

IOWA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

NEWS

Email Scammers During COVID-19 Epidemic

INLA leadership has been made aware of a fraudulent email that claims to be from Iowa Nursery Landscape Association President Shawna Moss. A quick check of the actual email address shows this was from a scammer.

You are likely very familiar with these sorts of emails, but as a reminder, please be on your guard against fraudulent messages.

The COVID-19 epidemic is generating many of these scams. "Quick notes" or any emails asking for gift cards or cell phone numbers are red flags that the email is likely a scam and additional scrutiny of the sender is warranted.

Remember, never forward scammer emails, never click on links, and never open attachments they provide. Your company's security system may very well send most of these requests to your spam folder, if received, delete immediately. Please contact your company's IT or technology provider if have further questions on your systems security.

If you ever have a question about an email from INLA or person(s) who represent INLA, please feel free to call Joan O'Brien 515-975-7461 (cell) or the main office at 515-262-8323. Our office is closed to visitors, but we are always taking phone calls during business hours.

Take Advantage of IDALS Drive-Up Testing

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has posted opportunities across the state for companies needing their staff to complete commercial pesticide applicator certification.

Members with staff who need commercial pesticide applicator certification are encouraged to take full advantage of the drive-up testing option. Session will take place at various locations across the state.

The next set of sessions will take place next week on Thursday, May 28, 2020:

- **Fort Dodge: 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 1:00 PM**
- **Des Moines: 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 1:00 PM**
- **Iowa City: 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 1:00 PM**

The testing sessions provide the opportunity to acquire any of the certifications needed for commercial pesticide applicators including ornamental and turf.

IDALS has said they will maintain frequent opportunities as long as participation remains high, but will reduce the number of sessions offered once it is determined Commercial Pesticide Applicator testing has met the seasonal demand.

Be advised that only the registered testers are permitted to enter the test site. One tester per vehicle.

Late arrivals will be asked to reschedule. Exam sessions are non-transferable to other persons. All examinees must be able to drive and park their vehicles at the exam site. This may include backing into a parking space. IDALS is unable to accommodate drop-off examinees at this time. No drop-off or walk-in examinees will be permitted at the test site.

No notes, manuals or other assistance is allowed during testing. Pencils, calculators and masks will not be provided and at no time during the examination period can the applicant leave the confines of their vehicle.

With any perceived violation of the provided guidelines, the exam will be discarded, the exam will be scored as a fail. The applicant may also be suspended from taking exams for a period of 1 year.

Thank you to IDALS, Secretary Mike Naig, and Deputy Secretary Julie Kenney for their work to help our members with the certification issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sign up for testing: https://data.iowaagriculture.gov/pest_signup and study materials can be found at: <https://iowaagriculture.gov/pesticide-bureau/manuals-and-study-guides-certification>

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900 Des Moines Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515.262.8323
Fax: 515.262.8960

Governor Updates Emergency Declaration

Today, Governor Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the Public Health Disaster Emergency until June 25, 2020.

As previously announced, the proclamation permits bars, wineries, breweries, distilleries, and social and fraternal clubs may reopen on May 28 with the same public health measures as restaurants in place.

The proclamation also permits the reopening on June 1 of additional establishments, including outdoor performance venues, casinos, bowling alleys, amusement parks, skating rinks, skate parks, outdoor playgrounds.

The proclamation again permits social, community, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people if public health measures are implemented, including limiting attendance to 50% of the venue capacity and maintaining six feet of distance between those attending. This also allows practices, games, and competitions for youth and adult baseball, softball, and individual sports such as running, biking, swimming, tennis, and golf to resume with appropriate public health measures in place.

<https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/gov-reynolds-signs-new-proclamation-continuing-the-state-public-health-emergency-4>

SBA Releases Details For PPP and Loan Forgiveness

Late Friday, the SBA released much-anticipated guidance regarding the forgiveness component of Paycheck Protection Program loans. The guidance includes the forgiveness worksheet that borrowers will be required to fill out as well as information on the types of documentation that borrowers will need to maintain for purposes of supporting their claims for loan forgiveness.

<https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-newsroom/press-releases-media-advisories/sba-and-treasury-release-paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-application>

ISU-CALS CARD/ECON Website Tracks the Effects of COVID-19

Researchers in the Iowa State University Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) and Department of Economics (ECON) are examining the effect of COVID-19 on local, regional, and global economies. ISU has created a website to share findings. Graphs, tables, and charts showing community mobility, unemployment, and beef and pork prices are currently available.

Visit <https://www.card.iastate.edu/covid-19> for the latest information.

CISA Releases Updated Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19

On May 19, 2020, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released version 3.1 of its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. Version 3.1 provides clarity around many individual worker categories, including expanded language for those workers supporting at-risk communities and the essential nature of health facility workers in communities across the country. The revision also includes updated language to better reflect terminology used in food and agriculture industries and includes other minor technical adjustments. Further, it addresses changes in the daily lives and routines driven by COVID, adding as essential those who enable telehealth and the availability and sale of goods and services to enable home schooling.

This Guidance is not a federal mandate, and final decision on its use remains with state and local officials, who must determine how to balance public health and safety with the need to maintain and/or more fully return-to-work critical infrastructure personnel in their communities. As the nation's response to and recovery from COVID-19 continues to evolve, CISA will work in close coordination with our partners across government and industry to update this list as needed.

The degree to which state and local orders have already leveraged this Guidance when defining essential workers is encouraging. Equally, we hope this revised guidance helps you as your community continues to respond to and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Please direct any questions on this guidance and its use to CISA. CAT@cisa.dhs.gov.

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Kirkwood Community College

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