



ORLAND PARK

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Mayor Urges Residents to Abide by Order While Staying Active

Orland Park, IL (March 27, 2020) - As the Village of Orland Park moves into another week of the governor's stay-at-home order amid concerns of the coronavirus, Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau is reaching out to residents to clear up some possible confusion regarding what the order, what it entails and how to continue to go about life while following recommendations.

The governor's order specifically states that

5. **Leaving the home for essential activities is permitted.** For purposes of this Executive Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following Essential Activities:

a. **For health and safety.** To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as by way of example only without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.

b. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences

c. **For outdoor activity.** To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements, as defined below, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, playgrounds may increase spread of COVID-19, and therefore shall be closed.

d. **For certain types of work.** To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operation, or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Executive Order, including Minimum Basic Operations.

e. **To take care of others.** To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Executive Order.

6. **Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of illness should take additional precautions.** People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including elderly people and those

who are sick, are urged to stay in their resident to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.

“Our community has been behaving rationally and responsibly throughout these challenging times,” said Pekau. “It is important that they understand what is actually in the governor’s Executive Order. It is important for us all to do our part by abiding by the suggested social distancing and by practicing proper hygienic techniques, it is also important to feel free to venture outdoors, take a walk, go for a run, walk the dog and get some fresh air.”

“Additionally, I encourage the Orland Park community to be aware that some of our population needs extra consideration during these trying times,” explained Pekau. “Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.”

The mayor advised against visiting older relatives in person. “You can be infected with the virus and not show any symptoms at all,” he said. In the meantime, he urges residents of Orland Park to “go for walks, but keep a six-foot distance...take a bike ride and practice social distancing, go shopping but keep that space between you and your fellow shoppers.”

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 is not 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. The Orland Park Police Department has taken steps to ensure the health and safety of our officers as well as those we encounter.”

Orland Park Police officers have been issued personal protective equipment which they will utilize when responding to calls from now to the end of the Governor’s ‘Stay-at-Home’ order on April 7th.

“If you see officers wearing gloves and masks, please know it is for the safety of all involved,” explained McCarthy. “As always, we are here to serve and protect the Orland Park community.”

The mayor and the Village’s Public Information Office have kept in close contact with residents providing updates and daily communication via the Village’s social media accounts, its YouTube channel and the Village website. Residents and businesses can find a plethora of facts, resources and timely updates on the Village website at orlandpark.org/coronavirusinfo.

“Unlike every other catastrophe this virus is negatively impacting everyone in the entire world,” said Pekau. “Hurricanes, tornadoes and earth quakes affect local areas. COVID-19 is affecting everyone – all businesses, big and small – all people, rich and poor – all government entities.”

“It is critical that we remain calm and level headed throughout these trying times,” he added. “How we respond to this adversity not only demonstrates our character but will determine how fast and how well we bounce back when this is over.”

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