

Statement from Mayor Suess on Wheaton's Declaration of State of Emergency

I want to share with you, on behalf of my colleagues on the Wheaton City Council, the steps your City government is taking to protect the safety and well-being of our community, and what we ask of you in return.

Today, the Wheaton City Council approved a local state of emergency declaration. This action follows similar steps taken by county, state and federal government officials.

Declaring a local state of emergency is a tool that cities can use in extraordinary times to make goods and services more readily available. It also allows the City to quickly activate the City's emergency operating plans. Finally, it ensures that Wheaton will be eligible for further assistance from DuPage County, the State of Illinois, and the federal government.

Your elected officials and City staff are committed to doing everything possible to protect the safety and well-being of our community, while continuing to provide essential City services. For example:

- Our police, fire and emergency medical services personnel will continue to respond to emergencies and keep our community safe.
- Our Public Works crews will continue to maintain our City's infrastructure and will respond to issues should they arise, such as water main breaks or street repairs.
- Our City Hall staff is continuing to provide as many services as possible without the need for you to physically visit City Hall.

To this end, we are suspending water service shutoffs, eliminating late fees for payments and working to be flexible in our service delivery options.

We will continue to keep you updated through the City's Facebook & Twitter accounts, website, email notifications, and Channel 10. These are just a few of the ways we are working to serve you and ensure your safety, and I thank our City workers and staff for their efforts during these challenging circumstances.

What I ask of you in return is to do your part to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- **Stay home** whenever possible.
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet if you must go out.
- Consider how you can help neighbors who aren't able to get out.
- Wash your hands frequently, with soap, for at least 20 seconds.

These simple actions **can save lives**.

We are all in this together, and we will get through these difficult times through the strength of our community. I appreciate your help to keep us all safer. Stay safe and be well.

