



Mayor Broderick COVID-19 (Coronavirus Update) March 16, 2020

Good afternoon.

I am addressing you today to provide an update on the ever changing status and the preventative measures that are being taken with regards to COVID-19, known as the Coronavirus outbreak. I want to assure you that the City of Anderson is continuing to take steps to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The number one priority of our city government is to ensure the public safety and welfare of our community. It is important that we individually remain calm, but at the same time take this outbreak seriously.

We are cautiously optimistic that at this time, there have been no reported positive cases of COVID-19 in Anderson or Madison County. However, we are also mindful that this data is most likely affected by limited testing and the availability of tests up to this point in time. As a result of the federal government taking additional steps to make testing kits more readily available to our health care professionals, it is reasonably anticipated that we will see some positive cases in our community in the future. We welcome the opportunity to have more accurate data that will allow us to be even more proactive in the prevention of the spread of this virus, and the opportunity for those affected to obtain more specific treatment as they move through the cycles of the virus.

It is vitally important that we each take personal responsibility, use our common sense and follow the guidelines that have been provided to us by our local healthcare professionals and federal, state and local authorities. Remember, that as member of our society, living together in our respective communities, we owe it to each other to be responsible and again, to take this matter seriously. If we take the reasonable steps that have been provided to us we will be protecting the most vulnerable among us and we will be assisting our healthcare providers to be more effective when they are presented with a COVID-19 case. We cannot allow them to become overwhelmed, we must assist them by taking the recommended precautions that will ultimately serve all of us.

At the present time, the best source for control and preventative information comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our Indiana State Department of Health and the Madison County Department of Health, who is heading up the local task force on COVID-19. The task force is comprised of public safety, health and business leaders (including city officials from the Anderson Fire and Police Departments). We are fortunate to have these departments and individuals working together collaboratively.

I appreciate the leadership of health department administrator Stephanie Grimes and the teamwork being demonstrated by everyone involved.

I want to thank our first responder team of Fire Chief Dave Cravens, EMS Chief Todd Cawthorn, and Mark Keck, Health and Safety Chief together with Anderson Police Chief Jake Brown and Deputy Chief Mike Lee.

By working together, we are able to hold down confusion while providing valuable information and assisting in Community Preparedness, Communications, Information Management, and Resource Management.

Each of these agencies have made it clear that that community-based interventions can help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Therefore, I want to reiterate and encourage these preventative measures that are being embraced by these agencies and our state and federal governments:

1. **We must continue to limit person-to-person contact.** Person-to-person contact should be limited to necessary interactions. **All event venues in Anderson that are hosting events where over fifty (50) people will be in attendance shall be closed pursuant to the Governor's order and CDC directives.** I commend those in our community who have already taken action in this regard. Our schools, churches, hospitals, nursing facilities and most recently our local casino is taking appropriate actions that will protect all of us. I want to remind everyone that this "social distancing" does not mean you should not communicate with others or that you should lock yourself in the house. Certainly check in on friends and family, and especially those most vulnerable -- the elderly and our sick. Telephone calls, texts, emails, FaceTime, Facebook, Messaging and other social medial tools should be used when possible. Going outside to the parks or other venues where there are limited numbers of people is appropriate. When you see friends at these locations do not hug, shake hands and stay a reasonable distance away. But, by all means, do not go around others if you have flu like symptoms and do not let them come around you. Again, use common sense.
2. **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds** especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. **Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.** If you are sick go to the doctor, but call in advance and let them know of your symptoms before you present yourself. Follow their advice.
4. **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze** or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water or clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol as already discussed. If you are symptomatic, and are

around people, wear a mask. If you do not believe you are sick and you are not symptomatic, medical professionals are recommending you do not wear a mask.

As we move forward we will continue our work with the task force and we will continue to monitor all of the news and reports provided by the agencies discussed. We will take all appropriate actions as needed as circumstances warrant.

We recognize that this is a fluid situation and we assume, at least from a data standpoint, it will get worse before it gets better. However, again we say this with optimism, we believe that as long as we all follow these guidelines we will ultimately be successful in overcoming this outbreak.

In addition to our city government ensuring for the public safety and welfare of our community we also work daily to ensure essential city services are delivered to the public. We will continue with all of these efforts during this pandemic and we will do so in a way that protects the health of city employees and the public.

The City of Anderson stands ready to respond to any emergencies. We will continue to have first rate public safety protection and services (police and fire protection), we will continue to supply clean water and electric power.

At this time, the City of Anderson, City Hall and its 21 departments will remain open, but I encourage the public to refrain from visiting or doing business in city hall or other city facilities unless it is absolutely necessary. This is especially true for those who are the most vulnerable, persons over 60 or those with known underlying health issues such as cardiovascular disease, diabetics or chronic respiratory disease.

If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, respiratory illness or if you have a fever, we ask that you do not come personally to City Hall, the Anderson Fire or the Anderson Police Department or any other city departments or facilities, except in the case of the most extreme emergency.

The public is asked to contact the city by phone or email and staff will help residents conduct business online or over the phone. We encourage you to transact as much business as possible using our online city resources. We also encourage you to sign up for our city email blasts on the city website (www.cityofanderson.com).

The City is preparing a contingency staffing plan that will include flexible scheduling as well as temporary changes and exceptions to leave policies, in order to allow employees to take care of themselves or family members, if such action becomes necessary. I am also asking our department heads to review their departments to make recommendations regarding employee positions that could work from home on a limited basis to limit exposures.

The following additional actions are being implemented as precautionary measures and in response to recommendations from the CDC:

1. The City will significantly reduce large in-person meetings including boards and commissions, special events, and other large internal meetings effective immediately. Non-essential meetings will be limited to 10 persons or less and should meet virtually whenever

possible. High-risk individuals should **not** attend meetings and individuals exhibiting flu like symptoms, fever or respiratory illness should **not** be in attendance.

2. The city will suspend use of Anderson City Hall facilities and Anderson Park Department Facilities for non-city government uses or non-statutory uses effective immediately.
3. It is recommended that city board and commission meetings be limited when possible and that meeting numbers will be reduced to statutory minimums, with exceptions as needed for critical services. Public meetings will remain open to the public, but we ask that the above noted precautions be taken.
4. The City is encouraging staff to cancel discretionary professional and personal travel at this time.
5. We recognize during this time of the coronavirus pandemic there may be unforeseen financial circumstances that make it difficult for some persons to pay their utility bill in a timely fashion due to issues surrounding the coronavirus. We believe everyone needs access to hot water during this time period. Therefore, I have directed staff, as of last Wednesday (March 11, 2020) to implement a no-disconnect policy for late or non-payment of Anderson City utility bills. This is not a waiver or forgiveness of bills and therefore bills should continue to be paid in a timely manner by those who are able to pay. The city will work with customers, if needed, on a payment plan to catch up missed payments once the crisis has subsided.
6. Meter readings that require an employee to enter the premises of a building or home will be done through estimates rather than actual reading.
7. Our utility office will remain open at the present time, but we ask that utilities be paid on line or through the drive through window whenever possible. Again, we ask that you call first, as many concerns can be handled by phone or online.
8. The city police and fire departments will continue to work to provide public safety to our citizens. Internal policies have been implemented by both the police and fire departments to insure the safety of both first responders and the public.
9. Our CATS bus system of public transportation will continue to run at this time. We ask that you only use the bus if it is for an absolutely necessary trip. Do not use the bus if you know to be sick, have symptoms of the flu, or a respiratory illness or a fever. If you use Nifty Lift, likewise only use if it is a necessary and for non-social trips. Again, do not take Nifty-Lift if you are sick. While CATS and NIFTY Lift use a regular regimen to sanitize the buses, the City has increased its sanitizing schedule and buses will be sanitized daily or more frequently if it appears to be needed.

The City of Anderson will continue to make updates to these current protocols and keep citizens informed. You will find updated information on the city's website @www.cityofanderson.com and the city's official Facebook page.

I again ask all citizens to remain calm, but take these matters seriously. Remember, we are all in this together and by working together as a community, we will be successful of weathering this unexpected experience.

Once it has ended we will work together to overcome any remaining adverse effects.

Thank you. God bless each of you, your families and our community of Anderson.