

Lawson Bridge Studio News July 2020

Jerome "Jerry" Scholle, editor lawsonbridgestudio@gmail.com 773-209-7089

Club Games – Rates are for each player

Games: 6:20 pm at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 West Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL

Jul 1	To Be Announced (TBA)	Aug 3	To Be Announced (TBA)
Jul 6	TBA	Aug 5	TBA
Jul 8	TBA	Aug 10	TBA
Jul 13	TBA	Aug 12	TBA
Jul 15	TBA	Aug 17	TBA
Jul 20	TBA	Aug 19	TBA
Jul 22	TBA	Aug 24	TBA
Jul 27	TBA	Aug 26	TBA
Jul 29	TBA	Aug 31	TBA

In light of the Shelter-in-Place order and the reopening stages, there will be no games until it is safe to hold them, thus the To Be Announced. Also see the www.bridgeinchicago.com for the latest for opening of games. As I write this Illinois is in its Phase 4 reopening plan. Brief synopses of the remaining reopening phases from Restore Illinois dated May 5, 2020 are:

Phase 4. Revitalization: There is a continued decline in the rate of infection in new COVID-19 cases. Hospitals have capacity and can quickly adapt for a surge of new cases in their communities. Additional measures can be carefully lifted allowing for schools and childcare programs to reopen with social distancing policies in place. Restaurants can open with limited capacity and following strict public health procedures, including personal protective equipment for employees. Gatherings with 50 people or fewer will be permitted. Testing is widely available, and tracing is commonplace. Restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, childcare and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. **Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.**

Phase 5. Illinois Restored: Testing, tracing and treatment are widely available throughout the state. Either a vaccine is developed to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, a treatment option is readily available that ensures health care capacity is no longer a concern, or there are no new cases over a sustained period. All sectors of the economy reopen with **new health and hygiene practices permanently in place.** Large gatherings of all sizes can resume. Public health experts focus on lessons learned and building out the public health infrastructure needed to meet and overcome future challenges. Health care equity is made a priority to improve health outcomes and ensure vulnerable communities receive the quality care they deserve. Conventions, festivals, and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures in place reflecting the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

My assessment based on what is happening is we are in a new normal of wearing face masks. Although they help reduce the spread of the virus, they are not 100% effective in totally stopping viral containing particles in getting through, especially when coughing and sneezing as these actions force some of the larger particles, droplets, and more smaller particles, aerosols, through the materials. The quality of the masking material and how wearing determines its effectiveness. The amounts of particles and forces involved increases from breathing to speaking to coughing and then to sneezing. The transmission increases from surface contact with transfer to face to social contact with masks and distancing to close contact without masks. Droplets because of their size will probably contain more viral particles than aerosols. Thus, transmitting more infectious particles. It is unknown as to the mass of particles that are needed to cause infection. My guess this will be dependent on a person's health condition and vary from person to person.

A recent CDC planning guidance states that 35% of cases are asymptomatic based on current symptoms of the disease. So, one may be a carrier of the virus and not know it. This is why social distancing and wearing a mask is so important to protect others that one may come in contact with. The current statistics shows that the majority of new cases are in the age group 20 to 60, i.e. the work force. Because of the intense individualism in this country, these are the people most adverse to wearing a face mask. Also, since eating and drinking cannot be done with a face mask on, socializing in bars and restaurants are the major places for transmission. The guideline for restaurants is 25% of capacity when serving food; however if not food is being served then the use space is limited to 50 people. This is the understanding that Phil and I had when meeting with Ann Sather management.

Vaccines, even if effective are months out. In countries with reduced the infection rate, no herd immunity is found. There is uncertainty in how long antibodies remain in one after infection and to when one may become infected a second time. Thus, we are left with what risks are we willing to take in living our lives during this time? I would like your thoughts.