



COVID-19 Public Health

UPDATED GUIDELINE FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

Issued: March 16, 2020
Effective: March 17, 2020
Expiration Date: May 9, 2020

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Village of Oak Park

Pursuant to Village of Oak Park Resolution 20-120 dated March 13, 2020, the Oak Park Village Board has declared an emergency affecting the public health due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease pursuant to Section 8-10-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/8-10-5, and Sections 2-6-10, 2-27-9 and 20-1-6(Z) of the Village Code. Pursuant to the Resolution, the Village's Public Health Director has the authority to make "reasonable rules, regulations and orders . . . as may from time to time be deemed necessary for the preservation and improvement of the public health and for the suppression of disease."

GUIDANCE

The spread of COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation which may require further amendment to this guidance for social distancing.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The best way to prevent the COVID-19 illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

In response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation, on March 15, 2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided new guidance that large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. Examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies. These events can be planned not only by organizations and communities but also by individuals.

Therefore, the Village of Oak Park, in accordance with CDC guidance for large events and mass gatherings, recommends that for the next 8 weeks (through Sunday May 9, 2020) organizers

(whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more.

Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing. When feasible, organizers could modify events to be virtual.

This recommendation does not apply business operations (see separate order on restaurants and liquor licensed establishments). This recommendation is made in an attempt to reduce introduction of the virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus.

At this time, the Public Health Department is recommending that Oak Park residents and businesses help protect themselves and others by adhering to the current social distancing and prevention guidance provided below.

- [Village of Oak Park COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: How to Protect Yourself](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health Social Distancing Measures](#)

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