



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03.26.20

The City of Edwardsville continues to monitor updates from multiple agencies on the status of the COVID-19 outbreak. As of Thursday afternoon, Illinois is reporting 26 deaths, 2,538 confirmed positive cases and 6 cases still reported in Madison County. St. Clair County is reporting 13 confirmed cases, Clinton County 5, Monroe County 3 and Washington County 1. To date, 16,631 have been tested in Illinois.

Economic Development

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is working with partners to launch emergency assistance programs for Illinois small businesses. Information on the three programs can be found on the DCEO website at www2.illinois.gov/dceo. The three programs introduced are as follows:

- **Hospitality Emergency Grant Program**: This is a \$14 million grant program to support working capital as well as job training, retraining, and technology to support shifts in operation.
 - Eligible applicants include bars and restaurants with a valid license to serve food or liquor and who generated revenues of less than \$1 million in 2019 and hotels with a valid license (hotels, motels, other lodging establishments) and who generated revenues of less than \$8 million in 2019.
 - Bars and restaurants that generated between \$500K and \$1M in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$25,000, and bars and restaurants that generated less than \$500K in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$10,000.
 - Hotels that generated less than \$8M in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$50,000.
- **Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund**: DCEO and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) are establishing the Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund to offer small businesses low interest loans of up to \$50,000.
 - Businesses located outside of the City of Chicago with fewer than 50 workers and less than \$3 million in revenue in 2019 will be eligible to apply.
 - Successful applicants will owe nothing for six months and will then begin making fixed payments at a below market interest rate for the remainder of a five-year loan term.
 - **Starting this Friday, March 27th, interested businesses will be able to express interest at a form that will be posted on the DCEO website.**
- **Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program**: To support small businesses in downstate and rural counties across Illinois, DCEO is repurposing \$20 million in CDBG funds to stand up the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program.
 - This Fund will offer small businesses of up to 50 employees the opportunity to partner with their local governments to obtain grants of up to \$25,000 in working capital. Local

governments can apply on behalf of businesses with 50 employees or less. Only units of local government recognized by the Illinois Constitution and able to support economic development activities on a sufficient scale are eligible to apply for Economic Development grant funding.

- This includes cities, villages, and counties.
- Municipalities must not be a HUD direct Entitlement community or be located in an urban county that receives "entitlement" funds.
- **This includes, but is not limited to, Madison and St. Clair Counties and the municipalities of Springfield and Decatur.**
- **Application materials will be posted to the DCEO website on Friday, March 27, 2020.**

More helpful information is available on the City's website at www.cityofedwardsville.com; information and links specific to the COVID-19 outbreak can be found at www.cityofedwardsville.com/coronavirus. Below is a summary of current City operations:

- Public Works Building is **closed** to the public. Commercial inspections remain active until further notice.
- While the City of Edwardsville Parks remain closed, the walking paths and trails are available for use. The playgrounds, restrooms, drinking fountains, pavilions, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and baseball/softball fields will remain closed at this time. The Madison County Transit (MCT) bicycle/walking trails remain open for public access.
- Republic Services trash pickup continues under its normal routes; however, large item pick-up services are suspended until further notice.
- Residents are strongly urged to pay extra attention to what they are using and flushing. **Do not flush anything other than toilet paper.** Products billed as "flushable" baby wipes can still create significant problems in the sewer system.
- City Hall is closed to the public but staffed. City payments can be made online or in the drop box on the side of the building.
- The City Council meetings will continue to be streamed on Facebook and transmitted over ECTV Channel 993. The City will provide recordings of each meeting that will be available that can be requested from the City Clerk's office.
- All committee and board meetings are cancelled until April 2, when the Administrative and Community Services Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Wildey Theatre, 252 N. Main St. in the auditorium. The public may attend but will be limited to a total of 10 present; citizens are urged to submit their questions and comments electronically.
 - publiccomment@cityofedwardsville.com
 - [Public comment Voicemail 618-307-1715](tel:618-307-1715)

- The Public Library remains closed. For information, call 618-692-7556 or email info@edwpl.org. E-books, audiobooks, movies and music are always available online through the Library's website and free apps. Visit <https://www.edwardsvillelibrary.org/ebooks-and-more>.
- The Public Safety Building front lobby only is open to the public. Fire houses are closed to the public but staffed for emergency response.
- To minimize inherent risks to Edwardsville police officers and the public that are presented with COVID-19, some changes for reporting procedures to Edwardsville PD have been implemented. If you need police services that are non-emergency in nature, please call the Edwardsville Police Department at (618) 656-2131.
- The Governor's office through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has provided a helpline for guidance on business compliance with Executive Order 2020-10. **Business owners with questions about whether they are essential or non-essential should contact the DCEO helpline at 1-800-252-2923 or by email at CEO.support@illinois.gov.**
- Edwardsville Community School District 7 has announced it will keep schools closed through April 7. The following week is the scheduled spring break, effectively closing the District until **April 14**.
- A City Coalition has been created in an effort to streamline communication, minimize oversights and duplication of efforts. The Edwardsville YMCA, the Edwardsville Public Library and Main Street Community Center are working together to help connect the needs of non-profit organizations with community resources.
 - Area nonprofits are encouraged to contact Natasha Howard at nhoward@edwymca.com
 - Groups and individuals interested in volunteering or donating to this effort should contact Jessica Johnson at jjohnson@edwymca.com

R.W. Welle, Emergency Management Coordinator Hal Patton, Mayor, City of Edwardsville