



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

RE. COVID-19

Released by: Mayor Dean O'Connor

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A message from the Mayor and City Council for the City of Altoona:

Mayor Dean O'Connor and the Altoona City Council have been working with the Altoona City staff to monitor the current COVID-19 outbreak. The City of Altoona has adopted the [State of Public Health Disaster Emergency Proclamation](#). This is consistent with declaration proclaimed by Governor Kim Reynolds.

The City of Altoona will be driving messages to our citizen via social media on our Facebook Pages at the [City of Altoona](#), the [Altoona Fire Department](#), the [Altoona Police Department](#), and the [Altoona Library](#). Links to the Polk County Health Department and Polk County Emergency Management are available on these Facebook pages, as well as the City of Altoona's website. The State of Iowa's recommendations for dealing with the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus are posted on these sites.

As for the operations of the City of Altoona, our City's senior leadership staff has formed a response team that is working to not only protect the citizens of Altoona from the virus, but to maintain City services. The primary focus has been to ensure public safety - Police, Fire, and EMS services - are not affected. Additional attention has been placed on ensuring that our public utilities, primarily water and sanitary sewer service, remain in operation. Staff has been separated, and those who can work from home are doing so. The goal is to provide for staffing in the event that any of our staff contracts the virus.

These are challenging times for all of us, and the Mayor and City Council want to thank our City staff for their dedication to the public. We also want to thank our citizens and local businesses for their understanding and support through this difficult challenge.

For the most current updates related to COVID-19, please visit the [Polk County Health Department](#), the [Polk County Emergency Management](#), and the [Iowa Department of Public Health](#) websites.