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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

NOLA Stay at Home Part 3



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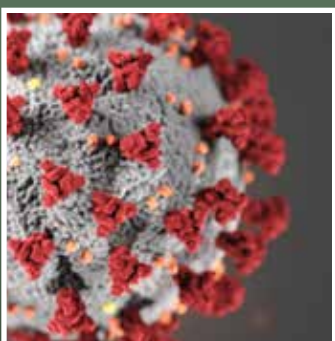
FEDERAL \$TIMULUS TO THE RESCUE



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Individual Stimulus Checks begin to Arrive, What Should you Expect?



Most Americans are eligible for and will receive stimulus payments. Single-filers who make less than \$75,000 will receive \$1,200, while married couples making less than \$150,000 are scheduled to get \$2,400. An additional \$500 will be provided to households for each child under seventeen.

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Payments from the \$2.3 trillion federal coronavirus stimulus package have begun hitting individual bank accounts.

In a memo, IRS Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the first round of payments were sent on

Thursday, April 9, and should arrive in bank accounts beginning no later than Tuesday, April 14.

Most Americans are eligible for and will receive stimulus payments, except for those who owe back child support payments.

Single-filers who make less than \$75,000 will receive \$1,200, while married couples making less than \$150,000 are scheduled to get \$2,400. An additional

\$500 payment will be provided to households for each child under 17.

The IRS will base the payments on the adjusted gross income of taxpayers' 2019 return. If a 2019 return hasn't been filed (the deadline has been extended for two months), the IRS will use information from the 2018 return. If the return doesn't contain direct deposit information, or if the IRS doesn't have returns from

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2018 or 2019, a paper check will be issued later.

Electronic payments also will go out to those receiving Social Security and disability, even if recipients don't typically file a tax return.

For those who haven't provided the IRS with bank account information, paper checks are expected to begin reaching households in May, but, in some cases, recipients won't receive payment until September.

"If we have your bank information, you'll get it within two weeks," Mnuchin said. "Social Security, you'll get it very quickly after that. If we don't have your information, you'll have a simple web portal, we'll upload it. If we don't have that, we'll send you checks in the mail."

Treasury officials said they expect 50 million to 70 million Americans to have received directly deposited payments by April 15, which is one day later than what the IRS said it expects the deposits to become available.

The IRS does plan to set up a portal on its website where filers can enter direct deposit information if the agency doesn't already have those details. Those who have provided bank information on their 2018 or 2019 returns don't have to do anything unless their information has changed.

As for paper checks, the Washington Post reported that the IRS plan would distribute those to the lowest-income Americans first, prioritizing payments for individual

“If we have your bank information, you'll get it within two weeks,” Mnuchin said. “Social Security, you'll get it very quickly after that. If we don't have your information, you'll have a simple web portal, we'll upload it. If we don't have that, we'll send you checks in the mail.”

taxpayers with incomes of \$10,000 or less on April 24.

Checks for earners of \$20,000 or less would be in the mail May 1, followed by those with incomes of \$30,000 on May 8, \$40,000 on May 15, and continuing in income increments of \$10,000 each week, according to the plan. The IRS plans to issue about 5 million checks each week.

Stimulus checks would be issued on Sept. 4 to joint taxpayers earning \$198,000, the maximum allowed under the stimulus. All others would be sent on Sept. 11, in most cases,

because the IRS did not have prior tax information for them, and they need to apply for the checks.

For more information on Stimulus check eligibility go to the following links:

<https://newsroom.paypal-corp.com/2020-04-11-Receive-your-Government-Stimulus-Payment-Directly-into-your-PayPal-Account>

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>

Non-Tax Filers can still Receive Stimulus

For those who have not filed taxes for 2018-19 may still be eligible to receive Stimulus money. You can go to this link: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>

Who is eligible for the Economic Impact Payment?

U.S. citizens or resident aliens who:

- Have a valid Social Security number,
- Could not be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer, and
- Had adjusted gross income under certain limits.

Who will receive the Economic Impact Payment automatically without taking additional steps?

Most eligible U.S. taxpayers will automatically receive their Economic Impact Payments including:

- Individuals who filed a federal income tax for 2018 or 2019
- Individuals who receive Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits
- Individuals who receive Railroad Retirement benefits

Who should use Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info to provide additional information to receive the Economic Impact Payment?

Eligible U.S. citizens or permanent residents who:

- Had gross income that did not exceed \$12,200 (\$24,400 for married couples) for 2019
 - Were not otherwise required to file a federal income tax return for 2019, and didn't plan to
- You can provide the necessary information to the IRS easily and quickly for no fee through Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info. We will use this information to determine your eligibility and payment amount and send you an Economic Impact Payment. After providing this information you won't need to take any additional action.

Information You will Need to Provide

- Full name, current mailing address and an email address
- Date of birth and valid Social Security number
- Bank account number, type and routing number, if you have one
- Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN) you received from the IRS earlier this year, if you have one
- Driver's license or state-issued ID, if you have one
- For each qualifying child: name, Social Security number or Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number and their relationship to you or your spouse

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Care for your loved one. Care for yourself.

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Real Possibilities

NOLA Stay at Home

Part 3

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Columnist

Today, we are living a new normal in the age of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is something that is changing all our lives.

Many of us spending more time indoors.

We hope people are taking precautions and practicing social distancing.

Using social media platforms people are posting their activities as well as things that are important to them such as family, friends and loved ones.

Data News Weekly is shining the light on some of these people with the hope to inspire our citizens that our best days are ahead of us.

So, we are asking all to stay safe and stay informed!!!



Norman and Rickey Ceasar



Mr and Mrs. DeForest Cornish



Tonya Jones and Juan Jackson

Data Zone,
Continued on page 5.



AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

TONI MOBLEY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

As Audubon's executive vice president and chief service officer, Toni Mobley oversees departments as varied as guest services, human resources, retail operations, and security. Originally from Florida and a graduate of Florida State University, Toni came to Audubon in 2011 from a career in human resources at Target. In her time outside Audubon, Toni teaches classes as an adjunct professor in Loyola University New Orleans' College of Business and as an instructor in Delgado Community College's Hospitality Management program.

Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

Be a part of the Audubon Team: AudubonNatureInstitute.org/Careers



Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Tracey Elizabeth and daughter



Lenia Haynes-Segura



Aya Fiyah Mganga



Chad Sanders



Businessman Henry Coaxum and wife Karen with Black Enterprise Founder the late Earl Graves



Rev. and Mrs. Tom Watson



If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. Respond online, by phone, or by mail.

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Surviving COVID-19

Part I



Renetta Burrell Perry
Data News Weekly Contributor

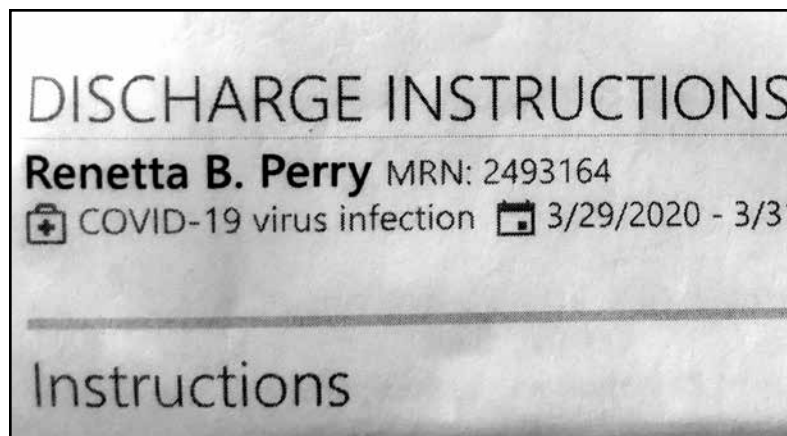
By week three I was sure beyond the shadow of any doubt that I had been stricken with the Coronavirus. As drive-thru testing sights opened and the death toll soared, I became nearly paralyzed with fear...

When I realized deep within myself that the Coronavirus, (known as Covid-19) had infiltrated my body, I had already begun giving up. Riddled with uncommon pain in my body and shaken with gut wrenching fear - the thought of not being here for my daughters or being able to continue caregiving for my mother - I faced physical and

mental devastation which were followed by a false sense of peace. Ironically, this false peace was me giving up on life. The sickness had become unbearable. The disease had taken over my body.

Whether it was the round-the-clock fevers or the inability to smell or taste, which led to loss of appetite, or the horrible fluctuation in body temperatures which normally would become 10 times worse at night, my body was doing something I had never detected it doing before - shutting down. As I relied on the media coverage for information on the virus, my symptoms were stacking up. At first, I experienced a very weird, but distinct headache. Before that, I didn't realize that headaches were on the virus symptoms checklist, but because I'm not prone to headaches, I wondered where this very odd, very constant headache was coming from. Later on, that symptom went away. In retrospect, my headaches were probably still there, but the every-six-hour Tylenol doses probably made them undetectable.

My second, telltale symptom was chest pain. At first, I ignored it, chalking it up to exertion from exercise (I had begun weight training as a part of my regimen). But



this pain was isolated and persistent. The best way I could describe it would be the feeling of someone digging into me with a very sharp object. After days I was terrified by this, but because it was early-on I was still in denial. "I can't have the Coronavirus," I thought. I cleaned grocery baskets with hand sanitizer, I spray my surfaces with bleach, I've been washing my hands so often and so intently that my skin has become nearly abrasive. I walk several miles a day and I manage my hypertension well by eating right and taking my meds daily. But as I watched as one African American in my age range after another was being stricken, I became more worried. "Could I actually have it?"

Then there were the temperatures that would not cease. The fact that the temps associated with this virus are not excruciatingly high is true, but the dehydration associated with bearing fevers around the clock for weeks can be devastating to your body. Even having survived pneumonia four times, and the flu at least once in my life, I've never experienced thirst that could not be quenched. The day I surrendered myself to the hospital, I drank at least a gallon of water, but I was still so thirsty that I was sure I was dying. Every ounce of water probably left my body as I experienced days of the worst case of diarrhea I've ever had. Chasing the temps and managing the body sweats, the

chills and the diarrhea had become excruciating and exhausting.

As I watched my oldest daughter's fears converge with mine, I decided in the third week that I must be tested. One week before having to be admitted in the hospital I arrived there after a doctor suggested I had the virus through a tele medic interview. He was blunt. "You probably have the Coronavirus and you shouldn't be around your family or anyone for that matter. You need to self-quarantine. If you have shortness of breath, get to the ER immediately," he said. As I watched this doctor on my phone, I was still in denial, but more terrified. At St. Bernard Hospital, the waiting room was packed with visibly miserable patients and my nurse seemed exhausted. She said, "Why did you come? Are you experiencing shortness of breath? If not, you're exposing yourself to the virus. If you didn't have it before this, you will probably get it sitting in the ER waiting room." She told me I could stay or leave. She gave me Tylenol for my temperature which was 100.8. I left because I was afraid of being around all of those sick people. I was just as sick as them...

Next Week...Surviving Covid-19 Part II

Opinion

Coronavirus, Civil Liberties, the Economy and Unintended Consequences



Muhammad Yungai
Data News Weekly Contributor

Now that we are in full "lock-down" mode, it is time to look at the big picture regarding this crisis. The virtual quarantine of much of the world, not to mention the entire United States of America, is totally unprecedented. I'm sure that these

initial measures are about the only practical things that we can do for the time being.

That being said, I am extremely ambivalent about the response to the Coronavirus! On one hand I understand the need to mitigate the spread of the virus and save lives in the process. On the other hand, the open-ended shutdown of everything we know as a society will invariably destroy the economy! This certainly will have its own life-threatening qualities if not itself palliated.

We are possibly creating unintended consequences and dangers just as lethal as the virus! Additionally, there are a host of

civil liberties problems and pertinent questions to consider. For instance, how is it that 40,000 deaths per year in auto accidents are deemed acceptable or does not prompt any draconian demands on the auto industry and our national highway system to create sensors, etc., which could virtually eliminate these accidents. More significantly, how is it that 200,000 African-American homicide deaths over the past decade [and previous decades] has not elicited gun control; an emergency decree inhibiting sale and distribution of gangster rap "music"; hasn't prompted a flood of federal dollars for mental health support; never

prompted emergency billions for elimination of sub-standard housing; for whatever it takes to protect witnesses; for police and criminal justice reform?

The big question is, how long will emergency powers last and to what effect? Long term shutdowns will destroy peoples' lives by bankrupting thousands of individuals and small businesses. We are all well aware that grinding poverty increases the death toll through suicides, homicides, increased risky behavior, health issues and a plethora of other effects. And of course, mental health issues will be high on the list of maladies in the long term. I'm already feeling the ill

effects of the shutdown social, cultural and entertainment venues. I'm not sleeping well these days which could lead to a more compromised immune system.

Finally, after the initial cloak of social distancing protection of maybe a month or so, will citizens get a chance to vote on whether to determine their own destinies somewhat in deciding if continued shuttering is doing more damage economically or epidemiologically? Will all of our civil liberties be indefinitely suspended?

If our politicians are honest, they will forthrightly answer many of these questions on whether the cure is worse than the disease!

National Urban League: Make More Cities with Significant African American Populations Eligible for Coronavirus Aid

National Urban League

NEW YORK - The National Urban League today urged Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin to lower the eligibility for a key coronavirus economic recovery program to reach devastated communities in more cities.

"The novel coronavirus pandemic is generating massive, unprecedented economic disruption for families and businesses throughout the country, in some ways worse than what we experienced during the Great Depression," National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial wrote in a letter to Powell and Mnuchin, noting that cities with significant African American and minority populations were excluded from direct grants or not fully funded under the CARES Act, in-



National Urban League President and CEO, Marc Morial.

cluding Charlotte, Memphis, Austin, and Milwaukee. Last week, the Federal Reserve announced a Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) that will offer up to \$500 billion in lending to states, cities and counties, but the cities excluded from CARES funding are also not eligible for MLF funding. Atlanta, Baltimore, New Orleans,

and Detroit similarly are excluded from participating in the MLF.

"Given the debilitating impacts these jurisdictions are experiencing with COVID-19, the Fed and Treasury should not compound Congress's error by creating an even smaller group of cities that can access the MLF," Morial wrote. These smaller cities typically have a more narrow economic base than larger areas, have weaker infrastructure, and grossly inadequate health care facilities. Also, such communities lagged in recovering from the impact of the Great Recession. They are desperately in need of liquidity to help cope with the broad economic disruption imposed by COVID-19."

Morial called for the borrowing threshold for the MLF to be lowered to include local governments with a population of at least 100,000.

State & Local

RTA to Suspend Overnight Transit Service Hours

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Starting April 12th, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will suspend overnight service on most bus and streetcar routes between the hours of 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The service hour reductions are being implemented as the agency experiences a decrease in ridership overnight and as a continued effort to minimize risks of exposure to riders and operators.

Routes that normally begin service before 4 a.m. will be adjusted to start later at approximately 4 a.m. and run until approximately 10 p.m. Routes that normally begin service later than 4 a.m. will keep their traditional start time and service will run until approximately 10 p.m.

The 39-Tulane will remain in



New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will suspend overnight service on most bus and streetcar routes between the hours of 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

service Sunday through Saturday, following the normal Saturday schedule.

Ferry service hours remain unchanged for both the Algiers Point - Canal Street Ferry and the Chal-

mette Ferry schedule maintains operations from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The RTA continues to urge the community to use public transit for essential travel only and for riders to practice social distancing when using transit. Riders are also encouraged to wear face coverings when traveling and are asked to exit at the rear of the vehicle. All fares continue to be waived until further notice. These practices will help to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the community.

Riders should contact Rideline at 504.248.3900 for point-to-point route information for essential travel destinations.

For the latest information and route schedules, visit RTA's website at www.RTAforward.org.

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#AloneTogether

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP SLOW THE SPREAD.

