
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

What a week! I know, I always say that, but this has been an unusual situation. The only meeting I've had this week was with my doctor. I got hit with a particularly nasty stomach virus while I was in Shreveport visiting my parents last weekend. I made it back to Baton Rouge okay, and I'm still trying to take care of myself and get over this thing.

The doctor said there's a nasty virus going around. Hopefully no one else will get it. So far, thankfully, I have not given it to my parents or anyone else. I hate to be away from work but sometimes these bugs get the best of us. Every week is an important week and every day is an important day, so I went in to the office yesterday for a little while. My assistant Nita Franklin-Shanklin ordered me back home and back to bed. I have to admit she was right.

I'm sure you have been hearing in the news that the state of Louisiana may experience yet another budget shortfall this fiscal year due to lagging tax collections. As much as I hate to tell you this, we may be facing more cutbacks depending on the size of the hole in the state budget. We are hoping it does not turn out to be as large as current predictions of up to a \$400 million deficit before July 1. I don't know what we are facing right now, and we continue to work with the Division of Administration to make the budget work. And as always I will let you know as soon as we know, and how we plan to deal with the shortfall. We'll do what we have to do to meet the mission.

I want to remind everyone about our new Get Caught Reading program we launched at Jetson and Bridge City earlier this month. I want us all to keep our minds on this program as we serve as role models for our youth. By motivating our kids to read we can really make a difference in their lives.

Reading is a good outlet when you're sick, even when you don't feel like doing anything else. Honestly, I've really been too sick for reading so I've been watching old TV shows. I've gotten caught up on all the old episodes of Bonanza, I Dream of Jeannie and best of all, Andy Griffith. Barney Fife is still a trip after all these years and he still makes me laugh out loud.



So right now, it's back to the television. I look forward to talking with you again next week when I'm back in the saddle. As ever, thanks for all you do every day and in every office and facility, to the meet the mission. And, wash your hands frequently. Drink plenty of clear liquids.

Sincerely, "Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*

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