



NGƯỜI VIỆT ILLINOIS

**VIETNAMESE
COMMUNITY
MAGAZINE**



**CHICAGO
UPDATE:
NEW LAWS
AND TAXES
IN 2020**

**LAWRENCE-BRYN MAWR
MODERNIZATION
PROJECT**

**UNITED STATES
CENSUS 2020**



**ADVICE FOR THE
PUBLIC FROM
THE WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION
ABOUT THE
PREVENTION OF
CORONAVIRUS**



**OUR TET
EDITION 2020**

WINTER 2020

ISSUE 437

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LETTER FROM THE **CEO**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! On behalf of all of us here at the organization, I want to wish you a happy, healthy, and peaceful Year of the Rat! 2020 is an extremely important year for our communities. It will set the precedent for the beginning of this next decade. It is also a critical presidential election year, in which we get to elect a president that will support all communities, including immigrants and refugees. The March primary election is just around corner, on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Remember to get out the vote! 2020 is also a census year. In just six short months, VAI fundraised over \$100,000 to conduct outreach for the U.S. Census 2020. We have invested in a full-time staff member this year to ensure that our community members will be accurately and fairly counted in the U.S. Census 2020. We will be phone banking and door knocking in order to reach our historically undercounted community members! Please read more in this issue about the importance of an accurate count for the U.S. Census 2020. Remember to get out the count starting in April—every resident, regardless of age counts!



Thank you again to our supporters for ringing in the Year of the Rat at our Tet Dinner & Celebration on Sunday, January 19, 2020! We had over 450 guests attend our event. Special thank you to our sponsors and partners, including the Rivers Casino, SP+ Parking, and Horseshoe Casino for making our event such a huge success. Wishing everyone a year of excellent health and an abundance of joy!

Sincerely,

Tuyen T. Ngo
the VAI Family

Letter from the BOARD PRESIDENT

Kính gửi Quý Đồng Hương,

Nhân dịp bước sang Năm Mới 2020 và đón mừng Xuân Canh Tý, tôi hân hạnh được thay mặt cho Hội Đồng Quản Trị và toàn thể nhân viên của Hội Người Việt tại Illinois trân trọng kính gửi tới Quý vị đồng hương và gia quyến lời cầu chúc đầu năm dồi dào sức khỏe, an bình, hạnh phúc, và thành công mọi mặt.

Mỗi năm khi xuân về Tết đến, cho dù chúng ta sống xa quê hương nửa vòng trái đất, cho dù giữa mùa đông giá lạnh của thành phố Chicago, nhưng vào những ngày Tết thì sinh hoạt của người Việt tại đây vẫn rộn ràng, vẫn nhộn nhịp. Nếu đi qua các khu phố hay những cửa tiệm Việt Nam, chúng ta sẽ thấy người mua, người bán, người qua, kẻ lại tấp nập, và không khí Ngày Tết từng bừng trước mắt chúng ta với những nhành hoa mai, bánh chưng, bánh tét, kẹo mứt, và hoa quả với nhiều màu sắc rực rỡ. Đặc biệt tại những cơ sở Tôn Giáo và những Hội Đoàn, Đoàn Thể, nơi nào cũng chuẩn bị chương trình ca nhạc, hoặc gói bánh chưng, bánh tét, tổ chức ngày Mừng Xuân vui tươi.

Hội Người Việt cũng không ra ngoài tục lệ truyền thống tốt đẹp này. Để phục vụ cho Cộng Đồng và chuẩn bị đón mừng Năm Mới sắp đến, năm nay Hội Người Việt sẽ tổ chức chương trình Tết Nguyên Đán Canh Tý 2020 vào ngày Chủ Nhật tại nhà hàng Furama (Phú Lệ Hoa), 4936 N. Broadway St., Chicago, IL 60640. Chúng tôi trân trọng kính mời quý vị đại diện của các cơ quan chính phủ, các tôn giáo, các cơ sở thương mại, các hội đoàn, và quý vị đồng hương cùng quý gia đình đến tham dự. Chúng ta sẽ cùng nhau gặp gỡ, hàn huyên, đón mừng Xuân Canh Tý, thể hiện truyền thống văn hóa tốt đẹp, và nói lên tình thân thương đoàn kết trong Cộng Đồng Người Việt chúng ta tại đây. Trong chương trình Mừng Xuân, chúng tôi cũng xin báo cáo đến quý vị kết quả của những hoạt động trong năm 2019 và những sinh hoạt phát triển sắp tới của Hội Người Việt. Ngoài những hoạt động thường lệ, chúng tôi đang nỗ lực cố gắng phát triển thêm chương trình hỗ trợ tư vấn pháp lý và cung cấp các dịch vụ xã hội cho quý vị cao niên tại thành phố Chicago và những vùng ngoại ô lân cận, đặc biệt tại Dupage County, nhằm giúp đỡ miễn phí cho bất cứ quý vị nào có nhu cầu.

Kính thưa quý vị, trong năm 2020 tuy chúng tôi sẽ có nhiều cơ hội tốt, nhưng vẫn phải đối diện với những khó khăn về mặt tài chính và nhân lực. Mặc dù chúng tôi đã mời thêm được ba thành viên mới tham gia vào trong Hội Đồng Quản Trị - Ông Trần Brando, Cô Nguyễn Linh, và Cô Nguyễn Vi, nhưng chúng tôi vẫn cần thêm một số thành viên nữa để tiếp tục duy trì và phát triển những công việc phục vụ xã hội hầu đáp ứng các nhu cầu của cộng đồng chúng ta. Nếu quý vị muốn phục vụ cho cộng đồng Việt Nam, thì xin liên lạc với chúng tôi để chúng ta cùng nhau xây dựng Hội Người Việt mỗi ngày mỗi thêm hiệu quả và tốt đẹp hơn.

Năm 2020 sẽ đem đến nhiều cơ hội, nhưng chúng tôi cũng sẽ phải đối diện với nhiều thử thách. Chúng tôi rất cần sự tận tâm và tinh thần dẫn thân phục vụ của mọi người để Hội có thể hoàn thành những mục tiêu của tổ chức. Vì thế, chúng tôi chân thành kêu mời quý vị hãy tiếp tục hỗ trợ chúng tôi để Hội Người Việt được phát triển lớn mạnh hơn trong Năm Mới.

Tôi xin chân thành kính chúc quý vị và gia đình Năm Mới Xuân Canh Tý 2020 an khang, thịnh vượng, tràn ngập niềm vui, sức khỏe dồi dào, và hưởng nhiều phúc lộc.

Rất trân trọng,

Michael Nghĩa Nguyễn

Chủ Tịch HĐQT Hội Người Việt tại Illinois

Introduction to Our Board of Directors

There have been many changes at VAI over this past year—we've welcomed many new staff members, sought (and attained) increased funding in many of our programs, and very importantly, recruited experienced leaders to our Board of Directors! Our Board of Directors helps guide our organization and our mission, and in this critical year of strategic planning, we feel that it is important you get to know our Board as well as we do.



MICHAEL NGHIA NGUYEN is our current Board Chair. He was born in Rach Gia, Kien Giang, Vietnam. He grew up in Rach Gia, Kien Giang until at the age of 16. On October 6, 1985, he escaped his homeland Vietnam through the Vietnamese and Cambodia jungles to Cambodia, where he stayed for three months. On December 26, 1985, again he escaped Cambodia to Thailand. He stayed at the Vietnamese refugee camp in Thailand for two years. On October 18, 1988, Michael left Thailand to the United States, arriving in Peoria, Illinois. He finished high school in Ottawa, Illinois in 1992. He graduated from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 1996. He earned his master's degree in E-Commerce in 2009 and master's degree in Architecture in 2010. He is retired from IBM Corporation.

In addition to leading VAI, Michael volunteers at United Way, Red Cross, various local schools, the Roman Catholic Church, nursing homes across the city, Nghia Sinh International, and other nonprofit organizations. In 2008, he joined the St. Henry Parish Pastoral Council, a Vietnamese Roman Catholic Church. Michael has been with the Vietnamese Association of Illinois since 2008 and has served as Finance Chair in the past.



THY NGUYEN currently serves as Internal Vice President on VAI's Board of Directors and is the Associate Vice Provost for Career Development and Employer Relations at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Thy previously served as Executive Director for the University of Illinois at Chicago Career Services Office and Associate Director of Career Development for Northwestern University. He received a Master of Arts in Postsecondary Education, Student Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Public Relations from the University of Northern Iowa. He received additional certification in the Learning and Organizational Change graduate program at Northwestern University. Thy resides in Chicago with his spouse, Rebekah, and his three children.



GREG LINDEMAN has been involved, in various capacities, with the Vietnamese Association of Illinois since 1996. He currently serves on the Board of Directors as Secretary. Previously, he was also a volunteer English instructor in our English Literacy and Civic Education Program. Greg has been a licensed funeral director since 1995 and is the owner of Asian Funeral Services, LLC. He received his Bachelor of Science from Indiana State University and did graduate work at both the University of Iowa and University of Chicago. He received his mortuary science degree from the mortuary program at the City Colleges of Chicago. Prior to his involvement with VAI, he was a board member of TPAN and the CORE CENTER of Cook County. He has served on the HIV Planning Council for the City of Chicago, implementing programs and government assistance for underserved communities impacted with HIV and AIDS. Greg was also involved with affordable housing programs to serve individuals and families throughout Chicago as well as dedicating his efforts to serve on the Parish Planning Council of St. Jerome Parish in Chicago. He currently is a member and volunteer at St. Ita and Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes in Chicago. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Mother Cabrini Council, and the Funeral Directors Association of Greater Chicago.



THAO "DUCKIE" HUYNH currently serves as External Vice President and Finance Chair on VAI's Board of Directors. Duckie previously attended the College of DuPage as well as Harry S. Truman College. Duckie lends her expertise in numbers to VAI, and is currently working for NYLIFE Securities, LLC as a Financial Services Professional.



BRANDON TRAN is Vice President of Commercial Banking at Signature Bank, a Chicago-based commercial bank. Brandon began his banking career at BMO Harris in 2002 and left BMO in 2015 to join Wintrust Bank. Brandon joined Signature Bank in early 2019 and he's serving a diverse roster of clients including nonprofit organizations, professional practices, and privately-held family businesses. Brandon is a graduate of DePaul University and holds an MBA in Management from Roosevelt University. He is active in the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Advisory Board of Schools That Can Chicago.



LINH LAWLER is the Director of Customer Experience for Allstate Insurance Company's Claims department. She focuses on the people side of the business, helping ensure that Allstate delivers the Good Hands promise. Linh sets the strategic direction for customer experience design and measurement to ensure Allstate is delivering an effortless claims experience. She works closely with agencies, employees, leaders and technology to meet the evolving expectations of consumers and the company's strategic goals. Linh has extensive experience leading talent development, performance management, go-to-market strategies and transformational change. She has close to 20 years of human resources and business leadership expertise in health care, banking and insurance. Linh's success comes from building strong partnerships across the enterprise to co-create integrated and sustainable solutions that drive business results. She is particularly motivated by the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

Linh graduated with a degree in biology and psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. She holds a Master of Science degree in Education from Northwestern University. She is also a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow dedicated to civic leadership for a better community. She lives in the Chicago area with her husband, three children and rescue dog.



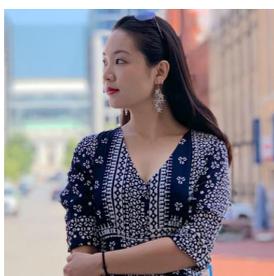
VI NGUYEN is a general assignment reporter for CBS Chicago and the newest member of the VAI Board of Directors. She joined CBS Chicago in March 2018. Prior to joining the news team Vi spent three years reporting in Indianapolis at WISH-TV. She started her career in Rockford, Illinois, where she learned to shoot, write, and edit. Originally from California, her family moved to the suburbs of Chicago, where she attended middle and high school in Joliet. She graduated from DePaul University with a degree in communications and a minor in biology. In her spare time she likes to read, watch movies, and cheer on the Green Bay Packers

> WELCOMING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

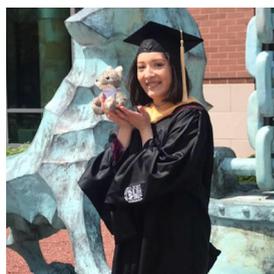
In the fall 2019 issue of our magazine, we provided a complete list of our staff members, complete with headshots, to introduce to our community. Since then, we're delighted to announce that we've welcomed even more talented staff members to support our work here. Please join us in welcoming these individuals to our team, and we hope you can meet them when you stop into the office!



TUOI VU is from Vietnam. She studied at Hanoi Open University and was awarded a bachelor's degree in English Business. She also earned a Teaching English Certificate from Vietnam National University in Hanoi. Tuoi worked as a coordinator for an NGO called Volunteers for Development (V4D). Tuoi began working for V4D in 2013. After leaving V4D, Tuoi founded her own social enterprise with two other friends and worked as CEO and Manager of Education in her organization, Youth Employment and Society Development (YESD). She began working for YESD in 2015 and was successful in developing a project entitled "Teaching English and Promoting Sustainable Tourism", which trains disadvantaged students to be local tour guides. Tuoi started working at VAI in December 2019 as Census Outreach Coordinator. She has a strong background in informal education and human resource mobility and has spent many years working with young volunteers from different countries. She also has a lot of experience in social work and education development. In her free time, Tuoi enjoys yoga, going to the gym, reading and traveling. (Did you know—several members of our team were volunteers or interns before they officially joined our ranks as staff? Read more about Tuoi's life before joining VAI as a staff member in our volunteer highlight section!)



THUY MERSEREAU hails from Hanoi, Vietnam. She received her bachelor's in English Business in 2014. Emigrating from Vietnam to the United States two years ago, she found herself in a state away from the lower forty-eight, Alaska. She recently relocated to Chicago and is happy that she found the VAI team! She brings to our organization a broad range of experience in customer service, having worked for an immigrant services organization and large, four-star hotel. She joined our team part-time as Immigrant and Refugee Program Coordinator in late 2019. In her free time, she loves playing with her kitten named Sushi.



RICKELE COY is the newest member of our Chicago office. Rickele joined the team in late 2019 as BRAVE Site Coordinator. In this role, she works closely with other members of the Youth Program to ensure that our partnerships stay in order and the needs of our youth are met to the fullest extent! With a robust, ever-growing youth program, she couldn't have found us at a better time! Born and raised on the Southside of Chicago, Rickele still calls the area home. She has both a bachelor's in psychology and master's in social work from Loyola University Chicago. In her free time, she loves attending musicals and playing with her two-year-old Beagle mix, Layla!

VAI Tet 2020 Dinner and Celebration

On Sunday, January 19, 2020, we held our annual Tet (Lunar New Year) Celebration to ring in the Year of the Rat.

This event was in official partnership with the United States Census Bureau, and received sponsorship from IlliniCare Health, Tai Nam Market, MyChoice Casinos, Rivers Casino, Swedish Hospital, Heeyoung Kim State Farm, Horseshoe Casino, and SP+ Parking.

Over 450+ redundant community members, supporters, and volunteers attended the event, including alderman Matt Martin, Illinois Department on Aging Director Paula Basta, and representatives from Governor J.B. Pritzker's, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth's, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin's, and Commissioner Bridget Gainer's offices. VAI's newest board member, Vi Nguyen, a reporter for CBS Chicago, served as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

The event also raised funds for VAI's services in the Chicago and DuPage communities, such as Adult Literacy & Civic Education, Civic Engagement & Advocacy, Immigrant & Legal Services, In-Home Senior Care, and year-round Youth Programs.

What a night to eat, drink, dance, and be merry for a great cause! For those who couldn't join us, we missed you, and please, enjoy the photos!

Photo credits to
**Wei P. Sun and
the U.S. Census Bureau**



VAI HOMECARE PROGRAM UPDATE

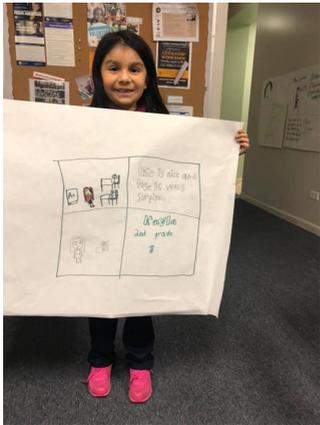


Below are some exciting updates to our homecare program! Our team of care managers and homecare aides work hard so that our older adults may stay in their homes and be well-supported in the community.

VAI has been working with our partners in the Illinois General Assembly and Executive Branch during the Spring session to advocate for appropriate rate increases. We now have approval for equal pay raise for all our homecare aides in Cook and DuPage Counties as of January 1, 2020 to \$14 per hour! Our program is also able to offer paid sick days as well as an end-of-the-year bonus. In 2020, we are looking to continue building strong, lasting relationships with our community members. Making an impact in the lives of our senior clients and the immigrant families and refugees we serve.

VAI Youth

PROGRAM UPDATE



PARENT SOCIALS

Since the start of the fall semester, our Youth Program has hosted monthly meetings, known as parent socials, to foster parental involvement in our programming. It is imperative that we cultivate and nurture relationships with not only our youth, but also parents and guardians. These gatherings give families an opportunity to develop skills for supporting and encouraging their children. Additionally, by attending these meetings, parents/guardians are encouraged to stay up to date on our Youth Program and community-wide events. Moreover, parents/guardians can receive resources regarding mental health and academic success. We strive to foster an environment focused on tangible impact; in November, KAN-WIN, a human services agency that strives to eradicate violence against women, empower survivors, and engage the community, led a workshop in which parents discussed internet safety, gender-based violence, and body protection.



START OF THE SPRING SEMESTER

We are excited to introduce new programs for the spring, such as Meditation Mondays, art therapy, Cinema Club, and Chess Club, that will promote creativity, self-care, and problem solving. Additionally, we have partnered with the nonprofit organization Junior Achievement of Chicago to teach our youth about financial literacy and work-readiness through engaging, hands-on activities.



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

On December 20th, our Youth Program hosted Family Game Night, a fun-filled evening of food, friendly competition, and prizes. For the first game of the night, Defying Gravity, youth raced against the clock to keep multiple balloons from touching the ground. The winners received VAI bucks to use for the prize shop. Students are rewarded with VAI bucks for exhibiting positive behavior (i.e. actively participating in programs, helping others, demonstrating leadership, being a good listener, etc.) and at the end of each month they can “buy” treats, such as toys, candy, and gift cards with their bucks. Youth and their parents/guardians filled out fall semester feedback surveys to win awesome prizes such as virtual reality headsets and Brookfield Zoo tickets. We are immensely grateful to our youth program families for their support!



HAM-BINGO

On November 27, our Youth Program partnered with local hot spot Hamburger Mary's to host a charity BINGO night, also known as Ham-BINGO. Community members made donations to play ten rounds of BINGO, and the winners walked away with prizes donated by local businesses. We raised over \$400 for our youth program!

VAI ENGLISH LITERACY STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Nhung and Hieu, in many ways, embody the recent Vietnamese immigrant experience that we often see here at VAI. I admit that I'm a bit biased toward them, because they were the first English students I taught for a period of time at the agency, and they are such a positive force in the classroom – cheerful and eager. For the last month, they have been studying with Tuoi, our new volunteer instructor and Census Outreach Coordinator. Nhung and Hieu, who were married in Vietnam, are also new to the U.S., having arrived toward the end of 2018 to be near Nhung's sister. They leapt into working full-time at her nail salon, just a week after landing in Chicago. Almost immediately, they sought out an English class at VAI – a step they acknowledge as crucial, because English will aid their communication with salon customers and simplify the navigation of everyday life in

Chicago, while also thinking several years ahead to the citizenship interview that will require them to know basic English.

Studying and working at the salon keeps the couple quite busy. Most days off are spent cooking and doing chores at home. However, Nhung appreciates the flowers that bloom all around the city in the Spring and Summer, and Hieu appreciates American cuisine offerings and reliable food quality (in addition to the traditional Vietnamese cuisine to which they remain loyal). They enjoy coming to the Argyle corridor to shop at the markets and eat out on occasion. They live due west in the Albany Park/North Park area, a vibrant neighborhood that is one of Chicago's most diverse. They both feel that learning English is the most challenging aspect of life in the U.S.; otherwise, Chicagoans are friendly

and the city is expansive enough that there is plenty to explore without having to travel outside the city. As they continue to work and get to know the city, they will continue coming to VAI for English lessons.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The students in our English Literacy program are hard-working and serious about their study. Every issue, we try to highlight the efforts of our students and volunteers and give an insight into their lives. Our English Literacy Program runs seven days a week, from 9am to 12pm each day, and is completely free-of-charge. If you're interested in improving your language skills, please contact us at (773) 728-3700!

VAI ENGLISH LITERACY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

VAI has eagerly welcomed several new staff members this season. In the case of Tuoi Vu, I had the privilege of getting to know her a bit before she joined our team as Census Organizer, because she started out as a volunteer in the Adult Literacy program in mid-November. Tuoi started her time at VAI by teaching an intermediate English class on Mondays, which she continues to do now, along with her various duties to bolster VAI's Census 2020 outreach efforts.

Tuoi herself arrived in the United States recently, so she is well-equipped to relate to the English learners and other community members who are still adjusting to life in Chicago. She moved into a home in Jefferson Park when her husband got a Chicago-based job for an airline; and once she completed

her pleasure travels, she felt it was time to get to work, as a volunteer and then as a full-time employee. She chose VAI because she feels that helping people is beautiful, and she wanted to support immigrants who arrived here with little English ability, because she comprehends how difficult that is for them. It makes her feel happy when she sees students' looks of pleasure as they learn something new in class. She and I both hope that she will have time to continue teaching as her census work intensifies.

According to her, though she is new to census work, the organizing component is familiar to her because she contributed to organizing in the work she did in Vietnam. After attending university, where she studied English, and working for a nonprofit alongside volunteers from

a variety of countries – which forced her to use English on a daily basis – she started her own organization to foster responsible tourism in Vietnam. Specifically, she worked with the Tay ethnic minority in the Ha Giang Region, empowering locals with English proficiency and the knowledge necessary to be successful tour guides in the region. She did this work for three years before marrying and deciding to move to the U.S. We're fortunate to now have her effervescent energy here at VAI. You may see her eating around Argyle, because she says she dearly misses Vietnamese cuisine.

VAI Community Empowerment Legal Clinic

Patrice came to CELC in mid-July. With the help of intern volunteers (both of whom spoke the community member's native French), we submitted an asylum application within a month of Patrice coming to the clinic. He was a member of the military in his home country, and was ordered to vote for the incumbent president by a superior officer. He exercised his democratic rights and voted for someone else instead. When his superior found out, he was arrested, detained, and tortured by the very military he served faithfully for years. He was tortured to the point of requiring hospitalization and surgery. He was ordered to be killed but managed to escape to the United States after being discharged from the hospital.

Patrice collected photos in support of his own asylum application and attended all meetings to quickly get the asylum case filed. He has transformed from a justifiably scared person seeking asylum, terrified of a denial which would result in his literal death sentence in his home country, to a person with the peace of mind of being able to live peacefully in the United States. He hopes to one day obtain his US citizenship so he can exercise his sacred voting rights here. For now, he will be working with our legal clinic to bring his wife and children to the United States to join him.



This case shows how important it is to leverage the collective resources of the community -- we were able to get the case filed quickly due to our strong team of volunteer interns, and Kovler's volunteer interpreter was integral to the process as well. Beyond's interns completed the written filing materials for Hanan's review and Kovler's volunteer Susan helped interpret for the asylum preparation and actual asylum interview. Kovler's caseworkers provided continuous support as well.

Overview About CENSUS 2020

Every 10 years, the U.S. government counts every person living in the U.S, through the census.

The census is a short questionnaire that asks basic information about your household and the people who live in it. Your personal responses are confidential.

The next census will start in March 2020. Make sure you are counted to get your fair share of resources and representation!

Being counted in the census helps you and your family.

Data from the census is used to divide over \$800 billion dollars of government funding for important services, like schools, libraries, food stamps, hospital and health care.

Data from the census is also used to divide up political representation in Congress, in your state capitol, and in cities and towns across the country; a complete count means fair representation for your community.

Your census responses are confidential.

The census will NOT ask about citizenship or immigration status. The Census Bureau is not allowed to share your individual information with other government agencies, immigration officials, or the public. Strong laws protect your response from being shared. Census responses can only be used for statistical purposes.

Timeline of the Census

March 12, 2020: The Census Bureau will send invitations to respond, in three separate waves of household mailings.

March 16 -24, 2020: Reminder postcards will be sent to households that have not responded.

April 1st, 2020: Census counted

Mid-April 2020: Reminder letters and paper forms will be sent to households that have not responded.

May to July 2020: Census Bureau employees will start to visit households that have not responded.

Note:

Up until mid- March 2020, you do not need to fill out an application, or answer anything. You should only respond when the Census Bureau launches the official census form on 12/03/2020. You will have a code and username for your response.

How do I respond to the census?

There are three different ways:

1. Online census questionnaire.
2. Respond to the questionnaire by phone.
3. Paper census questionnaires.

Where do I find support?

If you have language barrier issues or you need support, you can contact the Vietnamese Association of Illinois:

Chicago Office: 5110 N Broadway Ave, Chicago, IL 60640

DuPage Office: 640 E. Saint Charles Road, Suite 203, Carol Stream, IL 60188

We have an advisory board which can assist you with completing the questionnaire.

We also provide workshops and training that you can join to learn how to respond to the census.

For more information, please contact:

Tuoi Vu – (773) 728-3700

Thuong Phan – (773) 728-3700

Clark Nguyen – (773) 728-3700

WHY THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY PRESENTS A CHALLENGE FOR THE CENSUS BUREAU

According to the United States Constitution, the federal government is legally required to count all living persons in the country. However, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community has historically been undercounted.

Common questions that arise are:

Why do some members of the Vietnamese community not complete the Census?

Why has the Vietnamese Community been historically undercounted?

Is non-participation in the Census due to being worried that the Census Bureau would ask about immigrant status, citizenship or safety?

Some answers to these questions can be answered by understanding that:

The form will not ask you about your immigration or citizenship status.

The form will not ask for your Social Security Number.

What will the 2020 Census ask me?

- The 2020 Census will ask about your household
- The 2020 Census will ask about each person who lives in your household
- Whether you own or rent your home
- Your telephone numbers
- Name, age, date of birth, sex and race
- Relationship to the person filling out the form

Is Participating in the Census Safe?

Your census answers are confidential. The Census Bureau is not allowed to share your individual information with other government agencies, immigration officials, or the public.

Every Census Bureau employee with access to your data is sworn for life to protect your information.

If a Census Bureau employee violates this law, it is a federal crime; penalties are severe, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

Federal law requires everyone to participate in the census and to answer all the questions truthfully. Do not lie when responding to the census. If you skip a question your form will still be counted. Answering the census as completely as possible will help ensure a census taker does not come to your home to get the missing information.

OPEN LETTER

Participating in the census is the responsibility and also the right of everyone census living and working in the United States. Being a part of the census is absolutely safe and secure so you don't have to worry about anything. We hope you are ready to participate in the census campaign in March 2020. To avoid inconvenience, your voluntary participation in the census will reduce the chance of census bureau staff coming to your home in order to collect information.

Thank you!

Lawrence-Bryn Mawr Modernization Project



DETAILS: CTA is kicking on construction for the Lawrence to Bryn Mawr Modernization Project by starting preparatory or “pre-stage” trackwork between Thorndale and Montrose avenues. Pre-stage is the first of three stages to rebuild the Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr stations and **includes work to prepare the tracks to maintain ‘L’ service while the new stations are being built**, as well as to build temporary stations at Bryn Mawr and Argyle. Anticipated community impacts are as follows:

- **Continuous weekend work**, starting late Friday evening and concluding early Monday before the start of morning rush period. The weekend work will occur most weekends from the weekend of Jan. 24-27 into the spring.
- Depending on the type of work being performed, **there may be station closures at Granville, Thorndale and Bryn Mawr**, starting the weekend of Jan. 24-27, **or bypassed stations between Wilson and Howard**. If a station is bypassed, trains will not make stops at specific stations, requiring passengers to skip stations and then transfer to a train operating in the opposite direction to get off at their desired stop. Shuttle buses will be provided during weekend station closures.
- **Periodic street, alley and parking lane closures, including some weekend closures.** In affected areas, free alternative parking locations will be provided and residential and business garbage and recycling pickup will be maintained.
- **Overnight construction that will include noise, vibration and dust.** The loudest work will be performed during daytime hours, when possible, and the contractor will use specialized equipment such as temporary sound barriers.

> Note: CTA is performing this work during weekends when ridership is lower.



NEW LAWS AND TAXES IN 2020:

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA, MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE, AND MORE FOR ILLINOIS

Recreational use of marijuana will be legal for anyone 21 or older in Illinois; the minimum wage will go up across the state; taxes will go up on parking, restaurants, vehicle trade-ins, and more; and drivers will face stiffer penalties for passing stopped school buses or for failing to move over for emergency vehicles. Those are just some of the new state and local laws going into effect in the new year.

Recreational Marijuana

Starting Jan. 1, anyone over the age of 21 can buy and use recreational marijuana. **That doesn't mean they can carry it or light up anywhere they want, though.**

How much can you carry?

Thirty grams of pot in leaf form is the maximum; that's typically enough for 30 to 50 joints. If consuming cannabis concentrate – think oil cartridges and medicated muscle creams – then five grams is the cap. If it's edibles, like brownies or gummies, then 500 milligrams is the most you can have.

Where can I buy?

Existing medical marijuana dispensaries will be able to start selling adult-use cannabis on Jan. 1, and can open a second recreational marijuana location as well. The application process for other recreational marijuana dispensaries is underway, but licenses won't go out until May.

The state's marijuana law gives local governments power over deciding exactly where pot businesses can set up shop. In Chicago, the mayor and City Council have prohibited marijuana sales in most of the downtown area, and divided the rest of the city into seven zones, with a maximum number of stores selling recreational marijuana in each.

Chicago's marijuana zoning rules also require anyone seeking to operate a marijuana business in areas of the city typically reserved for storefronts to obtain a city permit and a zoning change, which would require City Council approval and give aldermen more oversight of recreational pot shops.

Where can you smoke?

It will still be illegal to light up in public, or inside any vehicle.

You can smoke at home of your home. If you rent, you need your landlord's permission.

If you live in public housing, such as the Chicago Housing Authority, it will still be illegal to smoke or possess weed, because federal law still prohibits marijuana use or possession in federally subsidized housing.

Licensed marijuana dispensaries and tobacco businesses may allow customers to smoke on premises, depending on local rules. The city of Chicago hasn't passed any such rules, yet, although the mayor has proposed an ordinance the City Council could consider as early as Jan. 15.

While it will still be illegal to light up marijuana in public or in a vehicle, the city of Chicago is reducing the penalties for illegal pot possession. The penalty for a first-time offense would go from \$250 to \$50, and the fine for subsequent violations would go from \$500 to \$100. Chicago police no longer will impound a person's car if there is a small amount of marijuana inside, but police could still seize vehicles if they're being used to illegally buy or sell marijuana.

How much will I be taxed?

It depends on the amount of THC, the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects. In flower form, there will be a 10% tax. Edibles are taxed 20% but jumps to 25% if the THC levels are above 35%.

In most states that have legalized recreational weed, it's typically 30-50% more expensive than illegal weed.

What about old pot convictions?

Hundreds of marijuana convictions will be expunged under the recreational marijuana law. How and when that will happen isn't as simple as it sounds, however.

Earlier this month, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx launched her office's effort to eventually clear tens of thousands of minor pot convictions from court records. Her office filed the first 1,000 petitions to expunge those convictions.

Prosecutors will automate the expungement process for the lowest-level marijuana convictions, but people convicted of more serious cases will have to

individually petition to have their cases cleared.

Cases of marijuana possession of less than 30 grams qualify for automatic expungement as long as they are not associated with violent crimes. But doing so will require police and prosecutors to review databases for eligible cases, which will take time. An "automatic" expungement doesn't have to be approved until January 2021 if it dates as far back as 2013.

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage for the entire state of Illinois will go up for the first time since 2010, as part of a law gradually increasing the rate to \$15 an hour by 2025.

Starting Jan. 1, the Illinois minimum wage will go up from \$8.25 to \$9.25 an hour. On July 1, it will go up again, to \$10 an hour. Increases of \$1 an hour will continue every Jan. 1 after that through 2025.

Chicago's minimum wage, which is already at \$13 an hour, will go up to \$14 an hour on July 1. The city's minimum wage will reach \$15 an hour on July 1, 2021, under an ordinance the mayor and City Council approved in November.

Rideshare Tax

Ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft will face a new congestion tax, aimed at reducing traffic downtown, and generating \$40 million in new revenue for the city.

The ordinance approved by the mayor and the City Council in November will be more than quadruple the tax on solo rides to and from downtown, from 72 cents to \$3 per trip; nearly double the tax for shared rides to and from downtown, and for solo rides in the neighborhoods, from 72 cents to \$1.25 per trip. However, if you're taking a shared ride in the neighborhoods, the rideshare tax will go down, from 72 cents to 65 cents per trip.

Restaurant Tax

Diners at Chicago restaurants will face a 0.25% increase in the tax they pay on their food and drinks (or 25 cents per \$100). The restaurant tax hike is just a small portion of the taxes charged on restaurant bills in Chicago. The city's sales tax rate is 10.25%, and downtown restaurants also are required to charge an extra 1% food and beverage

tax to fund the agency that oversees McCormick Place and Navy Pier.

The restaurant tax hike is expected to generate \$20 million a year in new revenue for the city.

Parking Meters

The cost of parking at metered spots downtown and in the Central Business District will go up by 50 cents an hour starting Jan. 1.

The mayor is proposing a 50-cent increase in the rates for metered street parking downtown and in the Central Business District. The cost of parking at a meter downtown (an area bounded by Lake Michigan on the east, the Chicago River on the north and west, and Ida B. Wells Drive on the south) will rise from \$6.50 to \$7 per hour. In the rest of the Central Business District (North Avenue to Roosevelt Road and Halsted to the lake) rates would rise from \$4 to \$4.50 per hour.

The city also would install add an unspecified number of metered parking spaces in the West Loop, from Halsted to Ashland and Van Buren to Grand, mainly on blocks with retail businesses. The rates at those meters would be the same as the Central Business District, costing \$4.50 per hour.

Parking Tax For Garages And Lots

Starting Jan. 1, the state will charge a 6% tax on parking in daily and hourly garages and lots, and a 9% tax on parking in monthly and annual garages and lots. The new tax will help fund the state's \$45 billion infrastructure construction plan.

Vehicle Registration Fees

Illinois license plate stickers also will be more expensive in 2020. Starting Jan. 1, the state's passenger vehicle registration fee will go up next year from \$101 to \$151. The higher fees also are part of the state's infrastructure construction plan.

Ridiculous Vehicle Trade-In Tax

Trading in your old car when you buy a new one also could cost you a lot more starting next year. Starting Jan. 1, the state of Illinois will collect sales tax on the trade-in value of cars worth more than \$10,000.

Currently, the state doesn't collect any sales tax on

trade-in values. Buyers currently get a tax credit for their old car's value, and are only taxed on the differences in value between their trade-in and the new car.

If you trade in a car worth \$20,000 and buy an SUV worth \$35,000, in Chicago the sales tax currently would come to \$1,425.

Starting Jan. 1, that sales tax would jump to \$2,312.50, an increase of nearly \$900.

It's yet another funding source for the state's capital plan.

Expressway Surveillance Cameras

Expressways in Cook County will get more surveillance cameras, and for the first time those cameras will be equipped to record footage, not simply live stream video. This summer, lawmakers approved spending for traffic cameras that can record. in response to the murder of Tamara Clayton, a postal worker who was shot and killed on Interstate 57 in January. Her killer has not been caught.

However, with only days until the new year, there is little to no evidence that Illinois State Police or the Illinois Department of Transportation have begun upgrading the existing cameras.

Illinois State Police have said repeatedly that surveillance cameras recording on the expressways will help them solve cases. But it looks like we will start 2020 with that tool still missing from the toolbox.

Tougher Penalties For Scott's Law, Construction Zone And School Bus Violations

Drivers who violate Scott's Law – which requires reducing speed or changing lanes when emergency vehicles are stopped on the road – will face steeper fines. The fine for a first offense will rise to a minimum of \$250 from \$100, while the second offense will be at least \$750. The maximum fine will remain \$10,000.

Separately, the fine will increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for failing to reduce speed and change lanes when possible upon approaching a construction zone.

Drivers can be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail, if the violation results in damage to another vehicle; and a felony punishable by up to 3 years in prison if a person is hurt or killed.

The fine for passing a school bus that has stopped and has its stop arm displayed will increase from \$150 to \$300 for the first offense, and from \$500 to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses.

Streaming Video While Driving

In addition to current bans on using cellphones while driving, this new law will forbid drivers from watching streaming videos while behind the wheel.

Unionization For Graduate Students:

Under an amendment to the Illinois Labor Relations Act, graduate students who work as research assistants, teaching assistants, or paraprofessionals in other ways will be classified as “educational employees” rather than “students.” The change will allow graduate students to join a union and participate in collective bargaining.

Protections For Employees Who Receive Tips

A new law states that gratuities are the property of employees, and employers are forbidden from taking them. The law requires tips to be paid to employees within 13 days after the end of the pay period where they were earned. The Illinois Department of Labor can take the issue to court if employers do not comply.

Use Of Arrest Records

Employers will be prohibited from inquiring into or using a record as the basis for an employment decision. Arrest records also cannot be used as the basis for refusing to take part in a real estate transaction.

Baby Changing Stations in Public Buildings

All buildings with public restrooms will be required to have at least one baby diaper changing station in a women’s room, and at least one in a men’s room – as well as at least one diaper changing station that is accessible to both men and women.

Restroom Signage

Single-room occupancy restrooms in public buildings will only be identified with a sign saying they are restrooms – and will no longer be designated for a specific gender. This does not apply to multi-person restrooms.

Gender Designations On State-Issued IDs

The state will allow for non-binary gender designations on future driver’s licenses and identification cards.

Statute Of Limitations For Sex Offenses

There will no longer be a statute of limitations for prosecuting criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault, or aggravated criminal sexual abuse – regardless of how old the victim is. The statute of limitations will also be removed for female genital mutilation when the victim is under 18.

Civil Remedies For Revenge Porn

The Civil Remedies for Nonconsensual Dissemination of Private Sexual Images Act allows victims to sue and recover damages when someone disseminates, or threatens to disseminate, their private sexual images without consent.

Medical Marijuana Administration In Schools

All schools – public, private, and charter – will be required to allow a nurse or administrator to administer medical marijuana on school premises to students who have been prescribed it. Written authorization from a parent or guardian must be issued and renewed for students to receive medical marijuana. The product must be stored with school

nurses at all times, and only accessible to themselves or administrators – who all must be trained in administering medical cannabis.

Voting In Jail

The state will provide voting opportunities for people held in Illinois jails – where criminal defendants are typically held before conviction or acquittal. In Cook County, a temporary branch polling place will be set up in the jail. Elsewhere in the state, election authorities will be required to facilitate inmates to vote by mail. Only residents of the county who are being held at the jail, and who have not been convicted of the offense for which they are being held, will be eligible to vote.

Sex Education

Sex education classes in Illinois must include an age-appropriate discussion on the meaning of consent – with a list of what must be addressed. The state is also cleaning up a requirement to teach about unlawful sexual activity that only addressed males having sex with females under 18 to whom they aren't married.

Separately, the state is issuing new requirements that those in facilities for people with developmental disabilities have access to sex education that supports his or her right to sexual health and healthy sexual practices – and freedom from sexual exploitation and abuse. Each individual must be assessed on whether they have the decision-making capacity to consent to sexual activity.

Preventive STD Access For Minors

The state will allow health care providers to prescribe preventative, or prophylactic, treatments such as PrEP medication for HIV prevention to minors 12 and over without parental consent. Previously, parental consent could only be waived if the minor were seeking health care services or counseling related to the diagnosis or treatment of an STI or a substance use disorder.

Home Energy Affordability And Transparency Act

This new law, touted by the Illinois Attorney General's office, will protect consumers from retail electric and gas suppliers that claim to offer cheaper energy rates than traditional companies – but come at a high cost for consumers. The act will also allow the Attorney General's office stronger tools to penalize suppliers who commit fraud and to return money to plural who are defrauded.

Worker Protection Unit And Task Force

A new law will establish a Worker Protection Unit within the Attorney General's office, which will have the authority to enforce existing laws and protect workers' rights. It is intended to help remedy wage theft and unfair labor practices, according to the Attorney General's office.

Source: CBS Chicago, <https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2019/12/30/new-laws-and-taxes-in-2020-recreational-marijuana-minimum-wage-increase-and-more-for-illinois/>



FRAMING THE IMPEACHMENT CASE: **AN INSIDE LOOK AT OPPOSING LEGAL TEAMS**

In their own words, here is how the House managers and President Trump's defense team view impeachment.

A former police chief, a prosecutor who won the conviction of an F.B.I. agent and one of Texas' first Latina representatives. A constitutional law professor who once defended O.J. Simpson against a murder charge, a former special prosecutor who pursued the impeachment of President Bill Clinton and a litigator for the Christian right.

For the third time in American history, the Senate has con-

vened as a court of impeachment to consider whether to remove a sitting president, and two teams of lawyers are facing off in a confrontation with heavy political and constitutional consequences.

The seven House Democratic Impeachment Managers, handpicked by Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, have argued that President Trump abused his power by pressuring Ukraine to help smear his

political rivals and obstructed Congress to conceal his actions. Mr. Trump's defense team — drawn from the White House counsel's office and outside lawyers, including a few who frequently appear on television — has argued that the president did nothing wrong and accused Democrats of using impeachment as a tool to remove an opponent they could not defeat at the ballot box.

Here is a look at the opposing legal teams and how they see impeachment, in their own words.

THE HOUSE IMPEACHMENT MANAGERS



"No Constitution can protect us if right doesn't matter anymore, and you know you can't trust this president to do what's right for this country. You can trust he will do what's right for Donald Trump." - Representative Adam B. Schiff, Democrat of California, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee and the lead Impeachment Manager



"We need to hold him accountable because no one is above the law. Nadie está encima de la ley." - Representative Sylvia R. Garcia, Democrat of Texas and one of the first two Latina women to represent the state

In the prior two presidential impeachment trials, all 20 members of the House selected to prosecute the cases — seven for Andrew Johnson in 1868 and 13 for Bill Clinton in 1999 — were white men. But the group chosen by Ms. Pelosi includes two African-Americans, a Latina and three women.

Representative Adam B. Schiff of California, the lead Impeachment Manager, spoke for as long as the six other managers combined, according to C-SPAN. He spent hours building the House's case by laying out the central themes and then delivering impassioned closing statements that drew grudging praise even from Republicans who disagreed — along with his share of criticism from those who said they were insulted by his sharp assertions.

Representatives Jerrold Nadler of New York and Zoe Lofgren of California, both veterans of the Clinton impeachment, drew on historic precedents from the proceedings against him and Johnson. Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York recounted the July 25 phone call at the heart of the Democratic case and worked in at least one hip-hop reference — a signature flourish — telling senators after he made the case to subpoena Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff: "And if you don't know, now you know." (The line is from "Juicy," a 1994 hit by the Notorious B.I.G.)



"We are here, sir, to follow the facts, apply the law, be guided by the Constitution and present the truth to the American people. That is why we are here." - Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Democrat of New York and the chairman of the Democratic caucus



"This moment is about ensuring that every voter — whether a maid or a janitor, whether a nurse, a teacher, or a truck driver, whether a doctor or a mechanic — that their vote matters and that American elections are decided by the American people." - Representative Val B. Demings, Democrat of Florida and the first female police chief of Orlando, Fla.



"I remember what it feels like to not have the equipment you need when you need it. Real people's lives are at stake. That's why this matters." - Representative Jason Crow, Democrat of Colorado, a lawyer and a former Army Ranger

Representatives Val B. Demings, Jason Crow and Sylvia R. Garcia, all comparatively newer lawmakers, often sought to connect the charges facing Mr. Trump to their own backgrounds. Ms. Demings drew from her experience as a police chief in Florida. Ms. Garcia recalled her time as a judge. And Mr. Crow reflected on his time as an Army Ranger dependent on military resources.

Over the allotted three days of presentation — and another day spent unsuccessfully pushing for subpoenas for additional documents and witnesses — the seven lawmakers argued that Mr. Trump's pressure campaign against Ukraine warranted his removal from office, pointing to what they said was a dangerous pattern of putting his own interests above those of the country.



"The impeachment clause exists to protect our freedom and our democracy in between elections. It exists to remind presidents that they serve the public, not the other way around." - Representative Jerrold Nadler, Democrat of New York and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee



“President Trump’s obstruction of Congress is not merely unprecedented and wrong, it’s also a high crime and misdemeanor as the framers used and understood that phrase.” - Representative Zoe Lofgren, Democrat of California and a veteran of three impeachment inquiries

THE PRESIDENT’S DEFENSE

Mr. Trump’s defense team includes well-known veteran prosecutors from the Clinton era, including Ken Starr, the independent counsel whose report led to the impeachment of Mr. Clinton, and Robert W. Ray, Mr. Starr’s successor.

Other members include fixtures on Fox News like Alan M. Dershowitz, the celebrity lawyer who defended Mr. Simpson, Claus von Bülow, Mike Tyson and Jeffrey Epstein, the financier who was accused of sex trafficking and committed suicide last year in jail.

Led by the president’s personal lawyer Jay Sekulow and Pat A. Cipollone, the White House counsel, the defense has argued that the House Democrats rushed through the process of impeachment in their zeal to overturn the results of an election they disagreed with, and that there was no evidence in the House case beyond hearsay that Mr. Trump had sought to tie the investigations to release of the security aid.



“We live in a constitutional republic where you have deep policy concerns and deep differences. That should not be the basis of an impeachment.” - Jay Sekulow, The president’s personal lawyer



“They’re asking you to tear up all of the ballots across this country on your own initiative, take that decision away from the American people.” - Pat A. Cipollone, The White House counsel

Mr. Cipollone and Mr. Sekulow have been the president's most frequent defenders on the Senate floor, providing most of the arguments against the Democratic effort to vote on subpoenas for documents and witnesses ahead of the team arguments. The crux of their argument is that Mr. Trump is accused of no crime and thus cannot be impeached, a legal theory that is rejected by most constitutional scholars. They also argue that Democrats are seeking to remove the president for policy judgments with which they disagree, thus nullifying the will of voters nine months before the next election.

In a remarkable twist, Mr. Starr, known for his aggressive pursuit of Mr. Clinton's impeachment for lying about an affair with a White House intern, told the Senate on Monday that the use of the constitutional remedy should be rare, and that Mr. Trump's actions did not rise to it.



"Instead of a once-in-a-century phenomenon, which it had been, presidential impeachment has become a weapon to be wielded against one's political opponent." - Ken Starr, The independent counsel whose report led to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton



"You cannot turn conduct that is not impeachable into impeachable conduct simply by using words like 'quid pro quo' and 'personal benefit.'" - Alan M. Dershowitz, Professor emeritus at Harvard Law School

Other lawyers on the president's trial team include Pam Bondi, the former Florida attorney general; Eric D. Herschmann; Michael Purpura and Patrick Philbin, deputy White House counsels; and Jane Serene Raskin, who helped defend Mr. Trump during the investigation by Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel who investigated Russia's interference in the 2016 election and ties with the Trump campaign.

On Monday, Mr. Dershowitz was the only one of the group to directly address the revelations by John R. Bolton in an unpublished manuscript that Mr. Trump directly tied aid to Ukraine aid to investigations of his political rivals. Even if true, Mr. Dershowitz said, it was not impeachable.

Source: The New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/28/us/politics/impeachment-legal-teams.html>

ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC FROM **THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION** ABOUT THE **PREVENTION OF CORONAVIRUS**



01

Wash your hands frequently

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty to eliminate the virus if it is on your hands.

02

Practice respiratory hygiene

When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. Doing so to prevent the spread of germs and viruses. If you sneeze or cough into your hands, you may contaminate objects or people that you touch.

03

Maintain social distancing

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and other people, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing and have a fever. When someone who is infected with a respiratory disease, like 2019-nCoV, coughs or sneezes they project small droplets containing the virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the virus.

04

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Hands touch many surfaces which can be contaminated with the virus. If you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer the virus from the surface to yourself.

05**If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early**

Tell your health care provider if you have traveled in an area in China where 2019-nCoV has been reported, or if you have been in close contact with someone who has traveled from China and has respiratory symptoms.

Whenever you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing it's important to seek medical attention promptly as this may be due to a respiratory infection or other serious condition. Respiratory symptoms with fever can have a range of causes, and depending on your personal travel history and circumstances, 2019-nCoV could be one of them.

06**If you have mild respiratory symptoms and no travel history to or within China**

If you have mild respiratory symptoms and no travel history to or within China, carefully practice basic respiratory and hand hygiene and stay home until you are recovered, if possible.

07**As a general precaution, practice general hygiene measures when visiting live animal markets, wet markets or animal product markets**

Ensure regular hand washing with soap and potable water after touching animals and animal products; avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with hands; and avoid contact with sick animals or spoiled animal products. Strictly avoid any contact with other animals in the market (e.g., stray cats and dogs, rodents, birds, bats). Avoid contact with potentially contaminated animal waste or fluids on the soil or structures of shops and market facilities.

08**Avoid consumption of raw or undercooked animal products**

Handle raw meat, milk or animal organs with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.



RECIPES TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR

The following recipes are popular Vietnamese-American dishes that are made year-round. We hope to share some of our culture with these yummy treats! Take a try at making them!

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 lbs lean ground pork
- 2 tbsp fish sauce*
- 1/2 tsp Kosher salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp white pepper
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 package Alsa baking powder about 1 tablespoon**
- 1 tablespoon tapioca flour**
- 2/3 cup warm water
- 1 package banana leaves** or quality plastic wrap

CHA LUA



**available in the Asian section of supermarkets or in Asian Food Markets*

***available at Asian Food Markets*

Instructions

1. Place meat in food processor and add the fish sauce, salt, sugar, pepper, garlic and onion powders. Pulse until fully incorporated.
2. Add the baking powder and flour to the warm water (do not prep this mixture until just before you are ready to add it to the meat mixture).
3. Pour the wet mixture into the meat mixture, and process for 30 seconds.
4. Place the meat mixture in a medium bowl, cover, and place in fridge for overnight.
5. The next day, remove the meat from the fridge, and divide into two loaves.
6. Wrap each loaf tightly with banana leaves, or plastic wrap (Saran Wrap works well). Repeat with another layer. If using banana leaves, wrap one more time with plastic wrap.
7. Tie kitchen string around each loaf, lengthwise, and several times width-wise.
8. Steam the loaves for 50 - 60 minutes. (Internal temp should be 145°F. Slice and check for doneness, if not fully cooked, re-wrap and steam for another 15 minutes).
9. Remove the string and plastic wrap and slice.

Source: <https://howtofeedaloon.com/cha-lua-vietnamese-ham-aka-pork-roll/>

CHE

Ingredients

- 1 pound ripe Vietnamese bananas or plantains
- 4 ounces sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons small tapioca balls
- 4 pandan leaves or a few drops of pandan flavoring if leaves aren't available
- 1/2 can coconut crème

Topping

- 2 tablespoons roasted peanuts lightly crushed
- 2 tablespoons roasted sesame seeds lightly crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon salt



Instructions

1. Soak the tapioca balls in warm water for about 20 minutes, then drain.
2. Peel and cut bananas then marinate it in 4oz sugar to sweeten them. Make sure all sides of the bananas are covered in sugar, then cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes to 2 days. The longer you can marinate, the better.
3. Bring 2 cups of water to a boil with 2 knots of pandan leaves. Turn the heat to medium, and simmer for about 20 minutes to extract the pandan flavor.
4. Add the remaining ingredients into the pot (banana, coconut creme, tapioca, salt), simmer on medium for about 15-20 minutes more until bananas reach desired softness.
5. Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle a bit on top of each individual serving

Source: <https://www.hungryhuy.com/vietnamese-banana-coconut-tapioca-dessert-che-chuoi/>

CONTRIBUTOR CREDITS

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CALL FOR COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Our organization greatly values the input of all community members, and we are always looking for contributions to our magazine! If you would like to submit a piece for publication or advertise in the next edition, please contact Evan Cooper at evan.cooper@hnvi.org or at 773-728-3700 ext.32.