

McLean County Museum of History

COVID-19 Collection

Processed by
JoAnna Mink
Spring 2021 – Summer 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	2020-2023
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also: Greeting Cards Collection – Box 1, Folder 41: Christmas 2020

Brief History

On January 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first case in the United States, in Washington state, of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, more commonly known as COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, WHO declared it to be a global pandemic, and on March 13 President Trump declared it a national emergency, thereby unlocking billions of dollars in federal funding to fight the disease.

In March, the Trump administration announced a series of travel bans, and state governors began issuing stay-at-home orders. Immediately on March 25 and 27, respectively, Congress passed and the President signed the CARES Act, the largest economic recovery package in history.

This COVID-19 Collection focuses on the effects in McLean County, Illinois.

Scope

This collection includes information disseminated by federal, state, and local officials and representatives about COVID-19; about testing and vaccinations; how local businesses, organizations and individuals reacted to the pandemic; and instructions on making face masks.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Government Information

- 1.1 Poster: COVID-19 Symptoms, From the McLean County Health Department.
- 1.2 From website: Condado de McLean Covid-19 Equipo de Ayuda Mutua.
- 1.3 Form letter, addressed to William Kemp, to notify of the first direct Economic Impact Payment (stimulus payment) of \$1200.00 for single persons, included in the CARES Act. Dated April 22, 2020, with envelope.
- 1.4 Form letter, addressed to Gregory and Carol Koos, to notify of the first direct Economic Impact Payment (stimulus payment) of \$2400.00 for married couples from the CARES Act. Dated May 6, 2020.
- 1.5 Form letter, addressed to JoAnna Mink, to notify of the direct payment of \$1400.00 for single persons included in the American Rescue Plan. Dated April 15, 2021.
- 1.7 Workplace Health and Safety Guidance for Employees and Staff of Businesses, from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, April 30, 2020.
- 1.8 Executive Order 2020-32 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 30), Signed by Governor Pritzker, April 30, 2020, 14pp.
- 1.9 Postcard mailer: President Trump's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, March 16, 2020, 2 copies.
- 1.10 Mailer: COVID-19 Resources & Information, from U.S. Congressman Rodney Davis, 13th District Representative, 2 copies.
- 1.11 Campaign Mailer: Supporting Working Families and Our Local Economy, from Rodney Davis, running for US House District 13.

- 1.12 Facing Eviction? Flyer about State of Illinois emergency assistance program for those affected by COVID shutdowns.

Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings

- 2.1 “A round of applause,” *Pantagraph*, April 5, 2020. Includes photos of various local essential workers.
- 2.2 “Olympia’s Return to School; Plan,” *The Stanford Mail*, August 1, 2021.
- 2.3 “As Cases Surge, Mandates are Back,” *The Stanford Mail*, August 29, 2021.
- 2.4 News Release about planning for the Town of Normal Pandemic Time Capsule, January 10, 2022.

Folder 3: Local Information/Activities

- 3.1 Poster: Keep your fellow Redbirds Healthy! Cover your Coughs and Sneezes, Illinois State University.
- 3.2 Poster: Keep yourself and fellow Redbirds healthy! Wear a Face Covering, Illinois State University.
- 3.3 Postcard Mailer: BPL is open online 24.7, Bloomington Public Library.
- 3.4 Form letter (undated) from Fr. Stirniman, about changes to worship services, finances, and maintaining connection for St. Patrick Church and Holy Trinity Church (Bloomington), and St. Patrick Church (Wapella), Triduum Schedule attached.
- 3.5 Flyer and reservation form for The Illinois Traction Society meeting, April 25, 2020.
- 3.6 *Bellflower Bulletin*, May 2020.
- 3.7 Notice about The Quarantine Concerts fundraiser, April 11, 2020, live-streamed, 2pp.
- 3.8 Travel with Flat Lincoln and his handy-dandy mask! From Looking for Lincoln.
- 3.9 Postcard sent to Greg and Carol Koos from Kayla Foster, a Bloomington native, about changing her October 2020 wedding celebration to a virtual event on October 16, 2021.
- 3.10 Information about “A Very COVID Christmas Carol” performed live by actors remotely on December 17-19, 2020, at the Normal Theatre, 5pp.
- 3.11 Note of thanks sent to Greg Koos from Karen Schmidt for donation to B-N Welcoming through the Mennonite Church, May 14, 2020.
- 3.12 Letter of thanks to Greg and Carol Koos from Divah Griffin for donation in support of Candace Summers and her mask-making efforts at the McLean County Museum of History, May 11, 2020.
- 3.13 Letter of thanks to Greg and Carol Koos from United Way of McLean County for donation to COVID-19 Fund, undated.
- 3.14 Email from Greg Koos with photo of anti-public health protestor demonstrating in front of Vitesse Cycle Shop (owned by Mayor of Normal Chris Koos), protesting Town of Normal’s support for Governor Pritzger’s social distancing order, May 11, 2020.
- 3.15 “Call for submissions: The Visual Culture of a Pandemic,” CASNews, March 26, 2021, 3pp, about project at Illinois State University Schroeder Hall Gallery.
- 3.16 Letter to parishioners of Holy Trinity and Historic St. Patrick churches from Fr Stirniman, about new protocols at church services, May 27, 2021.
- 3.17 Sign: Sanitize High Touch Point Areas Regularly, from Illinois Department of Commerce, Restore Illinois, encapsulated.
- 3.18 Sign: No Entry Without Mask, from Illinois Department of Commerce, Restore Illinois, encapsulated.

- 3.19 Sign: Be a Hero Wear a Mask, from Illinois Department of Commerce, Restore Illinois, encapsulated.
- 3.20 Sign: Protect Your Family, from Illinois Department of Commerce, Restore Illinois, encapsulated.
- 3.21 Sign: Show Us Your Mask! We're all in this together!, McLean County Museum of History, encapsulated.
- 3.22 Sign: Do Your Part / Stay 6 ft. apart! / Please stop here, McLean County Museum of History, encapsulated.
- 3.23 Do your part / Stay 6 ft apart! / To visit Museum, with directional arrow, McLean County Museum of History, encapsulated.
- 3.24 Poster Cancel the Rents! Protest, September 25, 2021.

Folder 4: Local Business Response

- 4.1 Brochure: "BN@Home: Your Guide to Working & Shopping from home in Bloomington-Normal," *Pantagraph* media, 2 copies.
- 4.2 Ads from businesses about door delivery from Burger King, curbside pick-up from Pet Supplies Plus, ordering by app from Monical's, patio dining menu from Nightshop, and DoorDash delivery from Fort Jesse Café/
- 4.3 "It's time to get back to normal, It's time to get back to business," newspaper announcement of Back to Business initiative. On reverse is announcement by Bloomington-Normal Area Restaurant Week, May 14-23, 2021.
- 4.4 Letter from Heartland Theatre Company to patrons announcing new procedures for 2021-2022 season and highlights of what HTC did in 2020-2021 when theatre was closed due to COVID.
- 4.5 Safety Q&A at Heartland, protocols for 2021-2022 season, June 21, 2021.
- 4.6 Narrative of how First United Methodist Church in Normal handled re-opening, by Carolyn Yockey, August 3, 2021. Attached are programs from services June 6-August 1, 2021, and gift agreement.
- 4.7 Announcement of Proof of Vaccination requirement for patrons at Heartland Theatre Company, 2pp, January 1, 2022.
- 4.8 Letter from Laurie Bergner, thanking Heartland Theatre Company for leadership in requiring proof of vaccination, *Pantagraph*, February 4, 2022.
- 4.9 "SOI Makes the Best of COVID-19 Pandemic Conditions," by Jim Stahly, about what The Sound of Illinois Chorus did in 2020 and 2021 when they could not perform in public, 3pp.
- 4.10 Safety Protocols at Heartland, website announcement that the Board of Directors has decided facemasks are welcome, but not required, May 22, 2023.

Folder 5: Testing

- 5.1 Coronavirus COVID-19 Test Results for Individuals tested at a Federally Supported Community Based Testing Site, printed by State of Illinois, April 30, 2020. Was received May 18, 2020, from Bloomington Interstate Center testing site run by the Illinois National Guard.

- 5.2 Nasal Self-Swab Quick Reference Guide, FEMA, printed by State of Illinois, May 11, 2020. Was received May 18, 2020, from Bloomington Interstate Center testing site run by the Illinois National Guard.
- 5.3 Fact Sheet for Patients, April 14, 2020. Was received when having an antibody test at Sports Enhancement Center, Bloomington, June 2020.
- 5.4 COVID-19 Testing. Test results, Illinois Department of Public Health, May 18, 2020.
- 5.5 Puritan Sterile Foam Tipped Applicator.
- 5.6 Pamphlet: Your COVID-19 testing guide, received in December 2020 at Interstate Center.
- 5.7 Information provided by Bill Kemp relating to his COVID-19 test at the McLean County fairgrounds, August 14, 2021. Documents are: Testing Request Form, Results, sticker, and photo taken from car while in line.
- 5.8 Pamphlet for COVID-19 Antigen Self Test and Testing Request Form and results for Bill Kemp, undated.
- 5.9 COVID-19 test and results for Bill Kemp, June 29, 2022 – includes instructions for the COVID-19 PT-PCR test, fact sheet, privacy statement, pharmacy customer receipt and receipt showing no charge.
- 5.10 Materials for appointment and test for Bill Kemp, July 1, 2022 – includes appointment details 3pp, notification of availability of test results 2pp, and test result 2pp.

Folder 6: Vaccinations

- 6.1 Poster: Get Your Fauci Ouchie! Get Vaccinated.
- 6.2 What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine, CDC publication, <[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/)>.
- 6.3 Packet of documentation relating to registering for and receiving the Moderna vaccine administered through the McLean County Health Department, January 15-February 23, 2021, donated by JoAnna Mink. Materials include: email confirming sign up on January 26, second email confirmation, reminder email, list of what to bring to vaccination clinic, email confirmation for second vaccine on February 23, ticket to bring to appointment, COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, Fact Sheet for recipients and caregivers about Moderna vaccine (2pp), What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine, VaxText COVID-19 Vaccination, Second-Dose Reminder.
- 6.4 Packet of documentation relating to registering for a receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine administered through the McLean County Health Department, February 10-March 5, 2021, donated by Carol Lehman. Materials include: confirmation of sign up on February 10, ticket and list of what to bring, Fact Sheet for recipients and caregivers about the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (3pp), McLean County Health Department registration form (2pp), tickets for vaccine clinics on February 10 and March 3, order for vaccine clinic on March 3, ticket for March 3 appointment, notice that March 3 clinic is canceled due to late shipment of vaccine (2pp), email notification of rescheduled clinic on March 5 (2pp), ticket for March 5 clinic.
- 6.5 Flyer about vaccination locations in Illinois by Illinois Department of Public Health. On reverse: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Funeral Assistance, FEMA, undated.
- 6.6 Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers for Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, 6pp; description of V-safe (using smartphone); pharmacy customer receipt for vaccine for Victoria More, April 6, 2021; receipt showing no charge.

- 6.7 Materials relating to Pfizer booster, given to Bill Kemp, December 9, 2021, including: confirmation of appointment December 2, 2021, 2pp; reminder of appointment December 8, 2021, 2pp; pharmacy customer receipt for vaccine, receipt showing zero charge, coupon thank-you, December 9, 2021.
- 6.8 Appointment details for Moderna second booster given to JoAnna Mink on June 6, 2022, including confirmation of appointment, Vaccine Administration Record Informed Consent form, and photocopy of COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card for Mink.
- 6.9 Sticker: I got My COVID-19 Vaccine! From the McLean County Health Department.
- 6.10 Email confirmation of appointment for COVID-19 booster for JoAnna Mink, October 4, 2023.

Folder 7: Personal Narratives and Poems

- 7.1 “A Year of My Life” by Carolyn Yockey. Personal narrative (3pp), monthly list of projects and books read (2pp), scans of needlework, jigsaw puzzles, crocheting and other projects (11p), 2 cover emails.
- 7.2 “Coping with Stay-at-Home and Pandemic: An Essay” by JoAnna Stephens Mink. Personal essay (2pp) and list of Books Read During Year of Stay-at-Home (2pp).
- 7.3 Email from Kathleen Kirk to Bill Kemp explaining the context for her poem “June 1, 2020” and her pandemic chalkboard. Attached is the catalog record for her book *Poetry East* in which this poem appears.

Folder 8: COVID-related items

- 8.1 Do your part / Stay 6 ft apart! / To visit Museum, with directional arrow, McLean County Museum of History, encapsulated.
- 8.2 Poster Cancel the Rents! Protest, September 25, 2021.
- 8.3 Pattern and instructions for making cotton face mask with pocket, 2pp.
- 8.4 Poster: Face Coverings Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19, with instructions on making a mask from a t-shirt or bandanna, McLean County Health Department. When manufactured face masks were unavailable to the general public at the beginning of the pandemic, these instructions would have been very useful.
- 8.5 Plastic envelope with instruction (in English and Spanish) that accompanied a homemade face mask.
- 8.6 Plastic pouch that contained face masks purchased by Museum librarian Bill Kemp on May 31, 2021, includes explanation by Kemp, receipt, instruction sheet, and manufacturing information (in Chinese).
- 8.7 Box from face masks purchased by Bill Kemp August 3, 2021, with instructions (in Chinese).

Folder 9: Commemorative Events

- 9.1 Program for event held on Museum steps March 12, 2021, to commemorate a year of the COVID pandemic and remembrance of the 175 McLean County residents who have died of COVID-19 complications, 2pp.
- 9.2 “These Are Our Words” poem written and read by Kathleen Kirk at event, with cover email and Kirk’s explanation of composing process.
- 9.3 “Call to Vigilance: Vigil honors COVID dead, calls to keep up the right,” *Pantagraph*, March 13, 2021, 4pp.

- 9.4 “A Year Later, Arrival Of Pandemic Acknowledged, Victims Remembered,” *The Normalite*, May 18, 2021.
- 9.5 Six Words: Viral Silence: Community Portraits in Response to Covid-19, Edward Breitweiser, at the McLean County Museum of History, June 24, 2022.
- 9.6 Poster for #3YearsIn3Lines: The Exhibit, Illinois Art Station, May 6-June 17, 2023. Illinois Art Station is the only exclusively downstate organization partnered with a consortium of statewide organizations called The Resiliency Collective for a new exhibit, which is an artistic reflection on the pandemic, now three years removed from its peak.

Folder 10: Miscellaneous

- 10.1 Scan of Thanksgiving card with photograph by Ruthie Cobb, 2020. On reverse is explanation of text of card.
- 10.2 Season’s greetings card from Chris Bock and family, December 2020.
- 10.3 “A Covid Consious [sic] birthday card,” September 26, 2020.
- 10.4 “Children’s Halloween Parade on Normal Avenue,” *Old North Normal News*, Fall 2020.
- 10.5 2020 schedule for Chicago White Sox.