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Volume 3 • Issue 8

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Magazine

A close-up portrait of Jennifer Wiggins, a woman with blonde hair and blue eyes, smiling. She is wearing a blue and white patterned top. The background is a warm, golden-brown textured wall.

**JENNIFER
WIGGINS**

CEO of Clear SEM Solutions



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FROM THE EDITOR

By ANGEL CHAVEZ

WHAT KIND OF TREE DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE?

IT IS EXPECTED OF US TO GROW SPIRITUALLY IN ORDER TO BE RECEPTIVE TO HIS GLORY AND BE ABLE TO POUR OUT HIS GLORY INTO OUR WORLD. YES, IT IS POSSIBLE TO GROW FROM GLORY TO GLORY. AND THESE TIMES ARE PERFECT TO SPREAD GOD'S GLORY IN A WORLD THAT IS FULL OF FEAR AND DECAY.

IF WE SPEND DAILY TIME WITH THE FARMERS OF HEAVEN, THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH OUR HEARTS WIDE OPEN IN HIS PRESENCE-HIS WORD; HE WILL SOW PLENTY OF SEED IN OUR HEARTS. WE MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW IT GROWS, BUT WE WILL FIND OURSELVES GIVING THE RIGHT FRUIT.

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 *Corinthians 3:18*

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE VERY LITTLE FAITH? NO WORRIES, LITTLE IS ALL YOU NEED. THE REST IS GOD'S WORK AS SHOWN BY THE FOLLOWING PARABLE:

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED:

"Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade." *Mark 4:30-31*

THESE GLOOMY TIMES ARE PERFECT FOR OUR LONG BRANCHES TO SHOW GOD'S MERCY AND UNDERSTANDING TO THE ONES THAT ARE FALLING BEHIND, PROTECT THE HELPLESS AND MISFORTUNED, HEALING AND DELIVERING THE ONES THAT HAVE FALLEN INTO THE ENEMY'S TRAP.

WE NEED TO BECOME TALL TREES IN THE SPIRITUAL

THE LAW OF THE GROWING SEED. THE SEED IS GOD'S WORD, THE GROUND IS THE CHRISTIAN, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE FARMER.

"Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. *Mark 4:26-28*

continued page 38



CONTENTS

TRADITION • AUGUST 2020 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 8

ON OUR PAGES



5



KIDS

>> All things kids! Advice for parents of kids from 0 to 17. Activities. Nutritional information and more.



10



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

>> Devices and ideas that help to improve our lives. Scientific & technical information. Product reviews.



12



NUTRITION

>> Foods that give us what we need to be healthy and energetic. Diet tips. Recipes.



14



FITNESS

>> Ways to improve your health. Advice and information for an active lifestyle.



16



HEALTH & WELLNESS

>> We show you ways to improve your health mentally and physically. Healthy lifestyles.



26



SENIOR LIVING

>> Tips, information and reviews for those who are over 55 years of age.



30



HOME IMPROVEMENT/REAL ESTATE

>> Advice and information, home construction. Real Estate. Tips for decorating your home and more.



34



WEALTH/LEGAL

>> Ways to manage your hard earned dollars as well as legal advice on a variety of topics.

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MagazineKNOW YOUR LOCAL PROFESSIONALS
REVIEWS | ADVICE | INFORMATIONRETURN TO SCHOOL
DURING COVID-19?

A big question parents have right now is how students can go back to school safely during COVID-19. The latest American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advice says children learn best when they are in school. However, returning to school in person needs careful steps in place to keep students and staff safe.

Ideally, local school leaders, public health experts, educators and parents can work together to decide how and when to reopen schools. These decisions will need to take into account the spread of COVID-19 in the community, as well as whether schools are able to make in-person learning safe. Schools and families should also prepare to go back to virtual learning if COVID cases increase in the community.

Why students should go back to school—safely

The AAP guidance is based on what pediatricians and infectious disease specialists know about COVID-19 and kids. Evidence so

far suggests that children and adolescents are less likely to have symptoms or severe disease from infection. They also appear less likely to become infected or spread the virus.

Schools provide more than just academics to children and adolescents. In addition to reading, writing and math, children learn social and emotional skills, get exercise and access to mental health support and other things that cannot be provided with online learning. For many families, school is where kids get healthy meals, access to the internet, and other vital services.

What schools can do

To stay safe, there are a number of steps schools should take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include:

Physical distancing. The goal should be to stay at least 6 feet apart to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes

continued page 19



FROM THE MAYOR

by GREGORY J. ORAVEC
City of Port St. Lucie
cityofpsl.com

Virtual Hurricane Expo 2020

On behalf of our five-person City Council, 1,100 plus City employees and your more than 200,000 fellow residents, I'd like to invite you to our virtual Hurricane Expo 2020, www.cityofpsl.com/hurricaneexpo.

As you may know, Port St. Lucie's Hurricane Expo is an annual event the City produces to help residents and businesses learn about hurricanes and how we can mitigate, prepare, respond and recover should a hurricane track toward Port St. Lucie, or heaven forbid, make landfall here. We have had some scary near misses in the past couple years, and it hasn't been that long since we were walloped by Frances and Jeanne or flooded by Fay. So, we know many of you are seasoned veterans when it comes to preparing for storms, and we're counting on you to help our newer residents and any neighbors in need get ready, especially this year.

This year's Expo is different than years passed as a result of COVID-19. We couldn't risk an in-person gathering with you,

our special guests, community members and vendors. At the same time, since the need for the Expo, and our shared need to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover for a hurricane, didn't go away, the Expo couldn't go away either. We had to adapt, and we hope that you find the virtual Expo to be of value. In addition to the resources at www.cityofpsl.com/hurricaneexpo, we hope you enjoy the recorded segments with our special guests, which include meteorologists Steve Weagle from WPTV and Mike Lyons from WPBF. The video segments are available here: www.cityofpsl.com/em.

Even though I'd like to wish that Mother Nature would cut us a break, to think that, certainly, we won't get hit by a hurricane this year while we are all dealing with COVID-19, the emergency manager in me and in all of us, reminds us of Murphy's law and that this could very well be the year that the big one doesn't turn at the last minute. This year is the year that we have to be more ready than ever.

In the face of a hurricane, viral pandemic and any other disaster, your team at City Hall wants to make sure you are ready, so that we can survive, recover and thrive. With these goals in mind, let's be as ready as we can be as we enter the heart of the 2020 Hurricane Season. If the City Council and I can be of assistance with your hurricane preparations or anything else, please do not hesitate to call us at 772-871-5159. Please know if disaster strikes and things are at their worst, your can count on your City's emergency response team to be at their best. ♦



FROM THE SHERIFF

by KEN J. MASCARA
St. Lucie County Sheriff
stluciesheriff.com

Join the Eye Watch Program

Does your home or business have exterior security cameras? If so, consider joining our Eye Watch program.

Eye Watch is a web database where residents and businesses with security camera can register so law enforcement can know where sources of video evidence may exist during an investigation.

To strengthen this system, a partnership with RING includes the use of the free Neighbors app to provide residents with real-time, local crime and safety information. The Neighbors network already has millions of users and has been instrumental in catching package thieves, stopping burglaries, and keeping neighborhoods safe.

Any resident of St. Lucie County can download the free Neighbors app, join your neighborhood, and use the app to monitor neighborhood activity, share crime and safety-related videos, photos and text-based posts and receive real-time safety

alerts from your neighbors, local law enforcement and the RING team. For more information visit www.ring.com/neighbors or to download the app go to <https://go.onelink.me/v1xd/stlucie>.

If you have a RING security device, you could help local law enforcement solve crimes. If a crime occurs in your neighborhood, deputies from the Sheriff's Office may contact you through the Neighbors app and request you share video with them that may have captured suspects, vehicles or other important evidence. Sharing that video is as simple as a couple taps on your smartphone or tablet. However, having a RING device is not a requirement in joining the Neighbors network or downloading the app.



Neighbors by Ring

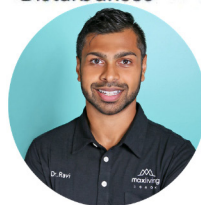
If you don't have a RING device, but do have another brand of security camera, we'd love to know. Go to www.stluciesheriff.com and click on the Eye Watch logo. It takes just a few minutes to complete a short questionnaire and add yourself to our Eye Watch database. This important tool will allow

our detectives to search by an address and see any home or business with a security camera and then contact the owner for permission to review the footage that might help solve a case.

continued page 36



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St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity Dedicates Eighth New Home Built in Partnership with St. Lucie Battery & Tire



Tanya Clayton (center) and her family in front of their new Habitat home.

June 6, 2020 - St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity (SLHFH) is pleased to dedicate the eighth affordable home built in partnership with St. Lucie Battery & Tire (SLBT). Since 2008, SLBT has helped eight St. Lucie County families achieve homeownership through the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program (CCTCP). This program is a State of Florida funded incentive to encourage Florida businesses to make donations toward community development and housing projects for low-income persons, and to date, SLBT's partnership with SLHFH has returned \$516,930.00 in sales tax dollars to our community. With each Habitat home sponsorship, SLBT helps build a better community for all of us.

St. Lucie Habitat's partnership with SLBT originally began as a way to teach high school students valuable construction skills. Now, with each sponsorship, dozens of SLBT team members work alongside Habitat families and volunteer over 200 hours of work on a Habitat home. Painting, landscaping, and raising walls are just a few of the skills SLBT team members bring to the construction site.

The vacant lot that this latest SLHFH/SLBT home was built on is the sixth out of seven lots donated by the City of Port St. Lucie to SLHFH for affordable housing. "We are honored by our St. Lucie Battery & Tire and City of Port St. Lucie partners," said

Melissa Winstead, SLHFH's Development & Marketing Director. "With their help, and the help of like-minded, forward-thinking community members, our community can build back stronger and make the the lack of affordable housing a thing of the past."

For more information about how you and your business can get involved with St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity's work, call Melissa Winstead at 772-464-1117, ext. 103, or email Melissa@StLucieHabitat.org. ♦

About St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity

To date, St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity has built 77 new homes and completed 93 home repairs. St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and since 1996, has worked in St. Lucie County to empower struggling working families who want to achieve homeownership.

Habitat homebuyers help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering, or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through home ownership, we empower. www.stluciehabitat.org.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

SUMMER MAY DECIDE FATE OF LEADING SHOTS IN VACCINE RACE

People on six continents already are getting jabs in the arm as the race for a COVID-19 vaccine enters a defining summer, with even bigger studies poised to prove if any shot really works — and maybe offer a reality check.

Already British and Chinese researchers are chasing the coronavirus beyond their borders, testing potential vaccines in Brazil and the United Arab Emirates because there are too few new infections at home to get clear answers.

The U.S. is set to open the largest trials -- 30,000 people tested a government-created shot in July, followed by this month with another 30,000 expected to test a British one.

Those likely will be divided among Americans and volunteers in other countries such as Brazil or South Africa, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health stated.

While he's optimistic, "we've been burned before," Fauci cautioned.

Multiple successes, in multiple parts of the world, are vital.

"This isn't a race of who gets there first. This is, get as many approved, safe and effective vaccines as you possibly can," Fauci said.

Vaccine experts say it's time to set public expectations. Many scientists don't expect a coronavirus vaccine to be nearly as protective as the measles shot.

If the best COVID-19 vaccine is only 50% effective, "that's still to me a great vaccine," said Dr. Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania.

"We need to start having this conversation now," so people won't be surprised, he added.

And for all the government promises of stockpiling doses in hopes of starting vaccinations by year's end, here's the catch: Even if a shot pans out -- and it's one that your country stockpiled -- only some high-risk people, such as essential workers, go to the front of a very long line.



"Will you and I get vaccinated this year? No way."

"Will you and I get vaccinated this year? No way," said Duke University health economist David Ridley.

THE HOME STRETCH

Vaccines train the body to rapidly recognize and fend off an invading germ. About 15 experimental COVID-19 vaccines are in various stages of human studies worldwide.

And while there's no guarantee any will pan out, moving three different kinds into final testing offers better odds -- especially since scientists don't yet know just how strong an immune reaction the shots must spark to protect.

Measuring that with the first proven vaccine will "really help us understand for all the other vaccines in development, do they also have a chance?" said Oxford University lead researcher Sarah Gilbert.

Only China is pushing out "inactivated" vaccines, made by growing the new coronavirus and killing it. Vaccines by Sinovac Biotech and SinoPharm use that old-fashioned technology, which requires high-security labs to produce but is dependable, the way polio shots and some flu vaccines are made.

Most other vaccines in the pipeline target not the whole germ but a key piece -- the "spike" protein that studs the surface of the coronavirus and helps it invade human cells. Leading candidates use new technologies that make shots faster to produce but haven't yet been proven in people.

Oxford's method: Genetically engineer a chimpanzee cold virus so it won't spread but can carry the gene for that spike protein into just enough cells to trick the immune system that an infection's brewing.

Another vaccine made by the NIH and Moderna Inc. simply injects a piece of the coronavirus genetic code that instructs the body to produce harmless spike copies that the immune system learns to recognize.

CHASING THE VIRUS

Researchers must test thousands of people not where COVID-19 is surging -- because then it's too late -- but where it's smoldering, Fauci said.

Only if the virus starts spreading through a community several weeks after volunteers receive either a vaccine or a dummy shot -- time enough for the immune system to rev up -- do scientists have the best chance at comparing which group had more illness.

Lacking a crystal ball, the NIH has vaccine testing networks in the U.S., South America and South Africa on standby while finalizing decisions on the summer tests.

continued page 25

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How Diet and Nutrition Impact a Child’s Learning Ability

While the intake of food is vital for proper performance, many of the widely available and popular foods in schools today are actually hindering children’s abilities to learn. Loaded with sugars, caffeine, chemicals, and sodium, many popular menu items are leaving kids tired, unfocused, jittery, and sick—which not only impact students’ grades and performance, but also influences their behavior and moods.

Lack of Energy and Focus

According to the Society for Neuroscience, recent studies reveal that diets with high levels of saturated fats actually impair learning and memory. Unfortunately, foods with saturated fats are often the most affordable and widely available in schools. French fries, sugary desserts, cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, and other cafeteria staples are filling kids with food that actually lower their brain power before sending them back to class.

One of the theories that explain the link between saturated fats and brain power is the effects of glucose and sugars in the higher-fat foods. Essentially, glucose comes from carbohydrates, and while glucose is vital for energy, foods that are too high in glucose actually cause a body’s energy levels to drop. As glucose is ingested, the body releases insulin in order to process the newly acquired foods. Normally, after a healthy meal, glucose levels should rise slightly, and a body should feel energized after taking in nutrition.

Today, however, children and adults with high-glucose diets experience a post-food

“crash,” wherein the glucose intake is so high that the body begins to shut down as it processes all of the food. Popular meals in cafeterias for kids often include white and refined breads, fried foods, sugary sweets, and sodas; all of these meal options cause an incredible drop in energy, leading to a terrible drop in energy, focus, and successful mental performance. A regular diet of high glucose can result in damage to kidneys, eyes, blood vessels, and nerves. And while these side effects are serious, high glucose also causes irritability, lethargy, and a lack of focus.

Food Deprivation and Malnutrition

Today, it is estimated that one out of three kids is overweight; surprisingly, both overweight and underweight kids in America may be deemed as malnourished. A lack of proper food intake is known as malnutrition/malnourishment, and it does not only imply that there is a lack of food; moreover, malnutrition signifies a lack of nutrients.

Therefore, while most American children may be taking in a great deal of calories, they may not be taking in any essential vitamins, nutrients, and minerals. This lack in vitamins and minerals leads to detrimental side-effects, according to Mary Gavin from the Nemours Foundation. Children with insufficient diets are reported to have more problems with health, academic learning, and psychosocial behavior.

Malnutrition can result in long-term neural issues in the brain, which can impact a child’s emotional responses, reactions to stress, learning disabilities, and other medical complications. In a specific study, researchers Margaret Lahey and Shari Rosen discovered that, “Malnourished children [...] were found to have delays in vision, fine motors skills, language skills and personal-social skills.” Recently, researchers also discovered that 1/3 of surveyed adolescents actually reported poor food habits, chronic illnesses, and lower school achievements. While foods are often readily available for kids, the foods are actually inhibiting their development. Not only are unhealthy foods proven to impact academia, but research also proves that a poor diet also impacts a child’s attitude and behavior, both in and outside of school.



A Plan to Improve - Research for Lunch Programs

With widespread concern about student performance and health, an initiative called “The Healthy Schools Program” is being incorporated into both public and private schools across the country. The program establishes concrete actions to create healthier school environments by examining systems, policy, school meals, health education, and school programs. With studied standards and incredible support, according to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, “The criteria have been through a scientific review process led by experts at the American Heart Association and the Healthy Schools Program Expert Panel comprised of professionals from numerous national health and education organizations.”

Implementing this program, many schools are banning fast foods, French fries, and chemically processed menu options. Instead, schools are serving whole-grain breads, fruits, vegetables, salads, and lean proteins. Since natural and unprocessed foods provide kids with a lower intake of glucose, kids are leaving the lunchrooms now feeling more energized, less lethargic, and more able to focus. Furthermore, one school with the “Healthy Program” also reported that after serving healthier foods, there was “no discipline problems, no acting out, no violence to speak of,” according to Mercola. Also, since the studied

implementation of healthier school plans in 1997, the “Healthy Schools” across the country report lower incidences of dropouts, expulsions, drug use, weapons, and fighting, with a simultaneous rise in student performance, as grades have also improved and gone up at these schools.

A Plan at Home

To promote healthy eating and brain function outside of school, parents should provide their kids with smaller meals and snacks every three to four hours. Reports reveal that after just thirty minutes, feelings of fatigue and stress drop after a nutritious snack or meal. Providing children with an intake of healthy glucose boosts their energy and improves their focus.

Healthy meals and snacks should consist of natural fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, such as chicken, fish, nuts, and eggs. Also, specific vitamins can be incorporated to target definite functions. For example, to improve memory, individuals should invest foods rich in lecithin, such as peanuts, soy beans, and wheat germ. Potassium also aids in energy and brain functioning, and can be derived from oranges, bananas, apricots, avocados, melons, peaches, and nectarines. Avoiding processed foods, and incorporated natural fare into a daily diet will ultimately promote a healthier body, behavior, and brain power. ♦

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HEAT AND EXERCISE: Keeping Cool in Hot Weather

Here in Florida we are having a very hot summer. Whether you're running, playing a pickup game of basketball or going for a power walk, take care when the temperature rises. If you exercise outdoors in hot weather, use these commonsense precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses.

How heat affects your body

Exercising in hot weather puts extra stress on your body. If you don't take care when exercising in the heat, you risk serious illness. Both the exercise itself and the air temperature and humidity can increase your core body temperature.

To help cool itself, your body sends more blood to circulate through your skin. This leaves less blood for your muscles, which in turn increases your heart rate. If the humidity also is high, your body faces added stress because sweat doesn't readily evaporate from your skin. That pushes your body temperature even higher.

Heat-related illness

Under normal conditions, your skin, blood vessels and perspiration level adjust to the heat. But these natural cooling systems may fail if you're exposed to high temperatures and humidity for too long, you sweat heavily, and you don't drink enough fluids.

The result may be a heat-related illness. Heat-related illnesses occur along a spectrum, starting out mild but worsening if left untreated. Heat illnesses include:

Heat cramps. Heat cramps, sometimes called exercise-associated muscle cramps, are painful muscle contractions that can occur with exercise. Affected muscles may feel firm to the touch. You may feel muscle pain or spasms. Your body temperature may be normal.

Heat syncope and exercise-associated collapse Heat syncope is a feeling of lightheadedness or fainting caused

by high temperatures, often occurring after standing for a long period of time, or standing quickly after sitting for a long period of time. Exercise-associated collapse is feeling lightheaded or fainting immediately after exercising, and it can occur especially if you immediately stop running and stand after a race or a long run.

Heat exhaustion. With heat exhaustion, your body temperature rises as high as 104 F (40 C), and you may experience nausea, vomiting, weakness, headache, fainting, sweating and cold, clammy skin. If left untreated, heat exhaustion can lead to heatstroke.

Heatstroke. Heatstroke is a life-threatening emergency condition that occurs when your body temperature is greater than 104 F (40 C). Your skin may be dry from lack of sweat, or it may be moist.

You may develop confusion, irritability, headache, heart rhythm problems, dizziness, fainting, nausea, vomiting, visual problems and fatigue. You need immediate medical attention to prevent brain damage, organ failure or even death.

Pay attention to warning signs

During hot-weather exercise, watch for signs and symptoms of heat-related illness. If you ignore these symptoms, your condition can worsen, resulting in a medical emergency. Signs and symptoms may include:

Muscle Cramps • Nausea or Vomiting • Weakness • Fatigue
Headache • Excessive Sweating • Dizziness or Lightheaded
Confusion • Irritability • Low Blood Pressure • Visual
Problems • Increased Heart Rate

If you develop any of these symptoms, you must lower your body temperature and get hydrated right away. Stop exercising immediately and get out of the heat. If possible, have someone stay with you who can help monitor your condition.

Measuring core body temperature with a rectal thermometer is essential to accurately determine the degree of heat injury. An oral, ear or forehead thermometer doesn't provide an accurate temperature reading for this purpose. In cases of heatstroke, due to confusion and mental status changes, you won't be able to treat yourself and you'll require emergency medical care. The most effective way of rapid cooling is immersion of your body in a cold- or ice-water tub.

In cases of heat exhaustion, remove extra clothing or sports equipment. Make sure you are around people who can help you and assist in your care. If possible, fan your body or wet down your body with cool water.

You may place cool, wet towels or ice packs on your neck, forehead and under your arms, spray yourself with water from a hose or shower, or sit in a tub filled with cold water. Drink fluids such as water or a sports drink. If you don't feel better within about 20 minutes, seek emergency medical care.

continued next page



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continued page 18

7 Ways Mentally Strong People Deal With Stress

By AMY MORIN

While stress causes some people to crumble, mentally strong people are able to thrive despite added tension. In fact, they view adversity as an opportunity for growth. Whether they're dealing with financial setbacks, health problems, or workplace difficulties, mentally strong people don't let stress drag them down.

Here are seven ways mentally strong people handle stress effectively:

1. They accept that stress is part of life.

While some people waste time and energy thinking things like, "I shouldn't have to deal with this," mentally strong people know that setbacks, problems, and hardships are inevitable. When stressful situations arise, they devote their efforts into doing what they can to move forward. Even when they can't change the circumstances, they know they can always take steps to improve their lives.

2. They keep problems in proper perspective.

Rather than think that a flat tire has the power to ruin their whole day, mentally strong people keep inconveniences in proper perspective. When tempted to catastrophize a minor event — such as thinking one mistake could ruin their whole career — they respond by reframing the message they give themselves, and refuse to allow a pessimistic inner monologue to take hold.

3. They take care of their physical health.

Mentally strong people recognize the importance of keeping their bodies in smooth operating condition. They recognize they won't be able to combat stress if they're worn out and running on empty. They exercise, get plenty of sleep, and maintain a diet that keeps them healthy.

4. They choose healthy coping skills.

While some people turn to alcohol, junk food, or other unhealthy vices to help them escape stress, mentally strong people cope with discomfort in a productive manner. They allow themselves to feel uncomfortable emotions like anxiety, fear, and sadness head-on. They use healthy activities, like going for a walk or participating in a hobby, to cope with emotional pain.

5. They balance social activity with solitude.

Sometimes, in an attempt to avoid facing problems, people fill their schedules with social activities. Others deal with stress by withdrawing from friends and family. Mentally strong people

strike a balance: They maintain a healthy social life even when they're stressed, but they also reserve time to be alone with their thoughts.

6. They acknowledge their choices.

Stress can cause people to feel like victims of bad circumstances. Mentally strong people acknowledge that everything they do, from the time they wake up until the time they go to sleep, is a choice. They're willing to say no to things they don't want to do and they accept responsibility for their behavior.

7. They look for the silver lining.

Mentally strong people don't necessarily see the world through rose-colored glasses—they have a realistic outlook—but they do look for the silver lining in tough circumstances. They recognize that good things can come from stressful situations. Rather than allowing hardship to turn them into bitter people or helpless victims, they choose to use stressful circumstances to become stronger and better. ♦

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heat and exercise cont.

When to see a doctor

If you have signs of heatstroke, you’ll need immediate medical help. If your core temperature is less than 104 F (40 C), but it doesn’t come down quickly, you’ll also need urgent medical attention. In some cases, you may need fluids through intravenous (IV) tubes if you’re not able to drink fluids, or not able to drink enough fluids.

Get cleared by your doctor before you return to exercise if you’ve had heatstroke. Your doctor will likely recommend that you wait to return to exercise or sports until you’re not experiencing symptoms. If you’ve had a heatstroke, you may require many weeks before you are able to exercise at a high level. Once your doctor clears you for exercise, you may begin to exercise for short periods of time and gradually exercise for longer periods as you adjust to the heat.

HOW TO AVOID HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

When you exercise in hot weather, keep these precautions in mind:

Watch the temperature. Pay attention to weather forecasts and heat alerts. Know what the temperature is expected to be for the duration of your planned outdoor activity. In running events, there are “flag” warnings that correspond to the degree of heat and humidity. For example, a yellow flag requires careful monitoring, and races are canceled in black flag conditions.



Get acclimated. If you’re used to exercising indoors or in cooler weather, take it easy at first when you exercise in the heat. It can take at least one to two weeks to adapt to the heat. As your body adapts to the heat over time, gradually increase the length and intensity of your workouts.

Know your fitness level. If you’re unfit or new to exercise, be extra cautious when working out in the heat. Your body may have a lower tolerance to the heat. Reduce your exercise intensity and take frequent breaks.

Drink plenty of fluids. Dehydration is a key factor in heat illness. Help your body sweat and cool down by staying well-hydrated with water. Don’t wait until you’re thirsty to drink fluids.

If you plan to exercise intensely, consider a sports drink instead of water. Sports drinks can replace the sodium, chloride and potassium you lose through sweating. Avoid alcoholic drinks because they can actually promote fluid loss.

Dress appropriately. Lightweight, loosefitting clothing helps sweat evaporate and keeps you cooler. Avoid dark colors, which can absorb heat. If possible, wear a light-colored, wide-brimmed hat.

Avoid midday sun. Exercise in the morning or evening, when it’s likely to be cooler outdoors. If possible, exercise in shady areas, or do a water workout in a pool.

Wear sunscreen. A sunburn decreases your body’s ability to cool itself and increases the risk of skin cancer.

Have a backup plan. If you’re concerned about the heat or humidity, stay indoors. Work out at the gym, walk laps inside the mall or climb stairs inside an air-conditioned building.

Understand your medical risks. Certain medical conditions or medications can increase your risk of a heat-related illness. If you plan to exercise in the heat, talk to your doctor about precautions.

Heat-related illnesses are largely preventable. By taking some basic precautions, your exercise routine doesn’t have to be sidelined when the heat is on. ♦

RETURN TO SCHOOL cont.

COVID-19. However, spacing desks at least 3 feet apart and avoiding close contact may have similar benefits for students--especially if students wear cloth face coverings and do not have symptoms of illness.

Teachers and staff, who are likely more at risk of getting COVID-19 from other adults than from children at school, should stay the full 6 feet apart from each other and students when possible. Teachers and staff should also wear cloth face coverings and limit in-person meetings with other adults.

When possible, outdoor spaces can be used for instruction and meals. Students should also have extra space to spread out during activities like singing and exercising.

Cloth face coverings & hand hygiene. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is important for everyone. In addition, all adults should wear cloth face coverings. Preschool and elementary students can benefit from wearing masks if they do not touch their mouths or noses a lot. Secondary school students should wear cloth face masks, especially when they can’t stay a safe distance apart.

Classroom changes. To help limit student interaction outside the classroom, schools can:

- Have teachers move between classrooms, rather than having students fill the hallways during passing periods.
- Allow students to eat lunches at their desks or in small groups outdoors instead of in crowded lunchrooms.
- Leave classroom doors open to help reduce high touch surfaces such as doorknobs.

Temperature checks and testing. COVID testing of all students is not possible for most schools. Taking students’ temperature at school also may not always be feasible. Schools should establish ways to identify students with fever or other symptoms of illness. They can also frequently remind students,

teachers, and staff to stay home if they have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or have any signs of illness.

Cleaning and disinfecting. Schools should follow CDC guidelines on proper disinfecting and sanitizing classrooms and common areas.

Buses, hallways and playgrounds

Since these are often crowded spaces, schools can:

- Give bus riders assigned seats and require them to wear a cloth face coverings while on the bus. Encourage students who have other ways to get to school to use those options.
- At school, mark hallways and stairs with one-way arrows on the floor to cut down on crowding in the halls.
- Outdoor activities are encouraged, so students should be allowed to use the playground in small groups.

continued page 24

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JENNIFER WIGGINS

CEO OF 

continued on next page

Hi Jennifer, please give us a quick introduction.

I was born in eastern North Carolina. I had a love for business at an early age. When I was in middle school I would buy candy in bulk and then sell it on the school bus ride home. When we had to sell candy/items in school to win a pizza party or prizes I always enjoyed going through my neighborhood and visiting everyone to sell. I think that's when my life of business really started. I later went on to get my business degree and worked in several positions for multiple companies before starting Clear SEM Solutions with my husband.

When and why did you move to Port St Lucie?

My husband and I moved to Port St. Lucie in early 2011. We had started our business a few years before but we wanted to move somewhere that we could really grow the business and have warm weather all year. After visiting Florida several times we knew it was the right place for us. We found Port St. Lucie by accident but we're so glad we did.

How do you like living on the Treasure Coast?

I absolutely love it here. The warm is perfect nearly all year and the sunsets are incredible. I enjoy the variety of wildlife and being so close to everything from the beach to Disney. I think my favorite part though is the people and community. I love to network and be in the community and I have met so many amazing people and organizations. We do a lot of charity work and we give back a lot. It is so rewarding.

Please tell us what you love most about what you do.

Literally everything. I love being able to have a team of amazing employees who work hard and can have fun. I love helping other business owners master the world of digital marketing and help grow their businesses. I love to educate! We educate our clients and our community. We do presentations often to help others learn. And my favorite part is that we are able to give back to our community through sponsorships, volunteering, and fundraising.

What are your plans for the future?

Our plan is to continue to grow. We have several things in the works right now but the biggest and most exciting thing that is coming soon will be a division of our company that will help small business owners get trained in digital marketing. We are also in the process of working with the local schools with their students interested in marketing. I am really excited about our future! ♦

Jennifer Wiggins, CEO
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4 Health Benefits of Marijuana That You May Not Know About



Whether marijuana should be legalized has always been a hot topic in many states throughout the country. Some people want to ban it because they believe that people who smoke weed promote unhealthy lifestyles while others support it because of the medical benefits of the plant. People have been using marijuana as a medicine for a year, and many people are still using it in modern treatments like cancer. There is good scientific evidence that marijuana can help with certain health conditions, but for many medications, the research is still underway. In this article, I have mentioned a few health benefits of marijuana that you may not know about:

Chronic Pain Relief

One of the most common health benefits of marijuana is that it helps relieve chronic pain. Every fifth person in the US is suffering from chronic pain. It does not only cause physical discomfort, but it also interferes with day to day tasks of a person. Using medicines for chronic pain relief can prove helpful, but consuming them regularly can also cause side effects. Cannabis has hundreds of cannabinoids in it, some linked with relieving pain. You can consume it in different forms, and it studies have found it to help with fighting chronic pain. If you want to learn more about marijuana, then you can visit ILGM for more information.

continued next page

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Cancer Treatment

While a lot of research is still underway, there are speculations that marijuana can help with cancer treatment. Several research experiments by doctors and scientists have shown some good signs about it. According to one study on cancer therapy, two observation groups of people going through chemotherapy with one group adhered to regular chemotherapy. The other provided a dosage of marijuana as well to aid in pain management. The group that consumed cannabis showed much better results as chemotherapy proved more effective for them. At this point, it is not confirmed that marijuana helps with cancer, but future studies might prove it.

Fights Anxiety and Depression

Marijuana does not only help you physically, but it can improve your mental health as well. If you are going through anxiety or depression, then using marijuana can help you get better.

Cannabis has several endocannabinoid compounds that can help with the mood of the person. Fighting anxiety of depression is not easy, and a lot of people resort to medicines when they are dealing with it. Marijuana can also help you fight it, and because it is natural, it doesn't have any harmful effects.

Slows Alzheimer's disease

When we start aging, avoiding cognitive degeneration becomes harder to avoid. Eventually, it catches with everyone, and for some people, it can turn into Alzheimer's. Marijuana can help you slow cognitive degeneration as well. The plant has many cannabinoids in it, and their anti-inflammatory properties help with brain inflammation that can lead to Alzheimer's disease. You can also consume it in the form of CBD oil, as it is one of the easiest ways of consuming it. ♦

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A horizontal sequence of four children walking from left to right. From left to right: a girl with long brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue face mask, a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark vest, a dark skirt, and pink sneakers, carrying a large grey and black backpack and holding a brown folder; a girl with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue face mask, a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark vest, a dark skirt, and grey sneakers, carrying a large grey and black backpack; a boy with short brown hair, wearing a blue face mask, a white short-sleeved shirt, a dark vest, dark pants, and grey sneakers, carrying a large grey and black backpack and holding a blue folder; and a girl with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue face mask, a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark vest, a dark skirt, and pink sneakers, carrying a large grey and black backpack.

In addition to having plans in place to keep students safe, there are other factors that school communities need to address:

Students with disabilities. The impact of schools being closed may have been greater for students with disabilities. They may have a difficult time transitioning back to school after missing out on instruction time as well as school-based services such as occupational, physical and speech-language therapy and mental health support counseling. School should review the needs of each child with an Individual Education Program before they return to school, and providing services even if they are done virtually.

Exams. If your child participates in extracurricular activities like sports or band, talk with your pediatrician to see if they need a preparticipation physical exam. Key well-child visits are also important.

Your child's school should anticipate and be prepared to address a wide range of mental health needs of students and staff. Schools should provide mental health support to any student struggling with stress from the pandemic and recognize students who show signs of anxiety or distress. Schools also can help students with suicidal thoughts or behavior get needed support.

Students at higher risk. While COVID-19 school policies can reduce risk, they will not prevent it entirely. Even with safety steps in place, some students with high-risk medical conditions may need to continue distance learning or other accommodations. Talk with your pediatrician and school staff (including school nurses) to determine if your child can safely return to school.

Returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic may not feel like normal – at least for a while. But having safety plans – and making sure schools have the resources needed to follow them – can help protect students, teachers, staff, and families. ♦

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“We’re going to be doing it in multiple sites with a degree of flexibility” so researchers can rapidly shift as the virus moves, Fauci said. “Nothing is going to be easy.”

So her team looked abroad. In addition to the planned U.S.-run study, Brazil last week began a last-stage test of the Oxford shot in 5,000 health workers, the first experimental COVID-19 vaccinations in South America. In another first, South Africa opened a smaller safety study of the Oxford shot.

Animal research suggests COVID-19 vaccines could prevent serious disease but may not completely block infection. One study that dripped the coronavirus into monkeys showed vaccinated animals avoided pneumonia but had some virus lurking in their noses and throats. Whether it was enough to spread to the unvaccinated isn't known. Still, that would be a big win.

The initial vaccines might be replaced with later, better arrivals, as historically happens in medicine, noted Duke's Ridley.

Some U.S. lawmakers worry about pressure from the Trump administration to push out an unproven shot during the fall election season.

Dr. Stephen Hahn, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, pledged to a House committee last week that any decision would be based on science.

Different countries have different rules about when to release a vaccine. For the U.S., Fauci insisted there will be no safety shortcuts, a key reason NIH is investing in such huge studies.



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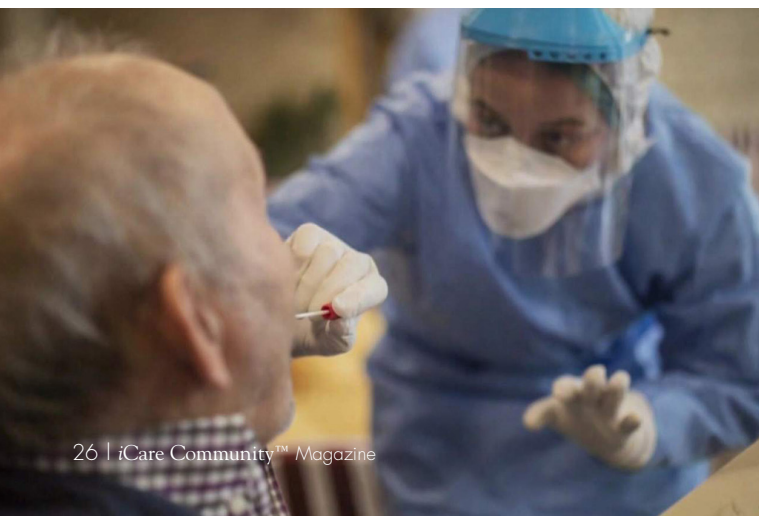
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AARP ANSWERS: NURSING HOMES AND THE CORONAVIRUS

By ANDY MARKOWITZ, AARP



Why are nursing homes so vulnerable to COVID-19?

Older people are at higher risk for COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus. So are people with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and respiratory illness. Both groups are heavily represented among the nation's 1.3 million nursing home residents.

That concentration is a key reason why 2 in 5 U.S. deaths from COVID-19 have occurred in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, according to tracking by the Kaiser Family Foundation, but it's not the only one. Certain conditions at nursing homes can exacerbate the spread of the disease:

- shortages of coronavirus tests
- shortages of or lack of access to personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gowns
- frequent physical contact between residents and staff understaffing
- employees who work in multiple facilities, increasing chances for exposure
- residents sharing rooms
- transfers of residents from hospitals and other settings

These factors make nursing homes potential breeding grounds for viral and bacterial diseases, especially given chronic problems with infection control that predate the pandemic. According to a recent federal report, 4 in 5 nursing homes surveyed between 2013 and 2017 were cited for deficiencies in infection prevention and control. Half were cited more than once during that time.

What's being done about it?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance on reducing the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes. Facilities were instructed to:

- strictly limit visitation
- suspend communal dining and group activities for residents
- screen residents daily for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms
- screen anyone entering the building for symptoms and observe
- flexible sick-leave policies for staff members
- require staff to wear masks

If the disease is identified at a nursing home, the federal agencies urge the facility to restrict residents to their rooms; require health care staff to wear gowns, gloves, eye protection, and N95 or medical masks; and treat suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients in a designated area, away from other residents.

The CMS is requiring facilities to quickly alert residents, their families or representatives, and the CDC about new COVID-19 cases. The agency is also posting data, updated weekly, on coronavirus case counts at the national, state and individual nursing home level, and in May it announced tougher rules on infection-control inspections and enforcement.

AARP is pushing for policies and legislation at the federal and state level to require more transparency around coronavirus cases

in nursing homes and more support for virtual visits between residents and loved ones. The organization is calling on Congress to address the shortage of staff, personal protective equipment and tests in facilities.

Can I visit my loved one in a nursing home?

Senior-living facilities are effectively in lockdown, with building entry restricted to essential staff, health care workers and vendors. Under CMS guidelines, outside visitors can come only in "compassionate care situations," such as when a resident is near death. The CMS issued recommendations on May 18 aimed at helping state and local authorities determine when and how to resume visitation, but progress is likely to be slow.

A number of states, including Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Vermont and Wisconsin, have authorized nursing homes that meet benchmarks for coronavirus testing and case counts to allow visits in designated outdoor spaces as a transitional step, with strict rules for distancing, face-covering and sanitizing. Studies have shown the risk of coronavirus transmission is considerably lower outside.

In the meantime, the best way to "see" your loved ones during this period is through video-chat and conferencing platforms like Zoom, FaceTime and Skype. AARP is advocating stronger measures by Congress and state governments to require nursing homes to facilitate virtual visitation during the pandemic and has endorsed the federal ACCESS (Advancing Connectivity during the Coronavirus to Ensure Support for Seniors) Act, which would provide grants for nursing homes to buy tech tools and services to support virtual visits. Phone calls are another option to speak with residents.

What can I do to support my loved one?

Stay connected. It's crucial for your loved one's well-being, physically and emotionally. Isolation "can have very real and serious health impacts" for nursing home residents, says Megan O'Reilly, AARP's vice president of health and family.

If you haven't already established ways to visit virtually, ask the nursing home what it can do to facilitate communication. Does it have tablets residents can use for televisits? Can staff help those who have mobile devices but aren't familiar with video-chat apps?

Use tech to do more than just check in. With smartphone cameras and video apps, you can take a locked-down loved one for a walk in the woods, share a virtual meal or watch a movie together. Also think about non-digital ways to boost morale, like sending handwritten cards or arranging a delivery from their favorite restaurant. (Not all facilities may allow this, so check first.)

You can also support loved ones by staying informed about what's going on at their facility. Identify a point of contact on staff for when you have questions and concerns. AARP has a list of six key questions to ask about circumstances at your loved one's nursing home.

Will the nursing home tell me if people there are infected? The CMS is requiring nursing homes to tell residents and their families or representatives within 12 hours if a COVID-19 case is confirmed on-site. The information must also be reported to the CDC. Some states have made public the names of nursing homes with cases, but not all states are doing so.

AARP and other advocates for seniors say the CMS guidance does not go far enough and are demanding greater transparency and accountability at both the federal and state level. "This information is critical to share with residents and their loved ones and facility staff so that they can make informed decisions about their health and safety," says Elaine Ryan, AARP's vice president of state advocacy and strategy integration.

Don't be shy about contacting the nursing home to ask if it's had cases and deaths and about what protective measures they're taking. If the facility is not forthcoming or if you have a concern or complaint, contact your state's long-term care ombudsman.

How are nursing homes regulated?

They are regulated by the federal government, specifically the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, in collaboration with the states. State survey agencies conduct inspections of nursing homes on behalf of the CMS to check that they comply with federal laws and standards in areas such as staffing, hygiene, record keeping, and residents' care and supervision. Facilities must be deemed compliant to be certified by the CMS and eligible

continued next page

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AARP ANSWERS cont.

for payments from Medicare and Medicaid. State surveyors also ensure compliance with state laws, which frequently go beyond federal requirements.

Last year, the CMS proposed rolling back what it deemed “excessively burdensome regulations” on nursing homes. The proposals, which have not yet been finalized, include relaxing rules on documenting grievances and investigations; requiring facilities to conduct assessments of staff and resource needs every two years, rather than annually; and allowing them to use consultants for infection prevention rather than hiring at least one part-time staff member for that purpose.

AARP and other advocates for seniors have voiced opposition to many of the proposals.

What if I have a complaint or concern?

First, try talking to the nursing home. Learn as much as you can about the situation you want to address and have specific questions ready. AARP has extensive coverage on the crisis in nursing homes and resources on broader issues in long-term care.

If the facility is not responsive, reach out to your state’s long-term care ombudsman. Ombudsmen programs were established by the federal Older Americans Act in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam, to address problems related to the health, safety, welfare and rights of residents of nursing homes and long-term care communities.

Staff and volunteers at ombudsmen offices work to advocate for residents of long-term care facilities, and to investigate

and resolve complaints. AARP has a directory where you can find contact information and a website link for your state ombudsman.

If an issue persists, you can file a complaint with your state survey agency, which inspects nursing homes to determine if they comply with CMS regulations. Keep in mind that infection control is getting priority attention, so other concerns may take longer to resolve.

What are nursing home residents’ rights?

The CMS has a list of residents’ rights and protections under federal and state laws. Broadly speaking, these include the right to:

- be treated with dignity and respect
- be free from abuse, neglect and discrimination
- have friends and family visit and participate in your care
- take part in activities
- make complaints without fear of punishment
- receive proper medical care
- have a doctor, family member or legal representative notified of changes in your condition or treatment

Keep in mind that state statutes on resident rights often go beyond federal rights. But rights related to visitation and activities are being restricted as part of efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care, an advocacy group that focuses on care issues, has a fact sheet on how the pandemic is affecting rights and rules in nursing homes.

continued next page

Should I consider taking my loved one out of a nursing home? There is no one-size-fits-all answer. Some individuals and families may decide that it makes sense for a spouse, parent or other loved one to come home during the pandemic, particularly if there are COVID-19 cases at their facility. But the reality is that some nursing home residents have medical or other needs beyond what can be provided at home. Ask your loved one’s medical provider for advice before making a move.

Here are some questions to consider:

- **How is the facility handling the coronavirus?** For example, are residents and staff being tested? Are there confirmed cases among them? Do staff have PPE? Are staffing levels adequate?
- **What type and level of care does your loved one need, and are you able to provide it?**
- **Is in-home care available during the pandemic?**
- **Can your home accommodate a loved one with mobility issues or dementia?** For example, is there a ground-floor bedroom if they can’t use stairs, or ways to guard against wandering?
- **Will your loved one be able to return to the nursing home?**

Many residents rely on Medicaid to help cover their long term care costs, and leaving a facility can affect eligibility.

If you’re concerned about the safety and well-being of a loved one in a nursing home or other senior living facility, contact your state’s long-term care ombudsman.

Do these answers apply to other long-term-care facilities, like assisted living?

Many assisted living facilities and senior care communities have implemented lockdowns and other restrictions to combat COVID-19. The CDC has issued recommendations for assisted living that mirror much of its guidance for nursing homes on controlling the disease, including no outside visitors or group activities and regular screening of staff for symptoms.

Unlike nursing homes, however, assisted living facilities are generally not subject to federal oversight. For example, the CMS rules on disclosing COVID-19 cases to residents and family members do not apply to assisted living facilities. They are licensed by the states, many of which have not issued disclosure orders, and regulation varies by state.

If you have a loved one at an assisted living community and have questions or concerns about its COVID-19 caseload and response, contact the facility and ask to speak to an administrator. You can also bring issues to your state’s department of health, department of health and human services, or department of aging. ♦

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How Storms Can Damage Your Home and The Importance of Repair

Weather calamities are a regular occurrence no matter which part of the world you live in.

This is something we cannot avoid, neither can we judge the severity of them. What we can however do is try and mitigate the effects with a few steps either before or after they occur. In this case, we're looking at the damages that come with a storm of any kind and what we can do to lessen the effects of it. Where your home has been affected by it, there are solutions for this too, so keep reading to find out more information about this.

Storms can be of any frequency, strength, and modality, some are just comprised of heavy rain showers, while others can be a combination of strong winds, hail storms, heavy rainfall, and snowfall or hailstones even.

According to online statistics and research both storm and tornadoes are the cause of majority of insurance claims and deaths in the United States, further information can be found online.



This is just one thing that your home's roof must deal with, the other types of weather conditions it faces throughout the year, is another thing.

Not to mention the culmination of everything up to the point of a storm, in any old house, may have weakened the structure and this can be the straw that breaks the camels back, as they say.

What to Do After A Storm Has Damaged Your Home

There can be a few things affected on your property after a storm or any weather catastrophe, some of these issues can include important elements such as your roof, siding, walls, windows, doors, gardens to name a few.

So, if one such unpredictable circumstance has caused harm to your four walls, below are a few things to do and check once the clouds clear out and it is safe to inspect the entire place.

Assess Your Roof

It is of the utmost importance that once a storm has blown away and the sky is clear, you go outside and do a thorough inspection of your roof. This is to make sure no damage has been done, and in the case, there has been any, to check properly what exactly is broken or eroded.

continued page 32

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storm damage cont.

Keeping your roof in tip-top shape should be your number one priority. After all, it's what keeps anything from getting inside and ruining your interiors (expensive or not). There could easily be a leak somewhere that starts out small but ends up getting bigger if not dealt with immediately.

Check After Every Rainfall for Any Damage

Sometimes we may think that if it doesn't rain too much there is nothing to worry about. This cannot be further from the truth. As mentioned above, it doesn't need one rain job to cause failure but rather a string of different events, in this case, weather conditions and calamities, to cause any faults.

The good thing is this is the most noticeable of all disasters that happen to any surface, due to the obvious presence of water puddles, wet tiles, and leaks or dampening on walls both inside and outside of the house. This is a sign that has been some internal damage to the roof.

These types of things lead to further annoying effects such as rot, affecting the structural integrity of the building, mold, to name a few. If left alone and not taken care of it can lead to further hazards not just to the building but to the health of your family. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that exposure to contaminated buildings such as those with mold, can present prolonged health risks such as poisoning from mycotoxins en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mold_health_issues, and can also cause fungal infections and respiratory problems in people.

Check After Every Hail Storm For Any Damage

One may think that hail cannot spoil any part of any home because it is not as harsh as the other elements, but when big rocks hit your rooftops or building, the impact can affect things negatively. The holes that are created when hailstones hit any surface can be quite disastrous in the long run.

Sidings and shingles can easily get damaged with constant hitting and pressure, which weakens them and ultimately causes breakage. Albeit small, these things can go unnoticed and cause bigger repercussions further on. Hail damage is a very common occurrence and needs to be checked regularly.

Check your Shingles

When the combination of strong winds and rainfall hits your shingles, they can easily start to deteriorate or erode and crack altogether. Checking to see if there are any cracks or missing parts is a good idea because you do want to leave an opening for further damage to occur.

If you have trees nearby, there can be a big possibility of branches falling onto the tiles and breaking them or even getting clogged up into your gutters and causing an overflow. All this must be sorted before the next storm arrives and all it takes is calling the right help from the roofing & siding contractor to make sure they not only tend to it and get it fixed professionally but they can also treat

it, to prevent any further breakages or eroding of any materials including fixing any visible cracks.

Sometimes if you don't notice your shingles, check your gutters. You will be able to notice any clay debris left in them, this is a clear sign that they are starting to corrode and will become weak in the end, if not replaced soon enough. Another way to notice anything wrong is by checking your attic.

If you see any water seeping through, this needs to be inspected immediately and repaired. These rooms are highly vulnerable and nothing of importance should be stored in them.

Cautionary Steps to Take

In the above information, we have looked at how important it is to get your structure repaired if it was harmed during a storm, and what are the things to look out for. The emphasis is on sorting it out immediately and not waiting for the 'storm to pass', as they say.

Below are some cautionary tips on what to do in the event you are caught up in it and have called the professionals. So, while you wait for them to arrive, sometimes it could take hours or even days, these helpful steps can make your life slightly easier.

First and foremost, you need to make sure you do not touch any electrical equipment with your bare hands or while bare feet. Items such as telephone cables, or electrical equipment can be hazardous equipment waiting to electrocute you or your children.

It is also a good idea not to walk too close to any structures such as the walls, trees, high rises in case they have been weakened and may fall on top of you. Try and stay in open places and preferably outside while the building you wait for help to arrive.

For any temporary fix, grab some tarpaulin and cover the rooftop with it so that it blocks any further rain or water going through the tiles. This is however a very temporary fix and will need to be properly taken care of once the experts arrive.

Sometimes the ceiling will start bulging with the collection of water and this will need to be removed, which can easily be done using a broom or a mop to pierce it. Stagnant water is not a good idea in any home.

Most importantly, leave all your doors and windows open so the draft can start to dry things out. Ring out any rugs or clothes that are damp and do not touch your carpets yet, unless necessary. Leave them alone to dry out themselves. Unless you will replace them, which will be the job of the carpet company.

A good recommendation is to take lots of pictures of anything that has been damaged, this is for the insurance claims company. Sometimes they face a lot of fraud, any evidence you have that your property got damaged due to the storm will be a bonus on your part.

continued next page



As mentioned above do not touch any electrical equipment, we would like to add do not use any electrical equipment such as a stove or fridge. If you need food try and ask the neighbors for help or go somewhere outside that's away from the house, but refrain from using even small appliances such as the toaster, until the engineers have been there and checked that everything is safe to use again.

No one wants a damaged house no matter how big or small it is, any costs can drastically add up if not taken care of. It is very important to make sure that you are safe during the storm after it passes away and to future proof everything before the next one comes. These things can be unpredictable, but what is predictable is how good we look after our premises, this can mean the difference between costs and life. ♦

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STARTING LATE?

How to Still Retire a MILLIONAIRE AT 50



You're 50 years old. Can you still retire a millionaire? Retiring a millionaire is really quite simple but it's not easy. Otherwise, we'd see millions more people accomplishing this feat. Here is the basic math – to help you see daily, monthly and yearly what it will take to retire a millionaire. Or dream bigger and retire a multi-millionaire. If you are starting from scratch at 50 you are behind, but you can still make this financial milestone happen.

Nearly half of all families have nothing, zero, nada saved for retirement. Simply starting to save any dollar amount will put you above the average. Without full pensions average savings rates just won't cut it for your dream golden years. You may have heard the average person is not saving nearly enough. Every day, I help people plan for financial freedom who often will have a multi-million-dollar retirements without ever breaking a sweat. It isn't easy but it also doesn't have to be hard.

You may be thinking OMG a million dollars is a lot of money and you'd be right. But if your income is above \$50,000, you will likely need a nest egg of more than a million dollars to maintain your current standard of living in retirement. If you are living in a big city like Los Angeles, San Francisco or New York you will likely need a larger amount. (link to cost of living in Los Angeles)

However, it's still completely possible to become a millionaire by the time you retire even if you don't start until you're 50. Whatever your age, get started! The sooner you start the easier it will be. To become a millionaire here's what you'll need to save.

HOW A 50-YEAR-OLD CAN RETIRE AS A MILLIONAIRE

Becoming a millionaire may seem like an impossible goal, so let's break down exactly what you need to do. What will you need to save each day, month and year to have one million dollars by the time you reach 70? We are assuming you are just getting started but if you have some money saved, you are going to have an easier time hitting this big milestone. In the end, it really boils down to three things: time, compounding interest and savings.

Calculations are compounded annually at a rate. Also, the earnings are compounded and reinvested and do not take into consideration any tax implications and their effect on the investment. They are not representative of past or future performance but are provided for illustrative purposes only. The illustration is not indicative of any specific investment. Actual investment results will vary. This type of plan does not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets.

A four percent annual return (approximately what average investors earn doing it themselves):

\$92 per day
\$2,798 per month
\$33,581 per year
A six percent annual return:

\$75 per day
\$2265 per month
\$27,184 per year
An eight percent annual return (still well below the average return of various stock market indexes over time):

\$60 per day
\$1821 per month
\$21,852 per year
A 10 percent annual return:

\$48 per day
\$1455 per month
\$17,460 per year

Before you freak out, it's important to realize that these saving numbers can include things like a company match or profit sharing. You will also likely receive tax breaks for contributing into a retirement account such as a 401(k), IRA or 403(b). If this is the case for you, that means only 50-70% of the above numbers would be coming out of your pocket. Contributions will be pre-tax. Also, the more you make, the more beneficial the tax deductions will be. Since we are talking about starting at 50- you will be able to make catch-up contributions

-putting away more money pre-tax.

Believe it or not, I've had people come to me who make millions each year but are in debt with little to no assets. On the flip side, there are those who make \$50,000 per year and who have made it a priority to save \$2,000 per month. When I was 22, I started saving a whopping \$25 per month into a ROTH IRA. Overtime, that number has increased dramatically. I'm telling you all of this because the most important thing to do is to get started. Strive to save 10-20% of your income and start where you can. Maybe you are only able to save 10% of your income. That's fine. Save 10% but set a goal, with a specific time, when you will increase that percentage. (I saved 50% of my income the year before I bought my house).

Maximize your Hard work

Saving the money is your job. Maximizing the money is the job of a fiduciary financial planner like myself. As you can see from the numbers above the better your investment returns the faster and easier you can be a millionaire. Vanguard estimates that even basic financial guidance can add around 3.76% to your investment returns over time. According to DALBARs annual study the average investor earns roughly 1/3 of the stock markets return over time. No wonder so many people are afraid of investing. This dismal performance is often about investor behavior rather than picking the "right investments."

At the very least, start investing in your employer's 401(K) plan. If they provide a company match, make sure to get the full amount. THIS IS LIKE FREE MONEY! Would you turn down a raise? I hope not. It's important to realize that a 401(K) plan is a tax-advantaged retirement savings account. This means the money will be taken automatically from your paycheck and because it's automatic, you likely won't even miss it.

Beyond Millionaire to Financial Freedom

I truly believe anyone can achieve financial freedom and have it all. It just takes smart financial decisions and time. For those of you on track to become a millionaire and those who have already achieved this milestone, I have great news. The second million is even easier to achieve thanks to compounding interest.

The more you make the more you will need to retire. ♦



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from the Sheriff cont.

These two programs, RING Neighbors and Eye Watch, are services that allow you to help fight and prevent crime and make your neighborhood safer. Please consider joining us in this effort. You might even help put a criminal behind bars.

As the summer slowly comes to an end, students will be packing their book bags and heading back to school. This also means that roadways will become congested as parents and bus drivers take kids to and from school. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present.

Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic.

In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection.

Always stop for a school crossing guard holding up a stop sign and take extra care to look for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.

Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians and always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way. If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing, and remember, it is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

Navigating around a bus is always a point of concern and, sometimes, confusion. Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload children. If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop. The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus. Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks.

More and more students, and residents in general, are using bicycles as a form on transportation and recreation. On most roads, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicles, but bikes can be hard to see. The most common cause of collision is a driver turning left in front of a bicyclist. When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist. When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider to pass. If you're turning right and a bicyclist is approaching from behind on the right, let the rider go through the intersection first, and always use your turn signals. Watch for bike riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling. Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods. Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars. Check side mirrors before opening your door.

By exercising a little extra care and caution, we can all help ensure student get to school and back home safely. ♦



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WHAT KIND OF TREE cont.

REALM. THAT IS WERE THE REAL BATTLE IS. IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE WATCH HOW GOD’S GLORY WANTS TO WORK OUT IN US AND THROUGH US IN SOLVING DAILY ISSUES OF LIFE FOR OUR OWN FAMILIES, NEIGHBORS AND PEOPLE AROUND US.

JESUS CALMS THE STORM:

“As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”
Mark 4:35-41

THIS IS HOW WE MUST DEMONSTRATE GOD’S GLORY TO A WORLD THAT IS SUFFERING. JESUS HIMSELF HAS GIVEN US POWER AND AUTHORITY TO DO THAT AND HE EVEN SAID THAT WE WOULD DO GREATER THINGS.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. *John 14:12*

THE SECRET OF BECOMING A GREAT TREE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS TO GROW INTERNALLY FIRST. ASK THE LORD TO GROW YOUR ROOTS INSIDE AS DEEP AS YOU CAN GO. TILL YOU FIND NOT FEARS INSIDE OF ANY KIND. ONLY THEN CAN YOU SHOW GOD’S GLORY AND DO THE WORKS OF THE KINGDOM WITH HIS KIND OF COMPASSION.

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS
“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” *Matthew 9:35-36*

THE REAL GOSPEL MOVES WITH JESUS’S COMPASSION TO DO THE WORKS OF THE KINGDOM. ONLY THIS WILL COMPEL ALL PEOPLE TO BELIEVE AND RECEIVE GOD’S GREATNESS...SALVATION FOR THEIR SOULS!



Pray with me for the Salvation of your Soul:
Lord, I do believe that Jesus of Nazareth took my place in the Cross. Lord, I am sorry for all my sins, please forgive me. I believe Jesus was raised on the third day for my justification. Jesus, I receive you as my Lord and Savior. Your Holy blood cleanses me right now and God gives me a new heart and eternal life. Now my name is written in the book of life, guaranteed by the following written law:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”
Romans 10:9-10

If you made this prayer, email me at: icarepublications@gmail.com. I would love to share your joy and send you material for balanced growth in the grace of the Lord. Also, send this letter to anyone you know as a testimony of your faith. ♦

vaccine race cont.

Regardless of how and when a vaccine arrives, each country also will prioritize who’s first in line as doses become available. Presumably they’ll start with health workers and those most vulnerable to severe disease — as long as each shot is proven to work in at-risk groups such as older adults.



Because each vaccine works differently, “which population group it will protect, we don’t know yet,” said Dr. Mariangela Simao of the World Health Organization, which is advising countries on how to choose. ♦



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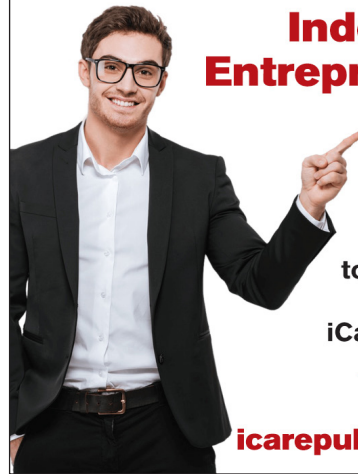
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