



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03.20.20

(Information in [blue](#) has not previously been disseminated)

The City of Edwardsville continues to monitor updates from multiple agencies on the status of the COVID-19 outbreak. [As of Monday afternoon, Illinois is reporting 12 deaths, 1285 confirmed cases and 2 cases now reported in Madison County. One of the deaths was in Monroe County.](#) Please beware of the information you hear about decisions surrounding the current outbreak. Please ensure your sources are valid and up to date.

A new City Coalition has been created in an effort to streamline communication, minimize oversights and duplication of efforts. The Edwardsville YMCA, the Edwardsville Public Library and Main Street Community Center are working together to help connect the needs of non-profit organizations with community resources.

- Area nonprofits are encouraged to contact Natasha Howard at nhoward@edwymca.com
- Groups and individuals interested in volunteering or donating to this effort should contact Jessica Johnson at jjohnson@edwymca.com
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In other Edwardsville area news:

[While the City of Edwardsville Parks remain closed, the walking paths and trails are available for use effective Wednesday, March 25th for walking and jogging. The playgrounds, restrooms, drinking fountains, pavilions, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and baseball/softball fields will remain closed at this time.](#)

[The Governor's office through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has provided a helpline for guidance on business compliance with Executive Order 2020-10. Business owners with questions about whether they are essential or non-essential should contact the DCEO helpline at 1-800-252-2923 or by email at \[EEO.support@illinois.gov\]\(mailto:EEO.support@illinois.gov\).](#)

[Edwardsville Community School District 7 has announced it will keep schools closed through April 7. The following week is the scheduled spring break, effectively closing the District until **April 14**.](#)

[The Madison County Transit \(MCT\) bicycle/walking trails remain open for public access. MCT strongly urges users of the trails to follow the Governor's executive order and stay in small groups \(less than 10\), maintaining social distancing of 6-10 feet between individuals. Residents are asked to monitor the MCT website for any changes at \[mct.org\]\(http://mct.org\).](#)

[Workers in the Edwardsville warehouse/redistribution district should contact their employers directly regarding any closures. Most businesses in this district are exempt from the Governor's shelter-in-place executive order and remain open.](#)

City Council and Committee/Board Meetings

City Council meetings and committee meetings will be open to the public. Under authority granted by Gov. Pritzker's proclamation modifying some aspects of the Open Meetings Act, council/board members may attend electronically. Residents may attend in person, but are strongly urged to participate electronically through the options below:

- publiccomment@cityofedwardsville.com
- [Public comment Voicemail 618-307-1715](tel:618-307-1715)
- Messages go to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk along with IT and Legal.
- Messages will be played/read before the appropriate board/committee/.

- A public hearing on TIF 2 remains scheduled as an open meeting at **Edwardsville City Hall, 118 Hillsboro Ave**, on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Administrative and Community Services Committee will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2 **at the Wildey Theatre, 252 N. Main St.** in the auditorium.
- The regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7 **at the Wildey Theatre, 252 N. Main St.**, in the auditorium.
 - All attendees, upon entry, will be subject to a thermal temperature check, asked to wash their hands, and asked to maintain social distancing of 6-10 feet.
- [Public Services, Finance Committee, Public Safety, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and Ordinance Committee meetings have been cancelled. New meeting schedules/dates are to be announced at a later date.](#)
- [RASE Board is postponed until April 21.](#)
- The City Council meetings will continue to be streamed on Facebook and transmitted over ECTV Channel 993.
- The changes will stay in effect until at least through April, and extended further if necessary.
- The City will provide recordings of each meeting that will be available for check out at the Edwardsville Public Library or electronic copies can be requested from the City Clerk's office.

State of Illinois

Gov. Pritzker has issued a "Stay-at-Home" Order, effective Saturday, March 21, 2020 until the end of the day April 7, 2020:

- Citizens may leave home to go to grocery store, gas station, work, hike, etc.
- If you can work from home, you should do so.
- Non-essential businesses will be ordered to close.

- Municipalities will be ordered to halt evictions.
- School districts will continue to provide meals, with assistance from the State of Illinois.
- Schools will tentatively reopen on April 8.

Some Frequently Asked Questions regarding the executive order:

- How long will the closure last?
 - On-site consumption at restaurants and bars is currently scheduled to be closed through April 7th. Delivery, drive-through, carryout and curbside pickup will continue to be allowed at all restaurants able to provide these services.
- Does the ban include movie theaters? What about cafes at grocery stores and other entertainment venues, such as ice rinks?
 - The Executive Order prohibits gatherings of ten people or more.
- What about small, family owned restaurants that don't have delivery or take-out capability?
 - The Governor's administration is working directly with delivery service providers like Uber Eats, Grubhub and Postmates to help smaller restaurants put in place delivery options. U.S. Small Business Administration (USBA) is also offering loans for businesses impacted by coronavirus
- Are catered events allowed?
 - Yes, however gatherings are *strongly* discouraged and events with ten or more people are banned.
- Are patrons allowed to enter the restaurant to pick-up food and/or order and then leave?
 - Patrons are strongly encouraged to utilize drive-throughs and pick-up pre-ordered food curbside if available at the restaurant. In addition, customers may enter the premises to purchase food or beverages for carry-out. Establishments offering food or beverages for carry-out, including food trucks, must ensure that they have an environment where patrons maintain adequate social distancing.
- Are coffee shops closed?
 - The same rules that apply to bars and restaurants also apply to coffee shops.
- Can I still get groceries delivered?
 - Yes, you may still have groceries delivered. There have been no executive orders impacting grocery delivery.
- Will I qualify for unemployment benefits since my restaurant is closed?
 - The Governor's administration has worked to expand unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are unable to work due to COVID-19. For more information on unemployment insurance, go to the Illinois Department of Employment Security website.

City Hall/City Clerks

As a result of the Governor's proclamation, all non-essential city employees have been directed to work from home when feasible. Systems have been put into place to continue essential city services electronically. Also:

- Non-critical expenses/purchases are being held up by the City until such time as the municipal cash outflow and inflow is better defined.
- To protect our employees and the general public, payments are no longer accepted in person at City Hall.
- Customers may continue to pay their utility bill online, over the phone, use the drop box outside City Hall, located at 118 Hillsboro, or mail payments through the U.S. Mail.
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 692-7500.
- Learn more at www.cityofedwardsville.com.
- The City will waive late payment penalties, processing fees for payments made over the phone or online.
- As a reminder, the City of Edwardsville is suspending all disconnections for water services for all of our customers effective immediately. The order remains in effect until May 1, 2020.

Edwardsville Public Library

The Edwardsville Public Library will no longer be offering the curbside pickup service. You can still reach library staff Monday – Friday from 9-5 by calling 618-692-7556 or by emailing info@edwpl.org.

- Please hold on to all library material until the Library reopens.
- All book drops will remain locked until the Library is open, and no late fees will be charged during this period.
- E-books, audiobooks, movies and music are always available online through our website and free apps. Visit <https://www.edwardsvillelibrary.org/ebooks-and-more>.

Public Works

As a reminder, public access to the Public Works Building, 200 East Park, is limited to the front vestibule. Visitors may drop off materials, building permits, plans, etc., within the vestibule. Payments will not be accepted. Payments must be made online or placed within the exterior drop box at City Hall. Permit applications are available online at the City's website www.cityofedwardsville.com.

- Republic Services has announced it is cancelling bulk/large item pickups in Edwardsville at least until April 20. The trash, yard waste and recycle routes will remain on the same regular schedule.
- Due to an increased demand and subsequent shortage of toilet paper, increased use and flushing of non-flushable materials such as baby wipes, napkins and paper towels is a major concern.

- Residents are strongly urged to pay extra attention to what they are using and flushing.
 - **Do not flush anything other than toilet paper.** Products billed as “flushable” baby wipes can still create significant problems in the sewer system.
- Commercial inspections remain active until further notice.

Economic Development

The City of Edwardsville will allow, without any fee to upgrade, all Class B liquor license holders to operate under the rules of a Class C license.

- Sale of packaged or sealed liquor/beer containers in its original package may be sold as a carry-out item.
- This provision will go through April 30, 2020.
- All license holders will still have to notify the State of Illinois Liquor Commission at (217) 782-2136.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The Edwardsville EOC will be staffed from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until further notice. The hours will expand to meet operational challenges. The EOC has been operating for the past week, preparing documents, checking City supplies and drafting policies as the COVID-19 pandemic triggers local, state and national mandates. Updates are sent daily to local media outlets. They are posted on the City’s website www.cityofedwardsville.com/coronavirus in real time. You can also find helpful links to other sites with an enormous amount of information from state, national and international agencies.

Police Department

To minimize inherent risks to our officers and the public that are presented with COVID-19, some changes for reporting procedures to Edwardsville PD have been implemented.

- If any bars or restaurants violate the Governor’s proclamation regarding closing, they may be charged with reckless conduct and could lose their liquor license.
- On a temporary basis, the EPD will be taking some reports over the telephone.
- If you need police services that are non-emergency in nature, please call the Edwardsville Police Department at (618) 656-2131.
- If a call for service does require an officer’s response to a residence or business, the reporting party may be asked to step outside of the residence or business to speak with the officer to create a safe, social distance between the officer and the reporting party.

Fire Department

The Edwardsville Fire Department has not yet seen a large influx in its number of emergency medical calls. The Department continues planning with other agencies to coordinate overlap if there is a surge of calls in this area. Also of note:

- **The Department is suspending car seat installations until further notice.**
- For assistance with Child Safety Seat installation instruction and tips:

- Go to www.safekids.org
 - Scroll to the middle of the webpage, find the tab “Ultimate Car Seat Guide” and click
 - Scroll to the bottom of the webpage, find the tab “Installing” and click
 - Follow and read all pages and view all videos, in order, for installation instructions
- For assistance with fitment of harness in Child Safety seats or seatbelt usage:
 - Go to www.safekids.org
 - Scroll to the middle of the webpage, find the tab “Ultimate Car Seat Guide” and click
 - Scroll to the bottom of the webpage, find the tab “Right Fit” and click
 - Follow and read all the pages and view all videos, in order, for guidelines for each use

If any further postponement of future programming is needed, the Edwardsville Parks and Recreation staff will provide necessary announcements. You can find these official announcements on our website

(<https://www.cityofedwardsville.com/188/Parks-Recreation>) or our Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsvilleParksAndRec/>)

R.W. Welle, Emergency Management Coordinator Hal Patton, Mayor, City of Edwardsville