

# Community UP date

for over 20 years

**Thursday, MARCH 26 2020**

We continue to be successful because of the contributions of our readers!  
Thank you for sharing our email and your ideas.  
We appreciate your support!

**Thursday, March 26 is Make Up Your Own Holiday | National Spinach Day**

**Friday, March 27 is National "Joe" Day |**

**Saturday, March 28 is Something on a Stick Day | Weed Appreciation Day**

**Sunday, March 29 is Smoke and Mirrors Day |**

**National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day (they need us now!)**

**Monday, March 30 is I am in Control Day (don't kid yourself) |**

**Take a Walk in the Park Day (physical distancing) |**

**National Doctor's Day**

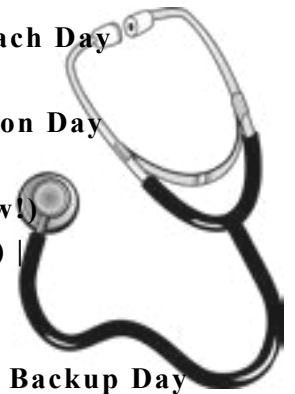
**Tuesday, March 31 is Bunsen Burner Day | National Crayon Day | World Backup Day**

**Wednesday April 1 is April Fool's Day | Athiest Day | International Fun At Work Day |**

**National Sourdough Bread Day | National Walking Day | World Autism Day**

**Thursday, April 2 is Children's Book Day | National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day |**

**National Ferret Day | National Burrito Day**



## **March is**

**Poetry Month, Umbrella Month, Craft Month, National Irish American Heritage Month**

Birth Flower: Violet | Daffodil

March 21 to April 19 - Aries

Birthstone: Amethyst | Bloodstone



# NEWS CORNER

**Because things are changing by the minute, I hesitate to bring you links to articles.  
Information becomes outdated immediately.  
Since you are home today, try googling your favorite news sources for the most recent info!**

**[PRESIDENT TRUMP DECLARES MAJOR DISASTER IN TEXAS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS](#)**

**[Tax Day moved to July in the wake of coronavirus crisis](#)**

**[Walmart, Dollar Tree and 7-Eleven want to hire nearly 200,000 workers as the coronavirus pandemic continues](#)**

**Try Kissing a Baby From Six Feet Away!**

**[Gov. Abbott OKs More Patients in a Hospital Room, Declines to Order Shelter in Place](#)**

**A man ran the length of a marathon  
on his 23-foot-long balcony during France's coronavirus lockdown**

Shelter-in-place orders typically signify that residents should not leave their homes at all costs, whereas a stay-at-home order allows for some leniency.

Remote islands swamped by people trying to escape coronavirus. The most extreme form of social distancing.

The IOC announced a first-of-its-kind postponement of the Summer Olympics on Tuesday, bowing to the realities of a coronavirus pandemic that is shutting down daily life around the globe and making planning for a massive worldwide gathering in July a virtual impossibility.

**[Opening day for Sugar Land Skeeters baseball team postponed](#)**

**The virus doesn't care who you are: Prince Charles tests positive for coronavirus**

Health care workers across the US are begging for more supplies, specifically respirator masks. The shortage has gotten so bad that people are sewing masks to send to hospitals as a stopgap.

**In case you missed this:  
[Country music legend Kenny Rogers dies at 81](#)**

**[How the Coronavirus Could Reshape the Debate on Traffic in Houston](#)**

**LOCAL**

**STATE**

**SPORTS, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT**

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**HEALTH & LIFESTYLE**



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carefully chosen wines to grass fed  
meats, we offer nothing but the best.

281-242-4186

Check out our Special Events  
Calendar by clicking on our logo.

2865 Dulles Avenue, Missouri City, Texas 77459



Are your elderly parents/grandparents in  
need of assistance?  
The Angels at Visiting Angels are happy to help you.  
What a great gift to yourself!  
281-207-1259

**25-MINUTE  
INDIAN HEAD  
MASSAGE  
\$20.00**

Call or Text Emma  
281-658-6681  
Reiki Room, Missouri City



When possible, our graphics are "hot links" -  
click on them to learn more!

**Fort Bend County is under a STAY AT HOME order**  
**[Read the order HERE.](#)**

**The County has initiated a new web site to keep us informed.**  
**[See it HERE](#)**

**During your down time, PLEASE fill out the Census Survey  
you recently received in the mail!**  
**You may fill in the file and mail it back, fill it in on-line, or call them.**  
**All of the information is available on your survey form.**

**[2020 Census Information](#)**

**[59 Language guides](#)**

**[13 Language Specific Customer Questionnaire Assistance Lines](#)**

### SUGAR LAND



#### **Sugar Land Parks Guidelines – March 24, 2020**

We appreciate the physical and mental health benefits that parks help provide, and we also recognize the need to prevent the spread of COVID-19. With this in mind, the following guidelines have been put in place. While we want our community to continue to use our parks and trails, failure to comply with the below guidelines may result in further park closures.

- All park playgrounds and restrooms are closed until further notice.
- The virus can stay on surfaces for several hours and playgrounds and restrooms cannot be constantly disinfected.
- The Pawm Springs Dog Park at Memorial Park and the skate park at City Park are closed until further notice.
- Additionally, the following park amenities are closed until further notice:
  - o Picnic pavilions and all picnicking facilities
  - o Park benches

#### **Solid Waste, Recycling, Green Waste and Textile Collection Updates – March 24, 2020**

##### Textile collection update

Simple Recycling provides textile collection to all residents, including those in Greatwood. Effective immediately, textile collection services for all City residents will be suspended until further notice.

##### **Important solid waste program update for Republic Services customers:**

Republic Services is experiencing an increase in the amount of residential solid waste as a result of residents spending more time at home. In an effort to mitigate these increases, while facing the challenges and limitations created by COVID-19, the following modifications will take effect Monday, March 30, 2020 and will remain in place until further notice. These modifications are temporary and full collection services will be restored as quickly as possible.

Bulky waste will be suspended until further notice.

- o Drinking fountains
- o Basketball courts
- o Tennis courts
- o Outdoor fitness equipment
- The city's two splash pads were scheduled to open in April; however, they will remain closed until further notice.
- Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting any symptoms.
- Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to and during use of parks or trails.
- Follow CDC guidance on the recommended size of social gatherings including outdoor picnicking; pick-up sports games including but not limited to soccer, softball and volleyball; play dates and other group hangouts; and maintain proper physical distance at all times.
- Observe CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of 6 feet from other individuals at all times. If this is not possible, users should find an alternate location or depart that space.
- While on trails, warn other users of your presence and step aside to let others pass.

All other collection services will continue to run according to schedule with the following changes:

- Residents should continue placing their recycling and garbage carts out for service according to their normal collection schedule; however, due to the need to reallocate collection resources, recyclable material will not be recycled at this time. As this is a temporary change, we encourage residents to continue practicing good recycling habits to ensure a seamless transition once normal operations resume.
- Green waste collection will continue, however we anticipate delays in service. By taking the following steps, residents can help minimize these delays:
  - o Mulch leaves and grass clippings instead of bagging them for disposal.
  - o Limit the amount of pruning and aesthetic tree trimming to only what's essential.
  - o If utilizing a landscape company, ensure that all green waste is collected and hauled off by the contractor.

We will send information regarding any delays to the impacted areas through Nextdoor. Should your items not be collected by 7pm on your regularly scheduled day, please first check Nextdoor for any service notifications prior to calling 3-1-1 or 281-275- 2900.



**Stay Home Orders Issued for Fort Bend & Harris Counties;  
Additional MCTX City Facilities to Close Through April 3**

As the world continues to fight the Coronavirus pandemic, MCTX is monitoring the trajectory of the cases in our region and is working closely with local, state and national officials to implement proactive measures to ensure the safety of our residents.

Fort Bend County announced its “Stay Home to Save Lives” order which will go into effect through 11:59 p.m. Friday, April 3. Harris County issued a similar order “Stay Home, Work Safe”. Both orders mandate that citizens:

Stay home and work safe at their place of residence

Leave their residences only for essential activities

Follow social distancing of at least six feet if using outdoor spaces like parks, grocery stores

The orders also:

Prohibit all public or private gatherings of any number of people

Close all businesses other than those that fall under essential businesses which includes, healthcare operations, government functions, critical functions and retail stores.

Allow restaurants to continue to provide take out, delivery, or drive-thru services.

Encourage religious and worship centers to provide video or teleconference services and limit staff to 10 people or less.

To get additional details and read the full orders, click on the links below:

[Fort Bend County](#) - [Harris County](#) -

To ensure safety of our employees and residents, Missouri City is implementing the following changes in operations and is closing City facilities.

City Hall Complex: Effective tomorrow, Wednesday March 25, all City Hall offices located at 1522 Texas Pkwy., will be closed to the public through April 3. This includes:

City Hall Front Lobby: Even though the lobby

is closed, residents still have the option to make payments. For solid waste, they may be made with checks or money orders via mail or using a debit/credit card over the phone. For alarm permits, they may be made via mail, using a debit/credit card online or over the phone. To learn more, [click this link](#): For additional details, please call 281.403.8500.

Inspections & Permits:

Effective immediately, all pre-development meeting requests are temporarily suspended, and all in-home inspections and interior remodels are postponed. Exterior remodels, re-roof, window, siding replacement, patio covers and outdoor kitchens may continue while maintaining “social distancing” practices.

All applicants are encouraged to submit plans and certain permit applications using the online permitting system, Citizen Self Service, or via email to: [planning@missouricitytx.gov](mailto:planning@missouricitytx.gov), [developmentsservices-psr@missouricitytx.gov](mailto:developmentsservices-psr@missouricitytx.gov).

Inspection requests may be made by calling 281-403-8551 (commercial); 281-403-4390 (residential); 281-403-4311 (fire inspection) or by emailing: [developmentsservices-psr@missouricitytx.gov](mailto:developmentsservices-psr@missouricitytx.gov) or using Citizen Self Service.

The next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8.

To learn more about the submission process, the Citizen Self Service online portal, fire inspection requests, current capital improvement projects and more, [click this link](#).

Human Resources: For questions please call, 281.403.8500.

Community Center, Visitors Center and Old Municipal Courtroom: Will continue to be closed until Monday, April 13.

Animal Shelter: The shelter located at 1923 Scanlin Rd., will continue to schedule visitations by appointment only. Trap loans will be suspended at this time. For questions, please call 281.403.8707.

Recreation & Tennis Center: The Center located at 2701 Cypress Point Dr. will be closed until Monday, April 13. For questions on registered events and refunds, please call **281.403.8637**.

City Parks: All parks are still open to public. Existing pavilion rentals will not be cancelled. Residents are advised to stay 6 feet away from individuals; and to not use any playground equipment, benches or other structures. All bathrooms will be closed as well.

# KATY



[Register Here To Receive Emergency Alerts From The City](#)

[Click Here for COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)

We understand that due to the current situation, residents are going to have more trash to dispose of. This is a reminder that trash **cannot** be discarded in your recycling bin - please DO NOT do so as it contaminates an entire truckload. The City of Katy wants to be able to continue our recycling services for our residents, but we will be forced to stop if our contamination rate is too high. If you need another garbage bin, an additional bin can be provided by Republic Services by filling out and [emailing in this form](#).

Due to the risk of the rapid spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in response to the Harris County and Fort Bend County Stay-At-Home and Work Safe Orders adopted today the City of Katy will be making the following changes to our parks:

- Close off public access of playgrounds, bathrooms, basketball courts, tennis courts and pavilions.
- Place social distancing signs at park facilities that remain open to the public.
- Close the Katy Dog Park due to the lack of enforcement of social distancing guidelines. (Alternative parks to walk your dog on leash – Town Park, VFW Park and Thomas Park)

While the majority of our parks will remain open at this time, we urge that if you are going to utilize the City Parks to practice six feet (6') of social distancing and proper hygiene practices at all time.

[View the complete Harris County Stay-At-Home and Work Safe Order here.](#)

[View the complete Fort Bend County Stay-At-Home and Work Safe Order here.](#)

**Due to COVID-19 the Katy Municipal Court has cancelled the Safe Harbor Court Date scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2020.**

# FULSHEAR

The Fort Bend County Judge, K.P. George, has issued a 'STAY HOME TO SAVE LIVES' order, mandating all residents' stay at home until 11:59 pm on April 3, 2020, unless extended.

All individuals living within Fort Bend County are ordered to stay at their homes unless they are leaving for essential activities, essential government functions or to operate essential businesses.

**You may still go to the grocery store and restaurants ("to-go" and curbside, orders only) exercise outside and go to work at businesses considered essential.**

[YOU CAN SEE THE FULL ORDER and which businesses are considered essential here or visit website here.](#)

Remember, the earlier these measures are taken, the more time we will have to stop the spread of COVID-19. Stay home, avoid others, and wash your hands often.

Stay Strong, Stay Safe Fulshear.

During this time of social distancing and self quarantine one thing still stands true, WATER still flows!

According to the World Health Organization, "the presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low."

EPA's drinking water regulations require treatment at public water systems to remove or kill pathogens, including viruses.

[More CDC information is available here.](#)

[More EPA information is available here.](#)

[Employee at Amazon facility near Katy tests positive for coronavirus](#)



## Local News by City

# RICHMOND

Food Truck Friday

Food Fiend Food Truck

**NO FOOD TRUCK THIS WEEK**

Richmond Central Fire Station  
200 Houston St, Richmond  
[Facebook](#)

## Richmond Wastewater Representatives Warn of Clogged Pipes and Sewer System

We appreciate that citizens are following guidelines with use of wipes and disinfecting surfaces with paper towels; however, we need to remind everyone wipes and paper towels cannot be flushed down toilets because they clog the sewage system. Even flushable wipes are not flushable- they do not break down in the pipes like they are advertised to do.

People nationwide, including in Richmond Texas, are having to use other products due to shortage on toilet paper, so we need to realize none of these other products can go into the toilets. Anything other than toilet paper needs to go into a trash bag- not the toilet. Wastewater representatives are educating us that even facial wipes don't break down like toilet paper and can add to clogged pipes. Keep a trash bag in your bathroom and put all other products into the trash bags.

Let us all do our part and keep our pipes unclogged and our sewage system operating properly for everyone. Wastewater treatment professionals are reminding us all by using the hashtag #WipesClogPipes.

## The Third Amended Updated Order by Mayor Evalyn Moore effective through April 3, 2020 11:59 pm [on the City website](#).

These orders are set forth for all individuals currently living within Richmond are ordered to Stay at Home and Work Safe at their place of residence.

[See full orders here.](#)



## Frequent Questions to Richmond's Stay At Home Order

This action orders the following:

- All individuals currently living within the City of Richmond to remain at their place of residence unless engaging in essential business.
- All businesses, except essential businesses should cease all activities at facilities located within the City of Richmond
- All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single house or living unit are prohibited
- Restaurants may only provide take-out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law.
- Religious and worship services may only be provided by video and teleconferencing while limiting in-person staff to ten people or less
- All elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures are prohibited anywhere in the City of Richmond.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I still go to the grocery store?

Shopping for groceries would be considered an essential activity and should be done during store hours.

2. My business delivers to restaurants in the Richmond/Rosenberg area, can I work?

Businesses that supply other essential businesses with support or supplies needed to operate, including employment agencies are allowed to operate.

3. If we are we going under lockdown at midnight and I have to go to work in the morning, what should I do? If you are not performing an essential activity or reporting to a business that has been identified as essential in the "Stay at Home Order", then we are asking that you remain at home so that we limit the number of possible exposures.

## Local News by City

# ROSENBERG

Based on the Fort Bend County “Stay Home to Save Lives Order” **all public playgrounds in Rosenberg are now closed until further notice.**

While our parks are still open, **the playgrounds are closed at this time.**

Please, if you use the parks follow social distancing guidelines and avoid large gatherings. If you have any questions contact the Fort Bend County Health and Human Services CV-19 hotline (281) 633-7795. Stay safe friends.

### **Don't forget to support local businesses!**

This is a tough time for all of us, especially local businesses trying to stay open and support their staff. Even though the dine in option is closed, many restaurants are still open and ready to serve. Don't forget about them!

### **City of Rosenberg Facility Closure Notice**

Effective Monday, March 23 several City facilities will be closed to the public. City staff will remain available to respond to questions or requests and we encourage all City business to be conducted online, by email or by phone.

[For complete details, click here](#)

Restaurants and other establishments that serve food, with or without drive-up or drive-through services and microbreweries, micro-distilleries or wineries may only provide take-out, delivery or drive-through services as allowed by law.

All bars, adult entertainment establishments and other business establishments that serve alcohol and do not serve food shall close, including nightclubs, lounges, taverns, arcades, private clubs, athletic facilities and gyms.

This is in effect until 11:59p on April 1, 2020 unless otherwise modified. This applies to all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Fort Bend County.

By now many of you have received invitations in the mail to complete the 2020 Census. Your response shapes decisions about how more than **\$675 billion** in federal funding is distributed annually to local communities, like ours, to support schools, fire and emergency services, and healthcare.

While the Census continues to make adjustments based on the coronavirus outbreak, it is important to remember that you can complete the Census online from the safety of your home [by going here.](#)

In addition, it can be completed by phone or by mail. Filling out the 2020 Census is quick, easy, safe, and ensures that all of us are counted.

You can learn more about [the U.S. Census Bureau's response to COVID-19 here.](#)

### **Rosenberg Mayor William Benton Signs Order Restricting Access and Ingress to City for Commercial Bus Lines**

The order serves to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community by limiting the access and ingress to the City of Rosenberg for the safety of individuals. Persons traveling by way of commercial bus lines may travel through the city of Rosenberg, but shall not be allowed to disembark from any such commercial bus lines anywhere within the corporate limits of the city of Rosenberg. However; people are not prohibited from embarking on commercial bus lines from within the corporate limits of the city of Rosenberg.

The Dollar Tree Distribution Center on Spur 10 should be completed by the summer of 2020. They will create more than 300 jobs.





# LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## FORT BEND ISD

[FBISD School Board May election has been postponed until November](#)



Starting Wednesday, March 25, Fort Bend ISD will expand its free takeout services to 12 more schools.

Remember that food is for any child 18 years old or under, and also for children with disabilities, regardless of their age.

## KATY ISD

We are helping do our part to “flatten the curve” by closing Katy ISD facilities (including outdoor areas) and restricting access to essential staff only.

Online Learning and Grab N’Go meals will remain in place as scheduled during this order. We’ve got this, Katy ISD!

[Visit our Health Update web page for more info,](#)



### Technology Device Pick-Up:

Beginning this Friday (3/27), all student device pickups will relocate from campuses to the District Administration building, the ESC.

Starting March 27 all scheduled device pickups will be at the ESC. You must fill out the form and come only during your pick-up time.

[Click here for more information](#)

## LAMAR CONSOLIDATED

### Fort Bend County Stay-at-Home Order

On March 24, 2020, the Fort Bend County Judge issued a Stay-At-Home order for all of Fort Bend County effective until April 3, 2020.

[The order can be viewed here.](#)

This order includes an exemption for essential government functions—which includes Lamar CISD. This means that much of the work of Lamar CISD is essential and will continue while the Stay-At-Home order is in place. Learn more [on the COVID-19 webpage.](#)



Lamar CISD is adding two additional meal sites this week at Seguin Early Childhood Center and the Kendleton Park and Ride.

[Learn About Remote Learning and Check out the full list of meal sites here:](#)

# STAFFORD MUNICIPAL



**Stafford MSD is going online!**

Click the link below to access our Virtual Learning Website. A hub for parents, students, and educators to access a wealth of online resources and tools!

[Click Here](#)



Most graphics in the UPdate  
are hotlinks.  
Simply click on the graphic  
for more information.



## **NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Lots of ways to contribute (in addition to money!)  
Here's a couple off the top of my head.**

**Write cards and letters to the doctors and nurses at your closest hospital  
Let them know how much you appreciate that they are up giving their safety, security and time  
(and physical distancing) to keep us healthy!**

**Purchase a meal for first responders - drop it off at your local  
police department, fire department, hospital.  
Let them know they are appreciated.**

**Crafters: make face masks for friends and neighbors taking care of family at home.  
There are patterns on-line and instructions are available.**

**Cut an elderly neighbor's grass.  
Make a grocery or drug store run for an elderly or medically compromised neighbor.  
Ask them what they need right now. Or just call and check up on them.**

**Blood donations are sorely needed.**

**Offer to teach a lesson to a neighbor's middle/high schooler in a subject you are strong in.  
(This can be done totally remotely!)**

**Reach out to a local political candidate and offer to write postcards or  
make phone calls for his/her campaign.**

**Set up a book exchange in your neighborhood.**

**Support a local restaurant or small business**

**#WeCanDoThis #MaintainThe6FootDistance**

## A Partial List of the Non-Profits Serving Fort Bend County residents

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) | ADL.org  
Access Health | MyAccessHealth.org  
Asians Against Domestic Abuse | AADAinc.org  
Behind The Badge Charities | BehindTheBadgeCharities.org  
Child Advocates of Fort Bend (CAFB) | CAFB.org  
East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry | HumanNeeds.org  
Fort Bend CARES | FortBendCares.org  
FB Habitat for Humanity | FortBendHabitat.org/

Fort Bend Rainbow Room | FBRR.org  
Fort Bend Regional Council | FortBendCouncil.org  
Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels | FortBendSeniors.org  
Fort Bend Women's Center | Fbwc.org  
Hope For Three | HopeForThree.org  
Literacy Council of Fort Bend | ftbendliteracy.org  
Parks Youth Ranch | ParksYouthRanch.org  
Texana | TexanaCenter.com  
The ARC of Fort Bend County | arcoffortbend.org

Not only do these non -profits need financial donations, they would love to have your personal involvement.  
You can make a difference in the lives of so many.  
Please get involved!

## SNEAK PEEK @ UPCOMING EVENTS

### *What events?*

These are scary times at best, especially for those of us who are elderly or immuno-compromised. The world is in crisis, and face it, even the medical community is stymied by what to do about it. Politicians, while we normally look to them for leadership, are as confused and overwhelmed as we are.

The emotional toll on each and every one of us is significant, at a time when we are most isolated. And our reactions vary from one individual to another. Some of us are still in denial, blaming the media for blowing the virus out of proportion. Others are ready to lay blame on the first person who moves. Some of us LOVE being alone, while others are about to go stark raving mad.

As I mentioned before, there will be plenty of time to BLAME people. How about we pull together and try to help one another through this.

Maybe this virus is a good reminder of what that disasters do not limit themselves to Democrats or Republicans; Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus (any other religion). They don't ignore atheists or agnostics. They don't care what your beliefs are, nor, obviously where in the world you live.

What I, personally, would love to see is an awakening. An awakening of c-o-m-m-u-n-i-t-y. Let's forget about our differences and celebrate our humanity.

If you are enjoying the solitude, please continue. Turn off your devices and pick up a book, do a jigsaw puzzle, listen to your favorite music, learn a new hobby, write letters to old friends.....the list goes on.

If you miss the company of others, make yourself a cup of coffee and call a friend. Facetiming calms fears and keeps your memory alive in the minds of your family, friends and neighbors. AND, you can make those calls while still in your pjs.

Just last week, I attended my first virtual wedding. It was a group event, so I saw and heard others. It reminded me that I can create an "event" upon a whim.

My wish for each of you is that you find some peace and, given the circumstances, some measure of happiness.

STAY HOME - STAY SAFE

*Sue*

Last Week I Received This Notification From The FBI - I feel it is worth sharing:

## **FBI SEES RISE IN FRAUD SCHEMES RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

Scammers are leveraging the COVID-19 pandemic to steal your money, your personal information, or both. Don't let them. Protect yourself and do your research before clicking on links purporting to provide information on the virus; donating to a charity online or through social media; contributing to a crowdfunding campaign; purchasing products online; or giving up your personal information in order to receive money or other benefits. The FBI advises you to be on the lookout for the following:

**Fake CDC Emails.** Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other organizations claiming to offer information on the virus. Do not click links or open attachments you do not recognize. Fraudsters can use links in emails to deliver malware to your computer to steal personal information or to lock your computer and demand payment. Be wary of websites and apps claiming to track COVID-19 cases worldwide. Criminals are using malicious websites to infect and lock devices until payment is received.

- **Phishing Emails.** Look out for phishing emails asking you to verify your personal information in order to receive an economic stimulus check from the government. While talk of economic stimulus checks has been in the news cycle, government agencies are not sending unsolicited emails seeking your private information in order to send you money. Phishing emails may also claim to be related to:  
Charitable contributions
  - General financial relief
  - Airline carrier refunds
  - Fake cures and vaccines
  - Fake testing kits

**Counterfeit Treatments or Equipment.** Be cautious of anyone selling products that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19. Be alert to counterfeit products such as sanitizing products and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including N95 respirator masks, goggles, full face shields, protective gowns, and gloves.

More information on unapproved or counterfeit PPE can be found at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh). You can also find information on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website, [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov), and the Environmental Protection Agency website, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Report counterfeit products at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) and to the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center at [iprcenter.gov](http://iprcenter.gov).

If you are looking for accurate and up-to-date information on COVID-19, the CDC has posted extensive guidance and information that is updated frequently. The best sources for authoritative information on COVID-19 are [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). You may also consult your primary care physician for guidance.

The FBI is reminding you to always use good cyber hygiene and security measures. By remembering the following tips, you can protect yourself and help stop criminal activity:

- Do not open attachments or click links within emails from senders you don't recognize.
- Do not provide your username, password, date of birth, social security number, financial data, or other personal information in response to an email or robocall.
- Always verify the web address of legitimate websites and manually type them into your browser.
- Check for misspellings or wrong domains within a link (for example, an address that should end in a ".gov" ends in ".com" instead).

If you believe you are the victim of an Internet scam or cyber crime, or if you want to report suspicious activity, please visit the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

Please practice physical distancing! Stay safe and healthy!  
#WeCanDoThis

***Who am I and what am I doing in your inbox?***

If you have received this email directly from **the write idea**, your email address has been added to the Community UPdate's email distribution list. All of our recipients are on the list because they asked or agreed to be added.

If you are receiving this email from someone other than the write idea, you may subscribe to the weekly UPdates by sending an email to: **thewriteidea@windstream.net**.

If you received this from a friend and do not wish to receive future editions, please notify your sender and ask to be removed from his/her list.

If you are receiving the UPdate directly from **the write idea** and no longer wish to receive our emails, we will be very sorry to see you go!  
I would love to hear your feedback so that I can improve.  
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