

### A Message From Mayor Napier

West St. Paul, MN - March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Today I took part in a League of Minnesota Cities discussion surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and want to address where the City of West St. Paul stands on this situation. I want to assure West St. Paul that City Officials and Staff are closely monitoring the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and MDH (Minnesota Department of Health) recommendations for current advisories and we request that all citizens do the same. Accordingly, the CDC and MDH advise that all of us should take the following precautions:

- Stay home when you are sick (i.e. fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills or fatigue).
- Wash your hands frequently with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth with tissues whenever you sneeze, and discard used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid people who are sick with respiratory symptoms.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control recommends that persons remain at home for at least 24 hours after they are free of fever and fever symptoms without the use of fever-reducing medications. Many aspects of City business involve at least some degree of interaction with other people. Currently, the MDH is not recommending that public events be cancelled.

### Examples of City meetings and activities that are, as of now, expected to go on as planned include:

- City Council Meetings
- City Committee and Commission Meetings
- Recreational Programs and Recreational Facilities
- Regular Business at City Hall

However, the Minnesota Department of Health is currently recommending the public start moving toward the practice of *Social Distancing*, especially for those at high risk. As such, **the City of West St. Paul is postponing the March 19th and March 21st Town Hall Meetings**. This is not a decision made out of panic, but out of an abundance of caution.

As this situation continues to evolve, the City is prepared to make changes under the guidance of the CDC, MDH and Dakota County Public Health. The City of West St. Paul is prepared to implement our Continuity of Operations plan that addresses how we will provide essential services as the situation evolves.

### More Information

Please rely on updates posted to the Minnesota Department of Health website or the CDC website for the most accurate and timely information on the virus.

- Centers for Disease Control - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- Minnesota Department of Health - [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)
- Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline - 651-201-3920

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work through this health challenge. Be assured the city will be relying heavily on guidance from MDH and CDC and we will do our very best to keep the community informed and to continue to provide services to the community.

**West St. Paul Mayor, David Napier**