



March 16, 2020

**COVID-19 Status Report
Oak Park Village Board of Trustees**

To: Village President and Village Board of Trustees

Fr: Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager

As means to share a brief summary of information regarding Village of Oak Park operational activities in response to COVID-19, this report will be issued Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Elected Officials should treat the information as a status report. In most cases, formal public guidance or employee guidance has been publicly disseminated via the Village website or Village social media channels.

New Public Health Guidance

Oak Park Director of Public Health Mike Charley issued the following today:

- A bulletin was issued noting Oak Park as of 5 PM on 3/16 remains unchanged with the Village authorizing six (6) COVID-19 test for Oak Park residents. There have been four (4) negative tests and two (2) tests are still “pending” results. Privacy precludes location information to anyone other than Public Health Officials and First Responders.
- A new order for restaurants and liquor licensed establishments in compliance the State of Illinois today.
- Shared the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidance for election day voting sites.
- Issued updated guidance on social distancing to 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.

All documents are located to <https://www.oak-park.us/news/covid-19-coronavirus-resources> under “latest municipal news” (click to expand).

Village Hall Closure for 3/17 & 3/18

After our Emergency Operations meeting this morning and consulting with Mayor Abu-Taleb, Village Hall will remain closed to public services for both Tuesday and Wednesday March 17 & 18. We are taking this step so we can have an increased focus on cleaning and sanitizing commonly touched surfaces and high traffic areas such as the employee lounge and conference rooms following early voting which has resulted in more than 2,500 people at Village Hall in the last 72 hours.

Public notice was provided this afternoon that Village Hall will be closed on Tuesday March 17th and Wednesday March 18th. Residents may find solutions to many day-to-day business needs at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices, where a range of services can be accessed without a visit to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. A majority of Village employees will be working Tuesday and Wednesday, either at other Village facilities or remotely with a focus on this rapidly evolving situation and public health response.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) under Partial Opening

On Sunday, department directors participated in a conference call to address operational issues that were occurring over the weekend.

On Monday morning, key Village staff met in the EOC. The current and planned objectives are stated as:

- Provide for the safety of first responders and the public during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Provide a safe workspace for staff during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Continue to provide timely and transparent communication to Village partners and the public during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Continue to provide CDC and IDPH guidance to community partners during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Continue to plan, prepare, and demonstrate the ability to identify and isolate suspected COVID-19 cases.

At all levels of the Village organization, from Department Directors to first responders and front line staff, we have the following overarching priorities:

- **Life Safety:** Ensure the safety and security of first responders, support personnel, and the general population.
- **Unity of Effort:** Coordinate and prioritize activities across all organizations involved in the response, to achieve common objectives.
- **Incident Stabilization:** Establish leadership to stabilize the incident and reduce future impacts.
- **Protect Property and Environment:** Protect infrastructure assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual.
- **Recovery:** Reestablish services and help the community return to a new normal.

Taxing Bodies Conference Call

Representatives from Taxing Bodies in Oak Park and River Forest were part of a conference call today to discuss COVID-19 responses.

Community Development Block Grant Funds

Staff held a call today with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to obtain guidance on the use of funds in order to increase our support of Housing Forward and the issues related to supporting the homeless population. Additionally, Village staff participated on a conference call on Sunday with the Oak Park Homeless Coalition Core Team also related to coordination of services for those who are homeless in our community or facing homelessness. Staff has also reached out to Statewide housing advocacy organization to work on increased support avoid increases in our homeless population.

Adjudication

Adjudication hearings have been suspended until May. Letters are being sent to all individuals who have appeals scheduled. Individuals who file new appeals during the suspension period will be notified of the temporary suspension of activities. Signs also will be posted in Village Hall.

Building Inspections

The Village is reducing the schedule of building inspections, especially this week to allow for protocols to be established for inspectors entering residential properties and businesses. We are working to be able to inspect and authorize continued work, especial when there is renovation work (such as a kitchen remodel) that is occurring in an occupied residential property. Staff is also working to meet inspection needs at large construction projects (such as the Fenwick parking structure) on a case by case basis.

Real Estate Closings

In order to work with individuals who have scheduled property closing during the Village Hall closure, the Finance Department is scheduling appointments when closings cannot be continued. The real estate community has been provided contact information.

Parking restrictions eased

On 3/13, Chief Reynolds authorized easing of on-street, overnight and daytime parking restrictions (except for weekly street cleaning) beginning tonight through Tue., March 31. Restrictions will resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., April 1. Please keep in mind restrictions are not lifted in metered or pay station spaces, paid overnight permit areas, including posted on-street zones and lots. All other parking regulations related to traffic and public safety such as no parking here to corner or between signs remain in effect.

Communications

The Village has expanded its website related to COVID-19 with direct links to other taxing bodies COVID-19 online resources.

Second Public Health Nurse added to Staff

Similar to the decision on Friday to appoint an Interim Deputy Fire Chief for Infectious Disease thru May 1st (with ability to extend), a second public health nurse has been added to the Public Health Department. Through an independent contractor agreement, Joanne Desportes R.N. and will work our current nurse and public health director.