



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

RE. COVID-19

Released by: Lt. Alyssa Wilson

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The City of Altoona has made the decision to declare a Proclamation of Emergency in conjunction with Governor Reynolds' State of Public Health Disaster Emergency. We have prepared a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that keeps our community and our public servants safe. Effective today, March 17th, 2020, all public offices are CLOSED, but city employees will continue to provide services by phone. *This does not affect police and fire responses.

The health of our community has always been, and remains, of foremost importance. Our City leaders have been working closely together, monitoring the progress of the COVID-19 epidemic. This is a fluid pandemic and is evolving every hour. *To those who live in Polk County and have medical questions, please call 2-1-1. This helpline will answer your concerns and get you into touch with needed resources. If there is a true emergency, your Altoona Police Department and Altoona Fire Department will show up and provide the best customer service, as always.

As the circumstances are fluid, in keeping safety the priority for our community and city employees, we will continually re-evaluate our Plan. The city appreciates your understanding and patience during this unprecedented time in our lives.

There are simple steps to prevent the spread COVID-19. Please join us in practicing these healthy habits:

- Wash your hands often – Use soap and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer that contains 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow if you sneeze or cough
- Practice social distancing
 - Maintain a distance (approximately 6 feet) from others when possible
 - Avoid contact with high risk and sick individuals
 - Limit fraternizing in groups more than 10
- Stay at home if you're sick
- Wear a facemask if you are in public and are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (including phones)



It's important to arm yourself with accurate and timely information. Please follow the below links:

www.facebook.com/AltoonaFD

www.facebook.com/altoonaiowapolice

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health/programs/disease-prevention/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/gov-reynolds-issues-a-state-of-public-health-disaster-emergency>

<https://www.southeastpolk.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/altoonachamber> (for updated and altered business hours)

Twitter:

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