

March 12, 2020



Business Development

# eNews



## Special eNews: Highland Park Responds to COVID-19

The City of Highland Park is in close communication with the Lake County Health Department and federal and state agencies to actively monitor developments regarding COVID-19. Public health and safety are the City's highest priorities. The City is taking proactive steps to protect all residents with a focus on most vulnerable residents at this time. The City will maintain open lines of communication with the entire community, including local businesses. Updates will be posted to the City at [www.cityhpil.com](http://www.cityhpil.com).

The following information pertains to businesses and employers based on information provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Lake County Health Department:

Employers play a key role in promoting healthy communities. The CDC recommends that employers encourage sick employees to stay home, especially if they have had a fever of 100.4°F or higher. Employees should be symptom-free for at least 24 hours before returning to work. For additional best practices, the CDC offers [guidance for an informed response from employers](#). The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has prepared a useful [fact sheet for businesses and employers](#).

The CDC provides [updates for business and leisure travelers](#) as information becomes available. View CDC's specific guidance for travelers at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china>.

[Special guidance for healthcare professionals](#) is also available.

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### Highland Park Public Library Closed

As a proactive measure, the Library will close at the end of business (9:00 PM) on Thursday, March 12 and remain closed until further notice.

Library Executive Director Jane Conway said, “based on advice from reliable health and safety resources, closing the Library will help prevent the spread of illness and is in the best interest of our community.” This precautionary action is in line with guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health, which on Wednesday evening released new guidance that prompted the Library’s leadership to act.

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## **Highland Park Senior Center Closed, City Meetings Cancelled**

As of Wednesday, March 11, the Highland Park Senior Center will be closed until further notice. All programs have been canceled, including offsite programming at various locations throughout the City.

Non-essential public meetings have been canceled until further notice. Cancellation notices will be published to the City’s website. Meetings have not been rescheduled; notice of rescheduled meetings will be posted to the City’s agenda and minute center. The City’s approach to limit these unnecessary public gatherings is in line with best practices from other area governments, including the City of Chicago.

No changes are planned to the Connector Bus, which provides free and essential transportation on a fixed route within Highland Park for seniors and people with disabilities to Highland Park Hospital, grocery stores, pharmacy stores, and other locations throughout the City. No operational changes are planned at this time to the route or schedule. The City has increased cleaning and disinfecting of the Connector Bus to reduce the spread of illness.

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## **Community Collaboration Efforts**

The City of Highland Park is working collaboratively with partners to ensure a prompt, proactive response. On Tuesday, March 10, the City hosted a meeting to discuss strategies for collaboration, communication, and emergency preparedness, and invited partners from the City of Highwood, Village of Deerfield, NorthShore University HealthSystem, the Lake County Health Department, Moraine Township, the Park District of Highland Park, the Highland Park Public Library and School Districts 109, 112 and 113. The group will continue to meet weekly to facilitate the flow of information, share resources, and avoid duplication of efforts.

The City values its partners in the business community as well, and will continue to send periodic updates regarding important developments in its effort to manage the COVID-19 situation.

Information about the City of Highland Park’s response may be accessed at [www.cityhphil.com](http://www.cityhphil.com), via social media and through the City’s eNews. Residents are also encouraged to sign up for Smart911, the City’s

emergency alert system, at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com).

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**For more information on the City's response to COVID-19, contact the City's Communications Manager Amanda Civitello at [acivitello@cityhpil.com](mailto:acivitello@cityhpil.com) or 847.926.1043.**

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