

# Fatherhood symposium via Zoom set for June 12 for Illinois residents

The Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood, a state board established in 2004 to promote parental involvement – particularly by single and divorced fathers – in the upbringing of their children, will present its 18th annual symposium at 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 12. The symposium will be conducted via Zoom, and available to everyone in the state.

Note to reporters, talk show hosts and producers: ICRF Chairman Jeffery M. Leving is available for media interviews in the days leading up to the symposium. **The lineup of speakers:** *Opening remarks by Chairman Leving* Desmond Clark, former Chicago Bears tight end, talking about his experience

as a divorced dad. State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford, speaking about what's happening on the fatherhood front in Springfield. Adam Ballard, a disabled dad who will speak on the challenges confronting fathers with disabilities. Attorney Arthur S. Kallow, a board member for the Fatherhood Educational Institute Matthew Stanton, di-

vision chief for the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, speaking on his journey as a father, and fatherhood and conviction integrity. Erin Smitley, registered dietitian at Sara Bush Lincoln Health System in Mattoon, with suggestions for fathers who have to prepare meals for their kids. Rev. David Philemon, a dynamic pastor in Cicero

who feels strongly about the need for fathers in raising children. The intended audience is social workers, child welfare workers, family counselors, lawyers involved in matrimonial and family law, educators, politicians and policy makers, clergy, academics, child development experts, juvenile justice workers and interested members of the general

public. The event is free and available to the public. "This symposium each year puts the focus on the important work we do to support and promote fathers, whose value in raising children cannot be overestimated," Chairman Leving says. *For the Zoom link, please contact Jennifer Whiteside at [jwhiteside@LevingLaw.com](mailto:jwhiteside@LevingLaw.com).*

# Ways to practice health safety as summer 2021 swim season begins

Memorial Day weekend is when many pools and beaches open for the unofficial start to summer. It is important people know how they can protect themselves and prevent the spread of germs when swimming. "Swimming is a great physical activity that can help improve your health, but there are steps everyone should take to help prevent the risk of illness and injury

that may accompany swimming," said Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "Swimmers need to take an active role in helping protect themselves and preventing the spread of germs. We all share the water we swim in, and we each need to do our part to help keep ourselves and our families and friends healthy." Diarrhea is the most

common cause of recreational water illness (RWI). Just one diarrheal accident in the water can release millions of germs. If other swimmers swallow a mouthful of the water, it can cause diarrhea lasting up to three weeks. Crypto (short for Cryptosporidium) is the leading cause of outbreaks linked to pools and water parks. Crypto can survive in an ad-

equately chlorinated pool for more than one week. Other germs that can cause illness include Giardia, norovirus, Shigella, and E. coli. RWIs can also be caused by chemicals added to treat water. Other common RWIs include skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections. Swimming in lakes and other natural bodies of water comes with a unique set of

risks associated with amoeba and algae. To reduce your chances of becoming ill, try to limit the amount of water entering your nose by holding your nose or using nose clips when diving or water skiing. Avoid putting your head underwater and don't stir up mud and scum while swimming in warm freshwater areas. If you see that the beach is closed, stay out of it. Don't swim, water

ski, or boat in areas where the water is discolored or where you see foam, scum, or mats of algae on the water's surface. *To check the status of a swimming facility licensed by IDPH, use the IDPH Swimming Facility Search on our website. To learn about beach closures, advisories, and test results, check the online Illinois Beach Guard System.*

Why It Is Important.	Prevention Steps
<p><b>Illnesses caused by the germs in pools and hot tubs</b></p> <p>A new CDC report shows that during 2015–2019, &gt;200 outbreaks were linked to pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds.</p> <p><i>Cryptosporidium</i> (or Crypto) can make swimmers sick if they swallow just a mouthful of contaminated water. Although most germs are killed within minutes by chlorine or bromine at the recommended</p>	<p><b>Before getting in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't swim or let others swim if sick with diarrhea.</li> <li>• Shower for at least 1 minute before you get into the water to remove dirt or anything else on your body.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Chlorine mixed with dirt, sweat, pee, and poop creates chemicals that make swimmers' eyes red and sting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# The 47th annual Illinois High School Shrine Game set for June 19

The Illinois Coaches Association and the Shriners of Illinois will host the 47th annual Illinois High School Shrine Game on June 19th at Tucci Stadium on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University. Kick-off for the 47th annual game is scheduled for Saturday, June 19th at 11:00a.m. The pregame festivities will begin at the stadium starting at 10am. One hundred six of the state's best football players participate in this all-star game to raise money for Shriners

Hospital for Children, the official philanthropy of Shriners International. More information about scheduled events, along with rosters for both the Red and Blue teams, can be found at [www.ilshrinegame.com](http://www.ilshrinegame.com). Admission for this All Star Game is \$10 and can be purchased at the gate. Each year at the Shrine Game, two patients from the Shriners Hospital for Children are chosen to be the prince and princess. The princess is Hadley Holmes from Marion who is a patient at the Shri-

ners Hospital in St Louis. The prince is Tim Bannon from Chicago who is a patient at the Shriners Hospital in Chicago. The prince and princess are honorary representatives from each hospital that will benefit from the money raised through the game. We weren't able to have last year's event, but we still raised nearly \$20,000 that went directly to providing outstanding medical care for children at the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Our goal is to create a

fun and exciting environment for the players, families, Shrine kids, and Shriners and to make this a signature event for the Shriners of Illinois. This year's game will be aired live on Cities 92.9 which is a part of the Great Plains Media Group. The featured banquet speaker will be Michael Bates from Divernon. Michael participated in this event in 2011 and played football at Illinois College. **About Shriners Hospitals for Children**

*Shriners Hospitals for Children® is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to age 18 with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to*

*pay. Visit the Shriners Hospitals website at [www.shriners-hospitalsforchildren.org](http://www.shriners-hospitalsforchildren.org). The estimated direct economic impact of hosting the Illinois High School Shrine Game in Bloomington-Normal is \$92,600. For more information, please contact Eric Tjarks with the Illinois High School Shrine Game (217-781-2400) or Matt Hawkins at the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (309-665-0033).*

# Public input sought through June 14 on new Illinois IDOT rail study

The Illinois Department of Transportation is inviting the public to comment and offer suggestions on a new study assessing the state's rail system. The goal of the study is to seek input on current conditions, capacity concerns and safety challenges to help identify potential improvements and solutions. Comments will be collected through June 14 via [illinoisrailneeds.org](http://illinoisrailneeds.org), which includes a short video, informational displays and a link to a survey. The information gathered will be used in the development of a statewide rail plan, a requirement of states seek-

ing federal funding under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act. It also will serve to inform IDOT's ongoing Illinois Long-Range Transportation Plan, providing strategic direction for the development of the state's transportation system. Illinois is the rail hub of North America, the only state in which all seven Class 1 railroads operate. Illinois boasts more than 10,000 miles of track and serves a robust passenger rail network, with Amtrak connecting 30 communities statewide and Metra operating 11 lines in the Chicago area. Under Gov. JB Pritzker's

bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital program, Illinois is making historic investments in both passenger and freight rail, including \$500 million to re-establish passenger rail to the Quad Cities and Rockford, \$400 million for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation and Efficiency (CREATE) Program, \$100 million for improvements to improve safety and reliability on Amtrak's Saluki service between Chicago and Carbondale, and \$78 million to upgrade rail crossings and improve safety throughout the state.

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