



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03.19.20

(Information in [blue](#) has not previously been disseminated)

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 4 deaths, 488 confirmed cases and one case now reported in Madison County. Please beware of the information you hear about decisions surrounding the current outbreak. Ensure your sources are valid and up to date. A Facebook message was making the rounds claiming that multiple businesses were closing down in Madison County, but that stems from an Edwardsville, Indiana report.

A new 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.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the closing of many businesses and organizations, and “social distancing” has changed the way community organizations provide food, transportation and shelter for the community’s most vulnerable citizens – children, disabled adults, the elderly, and those who are homeless and transient.

Responding to this challenge requires adaptation, communication, and coordination of resources. The Edwardsville YMCA has stepped up to lead the coalition by serving as the conduit through which other community organizations can identify their needs and be matched with available resources and appropriate volunteers. Important in this effort is the health and wellness of volunteers and of those being served.

In the coming days, the coalition will be reaching out to nonprofits in the area and asking them to identify the needs and challenges they face in serving the community during this crisis. Simultaneously, the Coalition will be asking community groups, churches, service organizations and private citizens to identify the resources and specialized skills they and their volunteers possess that may assist other local organizations.

The YMCA will provide the staffing necessary to collect this information in a database where needs will be matched with resources and directed to the appropriate area nonprofit. “The City is grateful for these partnerships and will work side by side to provide services for those in need. The next few weeks will not be

[normal, but working together our community will meet this public health challenge head on.” said Mayor Hal Patton.](#)

[Area nonprofits are encouraged to contact Natasha Howard at \[nhoward@edwymca.com\]\(mailto:nhoward@edwymca.com\)](#)

[Groups and individuals interested in volunteering or donating to this effort should contact Jessica Johnson at \[jjohnson@edwymca.com\]\(mailto:jjohnson@edwymca.com\)](#)

Below are some other updates regarding City of Edwardsville response to the outbreak:

### **Economic Development**

[The City of Edwardsville will allow, without any fee to upgrade, all Class B liquor license holders to operate under the rules of a Class C license.](#)

- [Sale of packaged or sealed liquor/beer containers in its original package may be sold as a carry-out item.](#)
- [This provision is effective immediately and will go through April 30, 2020.](#)
- [All license holders will still have to notify the State of Illinois Liquor Commission at \(217\) 782-2136.](#)

### **City Hall/City Clerks**

As a reminder, the City of Edwardsville is suspending all disconnections for water services for all of our customers effective immediately. The order remains in effect until May 1, 2020.

- To protect our employees and the general public, we are no longer accepting in person payments at City Hall.
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 692-7500.
- Customers may continue to pay their utility bill online, over the phone, use the drop box outside City Hall, located at 118 Hillsboro, or mail payments through the U.S. Mail.
- Learn more at [www.cityofedwardsville.com](http://www.cityofedwardsville.com).
- The City will waive late payment penalties, processing fees for payments made over the phone or online.
- [Birth certificates will be issued upon request for new births only as a courtesy to our residents, with instructions on how to purchase more copies.](#)

### **City Council and Committee/Board Meetings**

**City Council meetings and committee meetings will be closed to the public** under authority granted by Gov. Pritzker’s proclamation modifying some aspects of the Open Meetings Act. The changes will stay in effect until at least through April, and extended further if necessary.

- City meetings are on the same schedule however we will allow elected and appointed officials to participate via video conference or teleconference depending on the capabilities.

- Residents who wish to provide public input are directed to:
  - [publiccomment@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:publiccomment@cityofedwardsville.com)
  - [Public comment Voicemail 618-307-1715](tel:618-307-1715)
  - Messages go to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk along with IT and Legal.
  - Messages will be played/read before the appropriate board/committee.
- 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 for check out at the Edwardsville Public Library or electronic copies can be requested from the City Clerk's office.
- A public hearing on TIF 2 remains scheduled as an open meeting at Edwardsville City Hall, 118 Hillsboro Ave, on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. All attendees, upon entry, will be subject to a thermal temperature check, asked to wash their hands, and asked to maintain social distancing of 6-10 feet.

### **Public Works**

As a reminder, public access to the Public Works Building, 200 East Park, is limited to the front vestibule. Visitors may drop off materials, building permits, plans, etc., within the vestibule. Payments will not be accepted. Payments must be made online or placed within the exterior drop box at City Hall. Permit applications are available online at the City's website [www.cityofedwardsville.com](http://www.cityofedwardsville.com).

- Due to an increased demand and subsequent shortage of toilet paper, increased use and flushing of non-flushable materials such as baby wipes, napkins and paper towels is a major concern.
  - 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.
- A news release related to some St. Louis County municipalities indicated that Republic Services is suspending yard waste pickup, creating some confusion here. Yard waste collection in Edwardsville remains in effect until further notice.
- Trash pickups will stay on their regular schedule. Republic Services has developed contingency plans in the event of significant staffing shortages.
- Commercial inspections remain active until further notice.

### **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

The Edwardsville EOC will be staffed from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until further notice. The hours will expand to meet operational challenges. The EOC has been operating for the past week, preparing

documents, checking City supplies and drafting policies as the COVID-19 pandemic triggers local, state and national mandates. Updates are sent daily to local media outlets. They are posted on the City's website [www.cityofedwardsville.com/coronavirus](http://www.cityofedwardsville.com/coronavirus) in real time. You can also find helpful links to other sites with an enormous amount of information from state, national and international agencies.

### **Police Department**

To minimize inherent risks to our officers and the public that are presented with COVID 19, some changes for reporting procedures to Edwardsville PD have been implemented.

- If any bars or restaurants violate the Governor's proclamation regarding closing, they may be charged with reckless conduct and could lose their liquor license.
- On a temporary basis, the EPD will be taking some reports over the telephone.
- If you need police services that are non-emergency in nature, please call the Edwardsville Police Department at (618) 656-2131.
- If it is determined that a telephone report can be made, a police officer will take your report over the telephone.
- If an officer is not immediately available, you will be called back as soon as possible.
- If a call for service does require an officer's response to a residence or business, the reporting party may be asked to step outside of the residence or business to speak with the officer to create a safe, social distance between the officer and the reporting party.

### **Fire Department**

The Edwardsville Fire Department has not yet seen a large influx in its number of emergency medical calls. The Department continues planning with other agencies to coordinate overlap if there is a surge of calls in this area. Also of note:

- **The Department is suspending car seat installations until further notice.**
- For assistance with Child Safety Seat installation instruction and tips:
  - Go to [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
  - Scroll to the middle of the webpage, find the tab "Ultimate Car Seat Guide" and click
  - Scroll to the bottom of the webpage, find the tab "Installing" and click
  - Follow and read all pages and view all videos, in order, for installation instructions
- For assistance with fitment of harness in Child Safety seats or seatbelt usage:
  - Go to [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
  - Scroll to the middle of the webpage, find the tab "Ultimate Car Seat Guide" and click
  - Scroll to the bottom of the webpage, find the tab "Right Fit" and click
  - Follow and read all the pages and view all videos, in order, for guidelines for each use

## **Parks and Recreation**

- **All City of Edwardsville parks remain closed until further notice.**
- All current Parks and Rec programs are suspended through Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The Edwardsville Municipal band has suspended its 2020 season until further notice.

If any further postponement of future programming is needed, the Edwardsville Parks and Recreation staff will provide necessary announcements. You can find these official announcements on our website (<https://www.cityofedwardsville.com/188/Parks-Recreation>) or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsvilleParksAndRec/>)

## **Edwardsville Public Library**

The Edwardsville Public Library (EPL) is closed, but offering limited, modified services through roadside pickup concurrently March 17-March 29.

Please check our website(<https://www.edwardsvillelibrary.org/>), Facebook, or call the library (618-692-7556) for updates.

- E-books, movies, and music, are always available online through our website and through free apps. Visit <https://www.edwardsvillelibrary.org/ebooks-and-more> and call the library if you have any questions or need help setting up your account.

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