

4-3-2020 Press Conference

As cases of coronavirus – COVID-19 – continue to increase, the health, safety and welfare of the community is of the utmost importance to the City. In an effort to protect both our residents and employees, the City continues close communications with health officials, community organizations and local, state and federal government agencies to monitor updates.

Governor's Stay At Home Order

Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-18, extended the previous executive order for additional 30 days. The City of Joliet is encouraging all residents to comply with the Governor's order for residents to stay at home in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The order to stay at home has been extended through April 30th.

The order does NOT prohibit essential activities such as going to the grocery store or taking a walk, but I encourage everyone to adhere to the social distancing guidelines. Please remember that many park district trails remain open, but playgrounds, dog parks, and golf courses are CLOSED.

There have been many inquiries to the City pertaining to business and whether they may remain open following the Governor's order. To assist in determining an answer to this question, the City has posted guidance from the State on the City website, under the Coronavirus link.

Second State of Emergency Order

Yesterday, the Second Declaration of Local State of Emergency was signed. This declaration canceled the Pre-Council meeting scheduled for April 6 and noticed a combined Council Meeting for April 7.

Modified Meeting Procedures

The City of Joliet is committed to fostering convenient and accessible opportunities for public input at all public meetings during the State of Emergency. Temporary procedures for public participation have been implemented which includes the opportunity to provide written comments and participation via telephone. For details, please visit the City's website: joliet.gov.

City Staff / Services

The City of Joliet Police Department has been notified of its first confirmed case of COVID-19 involving one of its employees earlier this week. Once the Officer realized he was symptomatic he self-quarantined. The Officer is doing well and currently recovering at home.

The City continues to take precautionary and proactive steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, while monitoring the health of its workforce.

City Hall is closed to the public, but city services continue with modified procedures. Please refer to the city's website or call the City's Information Number 815-724-4000 for details on change of services.

Hospital Update / Stateville

With regard to concerns about inmates at Stateville being treated at local hospitals, the National Guard is currently setting up a field hospital inside the Stateville facility. Once established, that will relieve the pressure on local hospitals.

The City has received several inquiries about utilizing local facilities for field hospitals. The City has identified several buildings that would be suitable for this purpose, if needed, and has notified the Department of Public Health.

Will County Health Department:

The Coronavirus hotline remains open Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. Phone: 815-740-8977.

Municipal, Community Partners, Social Service Agency Conference Calls

The City continues regularly scheduled conference calls with municipalities, community partners and social service agencies in order to foster a unified effort to service the community during this challenging time.

Business Assistance:

The City has created a Business Assistance webpage on our website with up-to-date information regarding loan assistance for local businesses and guidance regarding recent changes to business regulation.

Kendall County Health Department:

The Kendall County Health Department has created a webpage dedicated to COVID-19: <http://www.kendallhealth.org/community-health/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

COVID-19 Testing for First Responders and Healthcare Professionals and 65+ Population

The Illinois Department of Public Health continues testing for COVID-19 at the Walmart on Jefferson Street for first responders, healthcare professionals and those 65 and older who are symptomatic. Hours of operation are 10am-4pm daily.

The Will County Health Department has notified us that a second local testing is operating at the Walgreens on Boughton Road. This site is for healthcare workers and first responders who are symptomatic. On-line scheduling is required.

Census

Please remember the importance of completing the Census survey. Residents can respond online or by mail. More information on their website can be found on their website: 2020census.gov

Needs

We continue collaborating with United Way of Will County and Senior Service providers to promote volunteer and donation needs as well as providing help in distributing information on services provided to the most vulnerable during this time. Please refer to our City of Joliet website for more details and/or call Information Services 815-724-4000 for direction.

Illinois Department of Public Health is encouraging all outpatient surgical and procedural centers, as well as ambulatory surgery centers and veterinarians to donate their unused personal protective equipment (PPE) that is not immediately needed to assist health care providers. To donate PPE, please contact: PPE.donations@illinois.gov.

Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage due to the coronavirus outbreak. If you are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, please make an appointment to donate by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting www.RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Joliet's Smart Message – Community Alert Network

Residents can connect to receive up to the minute **Emergency Alerts** from the City. In addition to any updates regarding COVID-19, the community alerts provide information on other areas such as, water main breaks, crime alerts, etc.

You can elect to receive Announcements, Notices, and Public Safety Non-Emergency Information sent to your home phone, work phone, texted to your cell phone, or emailed to your email account. You can register for this service on the City's website.

Visit the City's COVID-19 resources webpage (www.joliet.gov/residents/coronavirus-resources) for the latest updates.