



# CITY OF FORT DODGE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### RE: CITY OF FORT DODGE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The City of Fort Dodge has no higher priority than to protect the health and safety of our citizens and employees. That's why we made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend face to face interactions between the public and non-essential City personnel. That's also why you've seen Governor Reynolds ask that many events be postponed or cancelled, businesses temporarily close and restaurants move to curbside pickup or delivery. Social isolation, while not our definition of "fun", is a necessary step in combating the spread of COVID-19.

"As our community continues to respond to this never seen before emergency, it is very important that we limit our social interactions. I strongly recommend that all citizens practice social distancing and encourage all to stay home if possible. If you need to work or go out for groceries or medicine please limit your social interactions to the reason you are out. The longer we don't comply with social distancing, the longer we're going to have to do it." Mayor Matt Bemrich

Our goal at the City is to make sure you see no change in the essential services we provide to you on a daily basis. Our management team has plans in place to keep services working. We are actively and closely monitoring the situation in Fort Dodge and the surrounding area. Here are just some of the steps we've taken in the last week:

#### **CITY OF FORT DODGE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Public Works has made adjustments to our staffing, and processes to ensure we maintain the ability to provide the services the community expects. Though changes have been made within our organization, it is still business as usual when it comes to our day to day operations. Our staff has been instructed to practice social distancing both within our daily work and outside of it, so please take it upon yourself to do the same for the safety of our workers and the public in general. With that being said, we will continue to have crews out pothole patching, street sweeping, intake cleaning, **NORMAL SANITATION AND RECYCLING COLLECTION**, and other public works responsibilities. So make sure you continue to get your garbage and recycling out by 6 am the appropriate day, and by all means, please utilize Connect Fort Dodge to report potholes and other issues we need to address.

#### **FORT DODGE FIRE RESCUE**

Fort Dodge Fire Rescue is currently operating all fire and EMS services levels as normal. For more than 150 years we are always ready to answer any call for assistance from our citizens. For the past few weeks we have

been planning with our public safety partners at Unity Point Trinity, Webster County Public Health, Webster County Emergency Management and Law enforcement. We have developed plans and procedures to keep the members of the public and our staff safe during this period. Staying at home during this period is very important to minimize the impact on our community EMS and healthcare systems.

#### **FORT DODGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

In the interests of public safety, security and ensuring the overall wellbeing of our citizens, the Fort Dodge Police Department is currently operating in lockstep with our first responder and emergency service partners, as we continue to collectively maintain our quality of service to the community. At this time the FDPD has and will continue to perform all of its essential duties as expected, while at the same time preparing for any possible scenarios that could result from the COVID-19 virus. Just like the general public, we too are practicing social distancing whenever possible, and our officers are limiting public contact and modifying various daily practices in order to reduce exposure. We ask that that everyone work together in order to bring about a positive resolution for all of us.