



University Park Fire Department
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Coronavirus Update & Information

March 16th, 2020

The Fire Department is continuing to provide the citizens of University Park with updated information pertaining to the Coronavirus. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in virtually all 50 States. In order to slow the rate of spread, certain measures have been enacted, such as closing schools, not allowing large crowds to assemble, and other social distancing practices.

There is merit behind making such decisions and they are not being implemented without careful thought. One way to look at the spread of a virus is to think of it as a wildfire that occurs out west. One of the tactics used to stop these fires is by removing or reducing the amount of available fuel. If there is nothing to burn, the fire goes out. Same concept here, fewer people in groups makes it more difficult for the virus to spread.

How to Protect Yourself:

- There is no vaccine yet, but research and trials are underway
- The best method to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to a virus
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- If soap & water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, nose, and face with unwashed hands

Do your Part to Protect Others:

- Stay home if you are sick
- If you ARE sick, wear a facemask when around other people
- If you ARE NOT sick, you DO NOT need to wear a facemask
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Clean and disinfect regularly touched surfaces

Schools in Illinois will remain closed at least until March 30th, 2020. Also, in Illinois, restaurants and bars will be closing to dine-in customers beginning at 9pm this evening. This restriction is also expected to be in effect at least until March 30th, 2020 as well. The CDC is also recommending that all in-person events that consist of 50 or more people be cancelled or postponed across the United States for the next 8 weeks.

A disease outbreak like this may be stressful for many people. Fear and anxiety can be overwhelming and lead to people making irrational decisions. Coping with stress will make you, the people you care about, and the community stronger. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations based on their own background, experiences, and other traits that make us the individuals we are.

Coping with Stress & Anxiety:

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to all the stories in the Media
- Take care of your body by eating healthy, getting plenty of rest, and exercising
- Make time to unwind by doing activities that you enjoy
- Talk to others you trust about your concerns and feelings
- Avoid the abuse of alcohol and drugs



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It is important to understand the scope and magnitude of this health concern. This is why statistics and data are shared as part of these informational updates. The data changes several times per day which can make reporting accuracy difficult. The Fire Department is now using information collected by the College of Engineering at John Hopkins University to provide a global, national, and regional perspective.

Global Impact of Coronavirus:

- Total Confirmed Cases: 174,884
- Cases resulting in recovery: 77,657
- Cases resulting in death: 6,705
- Nations with Highest Cases:
 - 1) China: 81,032
 - 2) Italy: 24,747
 - 3) Iran: 14,991
 - 4) Spain: 9,407
 - 5) South Korea: 8,236

National Impact of Coronavirus:

- Total Confirmed Cases: 3,813 (or about 2.18% of global cases)
- Cases resulting in recovery: 12
- Cases resulting in death: 69
- States with Highest Cases:
 - 1) Washington: 769
 - 2) New York: 746
 - 3) California: 458
 - 4) Massachusetts: 164
 - 5) Florida: 155

State of Illinois Impact of Coronavirus:

- Total Confirmed Cases: 93 (or about 2.44% of United States cases)
- Cases resulting in recovery: 2
- Cases resulting in death: 0
- State Analysis:
 - Total Cases: 1,025
 - Total Negative Results: 932
 - Total Positive Results: 93
 - Total Recoveries: 2
 - Total Deaths: 0

Do not be alarmed about gaps or differences between amounts of cases, recoveries, and so on. There are a number of factors at play here. If a suspected case does not result in a positive case, the outcome of that case is not necessarily recorded any further. Total cases may increase after more suspected cases are tested but this does not necessarily mean they are “new” cases. Stay tuned for more updates.