



ORLAND PARK

Governor Announces ‘Stay at Home’ Order

Orland Park, IL (March 21, 2020)-Yesterday, Governor JB Pritzker announced a "Stay-at-Home" order beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 21.

What does this mean for residents of Orland Park?

“Basically, it formalizes what many of us have already been doing by staying home if we can, practice social distancing, and make a conscious effort to not spread germs by cleaning surfaces and use good hygiene,” said Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau.

The order does not preclude essential errands such as medical appointments, pharmacy visits, grocery shopping or to do critical or essential jobs.

All local roads, including the interstate highways and tollways, will remain open to traffic.

“Since you can still go to the grocery store as needed, please remember to not hoard items. Buy what you need within reason so that there are supplies available for your neighbors and the rest of the community,” said Pekau.

Residents are advised that they can still take their children to one of the many parks, walking paths or bike paths in town, go for walks around the neighborhood and walk the dog as long as social distancing is being practiced. Please be conscious of keeping a minimum of 6 feet away from others who are also out, and clean your hands well after touching common surfaces.

Businesses should review the Governor’s Executive Order to determine if their business is considered an essential business.

In an effort to assist Orland Park residents and businesses, the Orland Park Village Board will hold a Special Meeting on Saturday, March 21 at 4 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to put into place temporary measures to assist residents and businesses as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

First, the Village Board will enact a measure to provide debt relief to residents and businesses.

Second, in an effort to support local businesses that work for the Village, the Village Board will give the mayor and village manager the authority to expedite payments to Village vendors.

This special meeting will be posted on the Village's YouTube channel. The meeting agenda is available online at orlandpark.org.

"I know this recent order may be disruptive to your day-to-day lives, plans you may have had, including vacations and family gatherings," said Pekau. "But if this helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, then it is well worth the effort."

"Make sure to check on those you know that may live alone or are elderly," urged Pekau. "We, as a community, should work together to make sure no one goes without what is necessary as we make our way through this crisis."

"Many residents have reached out to ask how you can help, and I commend you for your selfless volunteerism," said Pekau.

The PLOWS Council on Aging is actively searching for volunteers to help the older adults in the area. Please call (708) 361-0219 to offer your time and service.

While the Village has made the important decision to close many Village buildings and postpone programming for the safety of residents and staff, all essential services are still operating. Many Village services and information are available online. Visit orlandpark.org to access information related to water billing, service requests, permit instructions and other frequently requested services that are functioning and active.

The Orland Park Police Department and Fire Protection District are operating normally, and are prepared to respond to any call for service or situation that may develop.

"Police service will not be affected at all," said Police Chief Tim McCarthy. "We are healthy, fully staffed and well equipped to handle any circumstance or situation that comes our way."

Critical communication plans and coordination with County, State and Federal partners is in place and have been executed.

“I assure you that the Orland Park Fire Protection District remains here to serve during the outbreak just as effectively and thoroughly as we were prior to the onset,” said Orland Park Fire Protection District Chief Michael Schofield.

“I will do everything I can to make sure the Orland Park community stays informed, is provided the assistance they need and never feels out of touch with Village happenings and services,” said Pekau. There will be daily updates from the Office of the Mayor to answer residents’ questions. Questions may be submitted to publicinfooffice@orlandpark.org.

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