

Lawson Bridge Studio News September 2020

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In light of the Shelter-in-Place order and the reopening stages, there will be no games scheduled until it is safe to hold them. Also see the www.bridgeinchicago.com for the latest for virtual games, instructions for playing online, and when clubs are reopening for in-person games. Olympia DBC opened starting Monday August 24th. I have not heard how it is doing.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus the cause of COVID-19 will not ever go away. I have not observed any new virus once detected to have gone away or be eradicated. They all raise their ugly heads frequently. Leading virologists are now saying the same thing for this latest newly detected virus. Vaccines help us deal with viruses like the seasonal flu viruses. There is the question of the vaccines effectiveness if people will not get vaccinated. However, vaccines don't eradicate the virus. Also, vaccines may not be able to prevent sickness if they are not effective for a new mutation of a virus which often happens with the flu viruses which are different from this new virus. So how are we going to live without fear as we are continually learning more about this virus and its effects on human beings as well as animals like our pets?

The concept of social distancing was proposed 80 years ago to prevent the spread of illnesses before we had the technology to understand the spread of viruses causing respiratory diseases. A recent chart has been proposed using the spotlight analogy. The chart from the BMJ, a weekly peer-reviewed medical journal, for helping you assess your risks in your activities of becoming affected with this new virus as reported in <https://gizmodo.com/social-distancing-is-a-lot-more-complicated-than-being-1844845193>. Although early airborne transmission was not considered to have major effect, it is now becoming to have more an effect in the transmission. No infections have been recorded from transmissions of surfaces.

Type and level of group activity	Low occupancy			High occupancy		
	Outdoors and well ventilated	Indoors and well ventilated	Poorly ventilated	Outdoors and well ventilated	Indoors and well ventilated	Poorly ventilated
Wearing face coverings, contact for short time						
Silent	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Speaking	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Shouting, singing	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
Wearing face coverings, contact for prolonged time						
Silent	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High
Speaking	Low	* Low	Medium	* Medium	Medium	High
Shouting, singing	Low	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
No face coverings, contact for short time						
Silent	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
Speaking	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High
Shouting, singing	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
No face coverings, contact for prolonged time						
Silent	Low	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
Speaking	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
Shouting, singing	Medium	High	High	High	High	High

Risk of transmission
 Low ■ Medium ■ High ■

* Borderline case that is highly dependent on quantitative definitions of distancing, number of individuals, and time of exposure

Increasing evidence is being mentioned that social interconnectedness is absolutely vital to our well-being, especially seniors. I have seen this in my own senior relatives, especially after their spouses died and they were living alone. This pandemic has been devastating on seniors and others in health care facilities where their relatives were not able to visit them. It has affected both sides those in the facilities and those not being able to visit as well.

So, based on this chart and the necessity of interconnectedness, are you willing to reconsider starting in-person bridge games again. We could increase social distancing by using round tables instead of the square ones as most of the square tables can be made into round tables.