

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **A Personal Appeal from City of Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert, City Administrators & City Council**



**Belleville, Ill. – March 24, 2020 –**

Dear Belleville Residents:

Today, the State of Illinois announced that there have been 250 new cases of COVID-19 diagnosed within the state over the last 24 hours. This brings the total number of cases to 1,535. Even more devastating is that 16 people have died related to COVID-19 in Illinois. Nearly 800 cases have been diagnosed in 3 days. The numbers are changing daily, and we must pay attention and follow the appropriate measures to slow the spread of the virus so that our first responders and healthcare workers have a chance to save the lives of our neighbors and families. Please follow these important directions to help you and our community during this stay-at-home order.

- Stay home and limit your movement to only essential needs – grocery store runs and essential medical appointments.
- Keep your distance. Maintain at least 6' between you and others as you go out for groceries or medical visits.
- Wash your hands very regularly and for 20 seconds. Don't forget the tops of your hands and under your fingernails.
- Check on your elderly neighbors or those you know who are alone at this time. Send them a message or call them. If you need help with this, wellness checks are available through the Belleville Police Department. Call at (618) 234-1212.
- Give what you can and lend a helping hand. Our local non-profits, social service agencies and small businesses are suffering right now. Volunteer, donate, or shop locally in this time of need. Many restaurants and bars are offering delivery or curbside pick-up. Many agencies are seeing an influx of demand on their services.
- Be patient with yourself and others. We are looking to the future and to resuming our usual daily lives. But in the meantime, please be patient as we get through these next few weeks.
- Be kind to one another. We're all cooped up and are spending a lot of time with our immediate families, and for a lot of us, this is demanding! Take breaks if you need them. Go on a walk, try deep breathing or another technique you know works for you to remain kind and calm.
- Know that all essential services provided by the City of Belleville are still available. Police and fire protection never cease, and trash pick-up remains as regularly scheduled. This is a good time to remind you to please only flush toilet paper. Wet wipes and diapers create issues for any sewer system. Please use common sense to take care of the sewer system.

*The City of Belleville, Illinois, incorporated in 1814, is the St. Clair County seat and the largest city in southern Illinois. With a current population of 44,478 (2010), Belleville is home to the longest contiguous main street in the United States, excellent education and healthcare organizations, and thriving businesses and neighborhoods, including three National Historic Districts. Mayor Mark Eckert runs the municipal government along with elected officials including City Clerk Jennifer Gain Meyer, Treasurer Dean Hardt, and 16 aldermen representing eight city wards. The vision for the City of Belleville is one where all sectors of the community work together to help the city grow and prosper and to become a model for other communities to follow.*

- Take care of yourself. Allow yourself time to experience the emotions this crisis has caused and if you need help, reach out.

For more information, visit <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/> or <https://www.belleville.net/706/COVID-19-Information-Responses>.

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