

Advisory 3 - March 17,2020:

Bonita Springs takes Proactive Steps to Help Prevent Potential Exposure of COVID-19

The City of Bonita Springs continues to monitor information provided from the Department of Health while also taking proactive steps to help prevent potential exposure of COVID-19.

Citywide preparation is underway with the safety and health of our community as the first consideration.

This is a fluid situation with updates occurring frequently. We remain in close communication with federal, state and regional officials. City staff is meeting with the Emergency Operations Center and Lee County Staff regularly to align efforts across jurisdictions. The Emergency Operations Center is currently activated.

The City of Bonita Springs has declared a state of local emergency. This will allow the city access to federal and state funding opportunities as they become available.

The upcoming March 18th City Council Meeting has been canceled and all non-essential city meetings are being postponed. Beginning Wednesday, March 18, the Recreation Center and Community Pool will close to the public, recreational programming and classes will be canceled except for the childcare program provided by the YMCA, the Neighborhood Services facility located at the Liles Hotel and the Bonita Nature Place facility will also be closed to the public. City Hall will have limited access to the public.

Drop boxes will be set up at each city facility for any documents that need to be dropped off during this time. The community is encouraged to call or email city staff. These closures are scheduled until April 13th. There is a voluntary suspension of play by the City of Bonita Springs baseball and soccer leagues, effective immediately. Neighborhood Services is also suspending rental inspections.

“We remain committed to the health and safety of you and your family. It is time to take proactive reasonable and rational steps to protect our community.” Mayor Peter Simmons The city continues to review city processes, policies and procedures to reflect all current recommendations and best practices. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District stands ready to assist and is diligently monitoring updates. “We have a responsibility to protect our community and we take it seriously. We maintain an effective emergency response staff to respond to emergencies. We are taking all precautions to stop the spread of this illness.” Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District Chief Greg Dewitt

As we enter a new phase of COVID-19, it is important that EMS and Fire Personnel operate under the most up to date guidance and that the system operation remains fluid. The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District is committed to this. Employee screening will be conducted twice a day. The Fire District is working to maintain a robust supply of necessary items. Personal and protective equipment is provided to all responders. Resource information is being provided to all staff and posted to Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District website. Briefings are occurring daily and the Bonita Springs Fire District is working closely with the Lee County Emergency Operations Center.

Several events have been postponed by the Bonita Springs Fire District to ensure the health and safety of firefighters, civilian employees, and the community. Proactive steps are being taken to protect our community, firefighters, staff and volunteers from possible exposure to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District will be suspending all use of the fire station community room, fire safety classes and non-emergency activities. This will be reassessed in 30 days.

For information about COVID-19, please contact the Department of Health dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling 1-(866) 779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours a day. Inquiries may also be emailed to COVID-19@flhealth.gov.