responded to the 2020 Census will be contacted by a Census taker to make sure everyone is counted.

In December, the Census Bureau is scheduled to deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

Please take time to respond to the census and make sure your friends and neighbors respond as well.

Everyone must be counted!
Irma Clark-Coleman
DISTRICT 5
500 GRISWOLD, 7TH FLOOR
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

Slowing the spread of COVID-19

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) #SlowTheSpread

Symptoms

- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Cough

Prevention

- Stay home if sick
- Cover mouth with elbow when sneezing or coughing
- Wash your hands frequently
- Call your doctor immediately if symptoms appear

Questions about COVID-19? Call 2-1-1 or (734) 287-7870