

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 13, 2020

Following guidance and recommendations from the CDC, the Governor of the State of Illinois and public health experts, the Village of Steger is actively taking precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (also known as the coronavirus), including implementing social distancing practices. Starting today, all sports activities under the control of our Recreation Board are suspended until further notice. Starting today, we are closing the Louis Sherman Community Center until further notice. As of now, we will continue to keep our Village Hall open, but we encourage our residents to use our online services to the extent possible.

Governor Pritzker has ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools across the state for the next two weeks. This may be extended if the virus continues to spread during this time.

With respect to our courtesy van program, we are going to stop taking reservations to use this service at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16th. We will take those who have signed up for this service by this time, but will not add any more reservations until further notice.

We will hold our Village Board meeting on Monday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m., but we are likely to cancel the meetings we would normally hold in April. We may also cancel meetings in May. These decisions to cancel will be made closer to those meeting dates.

The election will continue to be held on Tuesday, March 17th and all of our polling places will be open, including the community center for voting purposes only. The election judges have been trained on practices that help protect those going to the polls, like cleaning the polling machines often.

Our first responders will also continue to provide services. We do ask that anyone who has cold or flu symptoms that calls 911 for ambulance or police services inform the dispatcher of your symptoms so that our paramedics and police officers can take the proper precautions.

Although we are not aware of any parties infected in our community as of today. We cannot be fooled into thinking Steger is immune. We are finding out that many who became infected did not know they had the virus in the early stages as they continued their daily routines and exposed others around them. We need everyone to help us reduce social contact in order to try and control the spread of the virus and prevent our medical infrastructure from dealing with too many cases at one time. We therefore ask all of our community groups to postpone any meetings, gatherings or fundraisers until the CDC and the Governor inform us that the risk of spreading the virus has greatly diminished.

These actions we are taking is not meant to elevate fear, but rather allow us to prevent the spread of this virus throughout our community and safeguard all of our health and wellness. I participate in weekly calls with Governor Pritzger and periodic calls with Mayor Lightfoot to continue to get updates and changes to best practices. I will continue to review all information given to me and will continue to and will notify you of any changes as the situation evolves.

We do apologize for the inconvenience caused by these decisions, but our mission must remain to prioritize the safety and health of our residents. We therefore cannot jeopardize that health and safety with group settings.

Mayor Ken Peterson