

A Message From CU-FAIR to all Our Volunteers on our Work During the Current COVID-19 Pandemic

Given the grave crisis created by COVID-19, we need to adopt best practices that optimally protect all of us CU FAIR volunteers. At the same time our solidarity with immigrants is more important than ever. They are especially vulnerable in the coming weeks and months.

For this reason we urge all our volunteers to adopt the following practices:

- In accordance with Governor Pritzker's emergency orders of March 20, restrict physical visits to our clients to those of vital importance for their survival. This primarily means rides for urgent medical care and for food delivery or pick-up.
- Stay in touch with our clients regularly (once a week) through phone calls and text messages.
- Ask our clients whether they have enough to eat for their family, given that many of them are losing their jobs over the next few weeks. If they answer negatively, put them in touch with food banks.
- Ask our clients whether they have enough funds to pay rent. If they answer negatively, assure them that we and other organizations are working on short-term emergency assistance funds. Also assure them that during the emergency no landlord has the right to evict them. We will send them a special message on this by text message.
- Inform our clients about the necessary steps to protect themselves and others from becoming infected: frequent and thorough hand-washing, especially after any contact with others, avoiding to touch the face with hands, keeping a distance of at least 2 meters from persons outside the home, limiting any activity outside the home to the absolutely necessary (buying groceries, medicines, visiting doctors), and avoiding any group gatherings; disinfect hard surfaces (from door knobs [*portapicos* in Spanish] to kitchen counter tops frequently with disinfectant sprays such as Lysol or Borox.
- Use the same precaution for yourself, especially if you are visiting a CU FAIR client. Wipe surfaces in your car (including outdoor handles) with disinfectant sprays after you have driven.
- Spread the word about the enormous crisis many immigrants are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the urgent need for massive private and public aid and relief. Suggest donations to the CU FAIR Immigrant Emergency Aid Fund [[go to www.cu-fair.org](http://www.cu-fair.org)]

Champaign, March 27, 2020

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