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Michael G. Maguire
Superintendent

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

I want to take a moment to share some resources that are currently available to families during this time:

- **Access to food items:** Individuals can be referred to the Greater Chicago Food Depository's network of food pantries across Cook County. With some exceptions, the majority of our network continues to operate, and with social distancing and public health policies in place.
 - Families are able to find a [food program here](#). We recommend calling before visiting to confirm program hours. I am attaching a flyer with referral information that can be shared out with your families. I will also share that during this challenging time, our pantries have relaxed what is needed when an individual presents looking for food assistance – i.e. our pantries are verbally asking how many individuals in the household and zip code.
- **Public benefits support:** As you may know, IDHS has closed all but 14 of their local public aid offices. The Greater Chicago Food Depository has increased the number of staff answering our benefits outreach hotline so we can better assist individuals with SNAP and Medicaid benefits. The Food Depository's benefits outreach team is available by phone to help individuals apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid benefits. SNAP benefits can be used to purchase groceries from local stores. For benefits outreach assistance, call 773-843-5416 on Mondays-Fridays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. or apply directly with the Illinois Department of Human Services at abe.illinois.gov.
- Attached are some flyers on resources available to families
- Need food or health insurance? Prevent the spread of COVID-19 and skip the local benefits office. We can help you apply for and manage SNAP and Medicaid benefits from home. Visit the Greater Chicago Food Depository for more info: www.chicagosfoodbank.org/benefits-outreach
- ¿Necesita alimentos o aseguranza médica? Evite la propagación de COVID-19 y evite la oficina local de ayuda pública. Podemos ayudarle a solicitar beneficios para alimentos y tarjeta médica desde su hogar. Comuníquese con nuestro Equipo de Alcance de Beneficios Públicos al 773-843-5416 o visite nuestro sitio web para más información: www.chicagosfoodbank.org/benefits-outreach

As we have been referring families to access emergency food support through our network of pantry partners, we are strengthening our support of pantry partners and increasing communication and reporting efforts in order for us to better understand how the needs are changing at the community level day by day, as well as identifying any gaps in access.

Thank you. Stay well.

Michael Maguire
Superintendent
Union Ridge School District 86