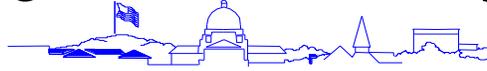


CITY OF ALTOONA



Matthew A. Pacifico
MAYOR

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News Release - For Immediate Release

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

ALTOONA, PA. (March 11, 2020) - The City of Altoona's Pandemic Plan and additional emergency plans are updated and in place, and the City is prepared and following the PA Department of Health and the CDC in regards to the coronavirus. "Residents are encouraged to wash their hands often. Thankfully there are not any cases in our area, but the City is still prepared in the event cases of coronavirus appear in the future," stated Mayor Pacifico. "Communication with our partners, such as UPMC Altoona and other groups is key. As for our residents, people are taking this seriously and I feel encouraged by that," stated Pacifico. "The best way to keep informed at this point is to follow the CDC and the PA Department of Health, keep calm and follow common sense precautions. Whatever happens, we will get through this as a community."

Fire Chief Tim Hileman recently updated internal protocols for the Department and is actively coordinating with other emergency response agencies. "Our firefighters routinely respond to medical emergencies," stated Chief Hileman. "We need to ensure that how we handle calls does not place our residents or our employees at risk."

A major focus for the City is continuity of operations. "Whatever happens with the coronavirus, we need to continue to provide core services," said Ken Decker, City Manager. "That includes our first responders."

What is Coronavirus? - The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in China.

What are the Symptoms of Coronavirus? - Symptoms of the COVID-19 can include: Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath. The symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

What Can Be Done to Protect Yourself, Your Family and Our Community?

Practice good habits to include: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol; Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash; Stay home when you are sick; Avoid close contact with people who are sick; Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe; Stay up to date on vaccinations, including the flu vaccine

If you have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19, it is important to call your health care provider if you develop symptoms.

How to Keep Informed and Up-To-Date - For updates and further information on COVID-19, including best practices and travel restrictions for affected areas, please visit the websites of the [CDC](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#).

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