



Village of East Dundee

120 Barrington Avenue, East Dundee, IL 60118

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www.eastdundee.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAST DUNDEE VILLAGE PRESIDENT LAEL MILLER REMINDS THE COMMUNITY TO STAY STRONG

From the Office of the Village President Lael Miller

I wanted to update you on the current state of the COVID-19 coronavirus in East Dundee and steps that we are taking to help mitigate its spread.

As of yesterday, there were 93 positive cases in Illinois, with several in Kane County. The current trend is that these numbers will double every two days. With both inadequate testing and data, there is no certainty as to what those numbers really are.

While we have no reported cases in East Dundee that we know about, it is important that we assume there is and will be. Many people say that this is just like another flu. Unfortunately, that is not an accurate statement. The Coronavirus has been shown to spread faster than the flu and the mortality rate is higher. Furthermore, it is shown to be tougher on seniors and those with existing health issues, while we are seeing that many people are asymptomatic, meaning they can spread the virus without showing any symptoms themselves. Additionally, up to 20% of people that are symptomatic will require hospitalization or medical treatment. This will place a difficult burden on our health care in Kane County, as hospital beds will fill up quickly. This will also place a heavy burden on all first responders: Police, Fire, EMS, etc.

With this in mind, social distancing is the best way to mitigate this, and I ask for your help and cooperation. This is not a time to panic, but to work together to stop this. I know that many people think this is being way overblown, but my number one responsibility is the health and safety of our residents, so I will be acting in my capacity to prepare for the worst. I would much rather be accused of overreacting than looking back and wondering what we could have done better.



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As per the Governor's order, bars and restaurants have been ordered to close as of 9:00 p.m. this evening. Restaurants that can offer take out or delivery, or that have a drive through may still operate, but with no inside service. Also, as per the Illinois Gaming Board, all video gaming machines will not be allowed to operate as of 9:00 p.m. this evening. These, and possibly other future restrictions, are being put in place to establish social distancing to help stop the spread of this virus. Studies have shown that a reduction of even 25% of social interactions can greatly reduce the spread, but 75% or more is ideal to stop the curve of the spread. That is why I strongly suggest that people follow the recommendations of the CDC and the Governor's office and greatly limit your exposure to large group settings.

I know that the economic impact of this will be steep for many small businesses and workers. While we work with the State and County to try to understand what economic relief they will provide to our people, we can take some small steps today. I have directed staff that all water/sewer late payment penalties be suspended until further notice. This applies to waste pickup as well. Please keep in mind that all bills can be paid electronically, or dropped off at the box outside of Village Hall. Additionally, if you are having difficulties paying your bills, please contact the Village Hall to work out a payment plan.

Additionally, the Village has implemented changes to meeting protocols. While many people simply stop in to discuss items on an impromptu basis, we ask that all contact be done via email or phone when possible. The Village still has to conduct our normal business while dealing with this, and our staff is both small and susceptible due to its constant contact with the general public.

This will be a tough few weeks, perhaps months, but we will get through this together. Things are changing daily or even hourly, so I would expect more changes to be announced. Please follow the recommendations. I will communicate any new important information as it comes in.

Finally, while several nearby cities have initiated an emergency disaster, I have not at this point. This declaration simply frees additional moneys for response, and allows access to County, State, and Federal resources. If I feel that this would be beneficial to our community, I will do so at that time.

I want to stress that we as a community will get through this, but it will be painful in the short time. Our businesses and residents are resilient, but will need help. It is vital more than ever that we support our local businesses. If you have elderly neighbors, check in to see if they need help. Offer to help shop for those that cannot leave their home. People who have kids out of school also need more support at this time, as well as furloughed employees from local businesses that have closed. It is more important than ever to act like a community and help each other where we can.

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