



## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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### OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION:**

#### **City of Des Plaines Announces COVID-19 Precautions**

DES PLAINES, Illinois (March 16, 2020) – Planning for emergency situations is a practice that Des Plaines considers essential to its operations and the health of our employees and community-at-large. In light of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, we are encouraging the public to visit the following websites for the most current news: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Both agencies stress the importance of everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, sanitizing public areas, and staying home when sick.

City Hall is currently open for regular hours to the public but, when possible, residents are strongly encouraged to conduct business online, by phone or email. To pay your water utility bill online, please sign up to access your account at [desplaines.org/payutilitybills](https://desplaines.org/payutilitybills). Community members can also subscribe to receive important email updates by visiting [desplaines.org/mycity/](https://desplaines.org/mycity/). Additionally, effective March 17, all residential interior building inspections and non-essential water meter services are canceled until further notice.

Starting Tuesday, March 17, the City will close its Public Works Department, portions of the Police Department, and Fire facilities to the public as a precautionary measure for the safety of our emergency responders.

With a preparedness plan already in place, the City's main objective is to protect our staff, ensure continuity of operations, and take all responsible actions necessary to help prevent exposure in the workplace. As a precaution, we have greatly increased the frequency of sanitizing our facilities, especially locations that experience direct contact with the public.

As instructed, the City is adhering to Governor Pritzker's restrictions limiting restaurants to take-out or drive-thru service, only. This restriction starts at the close of business today, Monday, March 16, and runs through March 30, based on information provided by Governor Pritzker at the press conference held on Sunday, March 15, at 3:00 P.M.

On Wednesday, March 18, the City will re-evaluate City Hall operations and decide whether to remain fully open, close to the public, or close City Hall to all non-essential personnel. Until then, the City will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation on a 24/7 basis. Rest assured, we have the ability and confidence to implement further safety measures in line with federal and state crisis plans. The City thanks its community members for complying with the precautionary measures such as frequent hand washing, avoiding large public gatherings, and staying home when you are experiencing signs of becoming sick.

Please address further questions to Linda DeTomasi, Director of Media Services for the City of Des Plaines. Ms. DeTomasi can be reached at [ldetomasi@desplaines.org](mailto:ldetomasi@desplaines.org), or 847.391.5312.

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