



Media Briefing
March 12, 2020

City Response to COVID-19

More information:

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The City of Alpena is responding to the worldwide Coronavirus-19 pandemic with a number of precautions recommended to federal and state officials to help prevent the spread of the virus and protect our citizens. It should be noted that there are no confirmed cases in northern Michigan at this time. There is no cause for panic, but it is wise to take steps to reduce the spread of the virus. With the declaration of a “State of Emergency” by both the United States and State of Michigan, additional resources will be made available to help prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from this pandemic.

The City has developed a safety plan for its staff, following CDC guidelines. Disinfecting work areas, requiring that employees who become ill or need to care for family members who have contracted acute respiratory illnesses stay home, requiring frequent handwashing and good respiratory etiquette, and suspending business travel to areas where COVID-19 cases are confirmed, are among the precautions being taken with City staff.

City sponsored events where large crowds are expected will be assessed on a case by case basis but will likely be cancelled or postponed until the pandemic is stabilized. The City recommends that local groups planning such events follow CDC recommendations for social distancing.

City Police and City/County Firefighter-Paramedics have the appropriate personal protective equipment and training and will remain available throughout the pandemic. Contingency plans are in place to assure essential services will remain available in the face of higher employee absenteeism due to illness.

Alpena County 911 dispatchers are screening callers to identify potential COVID-19 cases and alert incoming EMS personnel so that appropriate precautions can be taken.

There are things that You Can Do to Keep Yourself and Your Family Healthy:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- Stay informed by checking **official** sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services.

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

- **Stay home** except to get medical care. People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness. You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care.
- **Avoid public areas:** Do not go to work, school, or public areas.
- **Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.
- **Stay away from others:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.
- **Limit contact with pets & animals**
- **Call ahead before visiting your doctor:** This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.
- **If you are sick:** Wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.

Not all people with possible COVID-19 have severe difficulty breathing. If you do, and need paramedic response, **Call 911 if you have a medical emergency.** If possible, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.

The City of Alpena is taking necessary precautions to minimize the impact of the Coronavirus-19 pandemic on our community. We ask citizens to join us in taking the right steps to prevent or mitigate the risk in your homes and businesses, The people most at risk are our elderly, very young and those already battling other illnesses. While this is certainly not a time to panic, it is a time to be prepared. Thank you for your attention.