

Q: How long will Special Olympics Illinois events be cancelled?

A: Currently, Regional and Statewide Competitions have been cancelled through Summer Games, June 12 – 14

Q: What about the status of fundraising events?

A: Following the guidance of the CDC, Special Olympics Inc., and Special Olympics North America, all program related activities have been suspended through May 31. This includes all in-person fundraisers scheduled during this time. The SOILL team is working diligently to reschedule fundraising events as possible – for example, two signature events in May have been moved to later in the year: the annual LETR Dunkin' Cop on a Rooftop event to August 28 and the Inspire Greatness Gala to October 17.

Q: What is the status of the events that the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is organizing to benefit Special Olympics Illinois?

A: Special Olympics Illinois is offering support for those events that the LETR for Special Olympics Illinois campaign can turn virtual; however, SOILL staff nor athletes will be attending any in-person events at this time. This has resulted in postponing or cancelling a handful of local and statewide LETR events, including four Polar Plunges. The LETR for Special Olympics Illinois campaign is in the process of analyzing when and how it's statewide Torch Run will take place to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Q: Why were Summer Games cancelled?

A: Summer Games were cancelled due to the uncertain times that the coronavirus has caused and the inability of athletes to complete the required training to prepare for the Games.

Q: Will Summer Games be rescheduled?

A: The size and scope of the event does not allow for it to be rescheduled. Special Olympics Illinois is working to plan athlete-centric sports festivals targeted to take place after it is safe to return to competition. Stay tuned for more information.

Q: Can agencies still continue to hold training sessions with their athletes?

A: Special Olympics has placed a moratorium on any type of training through May 31, therefore agency training that is to take place prior to that date is not considered a Special Olympics Illinois sanctioned training.

Q: Are there things that we can be doing as athletes, on or own, to stay in shape.

A: Yes, please click on the following link to find many [Healthy & Fit Tips](#) that you can do in your home. You can also look at the [Special Olympics Illinois Viewing Guide](#) to see any happenings that you can watch on our social channels.

Q: Is there anywhere that I can go to get updates from Special Olympics Illinois?

A: Currently, you can go to the [coronavirus Updates and Information](#) page that will provide up to date information. You can also go to the [Special Olympics Illinois Viewing Guide](#) to find out when video updates will be provided, including every Friday at 4pm by President / CEO, Dave Breen.

Q: Is the Special Olympics Illinois headquarters office operating business as usual?

A: We are fortunate to have a great IT infrastructure that allows all Special Olympics Illinois staff to carry on normal business operations remotely. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, and following the guidance from the State of Illinois, all Special Olympics Illinois staff have been directed to work from home.

*The Following FAQ's were provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health*

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-2019?

A: People who are infected with COVID-19 have developed mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, and potentially respiratory distress 2-14 days after exposure. Call your health care provider for medical advice if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing.

Q: Can someone spread the virus without being sick?

A: People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms. There have been reports of this occurring with COVID-19, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Q: Can I go outdoors?

A: Yes, go outdoors for fresh air and exercise. Ride a bike, walk the dog, go for a hike, jog. Social distancing does not mean staying indoors, it means avoiding close contact with people. Remember to wash your hands any time you enter from outdoors and before you eat.

Q: How can I help protect myself?

A: Follow these tips to help prevent COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

- If you have not already done so, discuss influenza vaccination with your health care provider to help protect you against seasonal influenza.

Q: What steps should parents take to protect children?

A: This is a new virus and we are still learning about it, but so far, there does not seem to be a lot of illness in children. Most illness, including serious illness, is happening in adults of working age and older adults. Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Encourage frequent handwashing and follow other prevention tips.

Q: What are public health departments in Illinois doing about this situation?

A: IDPH and local health departments have implemented heightened surveillance to identify and test patients most likely to have COVID-19. Public health experts are communicating with and educating health care providers and other public health partners about the current situation. Measures are being developed to prevent the spread of illness in Illinois. Frequent communication with the public will be available through the [IDPH Coronavirus Page](#). Find [CDC Travel Information](#) here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>