



Dear Special Olympics Illinois Athletes, Families, Volunteers and Donors,

I am writing to let you know that even as we have suspended events (competitive & fundraising) along with training, we are doing our part to keep all of our constituents and team members safe during these unprecedented times to ensure we have an even stronger future.

We at Special Olympics Illinois are staying in touch with our local health officials, the Illinois Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and World Health Organization to guide our decisions for our organization. The links to these organizations are included below.

Special Olympics Illinois, in cooperation with Special Olympics International, will be sharing "[Healthy and Fit Tips](#)." These tips include resources for training at home as well as Healthy Athletes information that will be imperative for mental and physical health. This aims to keep our constituents ready to resume training and competition when the time allows.

I would also like to share my perspective around fundraising events. We are a \$19 million organization that puts on 400 events per year with over 36,000 athletes and young athletes led by 85 employees and 50,000 volunteers. You all have helped to make this organization a success. We may have an opportunity to raise funds virtually as we still have cost associated with cancelled events as well as costs associated with our organization and employees. These opportunities will allow us to continue to preserve our future. Special Olympics Illinois is a community-based organization that is 95% reliant on donations. We will weather this unprecedented time to come out even stronger in the future. We hope everyone understands some of the tough decisions that are being made so we can continue to offer the life-changing program that is Special Olympics Illinois.

We will continue to utilize the resources at our disposal to communicate updates and changes to the schedule and calendar of events as they happen. At any time, please reach out to the team at Special Olympics Illinois should you have questions, concerns and ideas. Now is the time to come together to take care of one another and follow the lead of our athletes who have that outlook every single day.

Dave Breen  
President & CEO  
Special Olympics Illinois

Resources:

[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[World Health Organization](#)