

# Not Everyone Can Stay Home

By Jennifer Valentino-DeVries



Even though her state has ordered that everyone stay at home, nothing has changed about Adarra Benjamin's responsibilities. She gets on a bus nearly every morning in Chicago, traveling 20 miles round trip some days to cook, clean and shop for her clients, who are older or have health problems. Ms. Benjamin knows the dangers, but she needs her job, and the people she works for need someone to take care of them.

Across the country, people with less money have not been able to stay at home as people with more money. This is because many people with less money are essential workers who have to continue working. Some of them are construction workers, grocery workers, or caretakers like Adarra Benjamin.

Since they are more likely to still be working, people with less money are also more likely to become sick from COVID-19. Scientists have found higher rates of sickness in communities that are poor than in communities with more financial resources.

Adarra needs her job, but she is worried. "I do have gloves, but I just ran out of masks," she said, "and I have no idea where I'm going to get any from."

Adapted by Amanda Juntunen