

# WVPH Quarterly Issues and Programs List

## April - June, 2020

### **Issue: How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting our community?**

According to the World Health Organization, COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

---

### **Democracy Now! 4/2/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman, Richard Hooker, secretary-treasurer of Philadelphia Teamsters Local 623, and David Levin, lead organizer with Teamsters for Democratic Union, discuss the pandemic's effect on essential workers, and how some companies have failed to meet workers' demands for protective gear, and even basic needs like clean working bathrooms. They discuss situations where CDC and OSHA guidelines are not being followed. Amy Goodman and journalist Amy Littlefield, who is nine months pregnant, discuss the uncertainty of having a baby during a pandemic. Amy Goodman and Cea Weaver, campaign coordinator for Housing Justice for All, discuss the effect of the pandemic on renters in hard-hit areas, many of whom have lost their income but have not yet been able to file for unemployment.

### **Democracy Now! 4/7/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Sarah Dowd, a registered nurse who works at a hospital in New York City, discussed the lack of personal protective equipment, and how they've had to reuse single-use masks for as many as five shifts. Amy Goodman, Jose Diaz, NYU graduate student in social and cultural analysis, and Jose Saldana, director of Release Aging People in Prison, discuss the effects of the coronavirus on people who are incarcerated and vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, the inability to follow social distancing guidelines, and lack of cleaning supplies. Amy Goodman speaks with Bishop Clifton Daniel, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, about the emergency field hospital they are setting up in their cathedral.

### **Democracy Now! 4/15/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez discuss his family's own experience with COVID-19. His 92 year old mother was hospitalized with abdominal pain and did not appear to have respiratory symptoms but tested positive for COVID-19. They discuss the lack of available testing and other issues hospitals and patients are facing. Amy Goodman, Gerardo Reyes Chavez, farmworker leader with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, and Monica Ramirez, president of Justice for Migrant Women, discuss the pandemic's effect on farmworkers, and the crowded and unsanitary conditions they often work in. Amy Goodman, Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch, and Magaly Licolli, executive director of Venceremos, an advocacy group for poultry plant workers, discuss the spike in coronavirus infections surrounding meatpacking plants and the working conditions within those plants.

**Democracy Now! 4/16/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Paul O'Brien, vice president of Oxfam America, discuss Oxfam's estimate that the pandemic could push more than half a billion people into poverty. They discuss the president's decision to defund the World Health Organization. Amy Goodman, epidemiologist Dean Seneca, and Emma Robbins, director of the Navajo Water Project, discuss the pandemic's effect on Native American communities. Amy Goodman and Dr. Armen Henderson, professor of medicine at the University of Miami, discuss policing during the pandemic and the effect of the pandemic on people who are homeless.

**Democracy Now! 4/24/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Dr. Syra Madad discuss some states' plans to reopen parks, beaches, and nonessential businesses despite warnings from public health officials. They discuss the importance of widespread testing, and the different types of tests available, and possible treatments that are in clinical trials. They discuss Dr. Madad's own experience and symptoms having tested positive for COVID-19. They discuss new discoveries about the progression of the disease, and possible long-term effects on those who get it. Amy Goodman and Dr. Joia Mukherjee, associate professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, discuss the concept of contact tracing as a way to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

**Democracy Now! 4/30/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union discuss the pandemic's effect on the U.S. Postal Service and the vital services it provides to Americans at 160 million addresses. They discuss voting by mail. Amy Goodman and Noliwe Rooks, professor of literature at Cornell University, discuss the effects of the pandemic on education now that schools have cancelled in-person learning.

**Democracy Now! 5/5/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Sindy Benavides, CEO of the League of United Latin American Citizens, discuss the effects of COVID-19 on meat processing plants, and the president's executive order to keep those plants open. Amy Goodman and Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen, discuss whether corporations should be protected from liability if their employees get sick from the coronavirus. Amy Goodman and Dr. Richard Levitan, an emergency physician, discuss pulse oximeters, which are devices that can detect how well a person's lungs are working. They discuss the use of these devices as an early warning that a patient may have COVID pneumonia.

**Democracy Now! 5/13/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Harold Frazier, chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, discuss the pandemic's effects on Native Americans. Amy Goodman and Adriana Gallardo of ProPublica discuss the pandemic's effects on African Americans and undocumented workers.

**Democracy Now! 5/15/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Andrew Solomon, professor of clinical medical psychology at Columbia University discuss the mental health effects of this pandemic. Amy Goodman and Dr. Diane Meier, professor of geriatrics and palliative medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discuss the emotional toll of the pandemic on families whose loved ones are fighting COVID-19. They discuss palliative care, which is focused on the relief of suffering for people living with a serious illness.

**Democracy Now! 5/20/2020 - 5:00 AM (1 hour)**

Amy Goodman and Dr. Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute discuss the importance of widespread coronavirus testing in trying to reopen the economy. They discuss the different types of testing and their uses, and vaccine trials that are already in progress. Amy Goodman and journalists Gregory Moore and Angely Mercado discuss the effects of the pandemic on journalism, as an estimated 36,000 employees of news media companies have been laid off, furloughed, or had their pay reduced since the start of the pandemic.