



April 7, 2020

**COVID-19 Status Report  
Oak Park Village Board of Trustees**

To: Village President and Village Board of Trustees

Fr: Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager

As means to share a brief summary of information regarding Village of Oak Park operational activities in response to COVID-19. In most cases, formal public guidance or employee guidance has been publicly disseminated via the Village website or Village social media channels.

**New Public Health Guidance**

- Today, the Village of Oak Park Department of Public Health received notification of the following new COVID-19 cases:

1 Oak Park resident

5 individuals with no address listed that were tested at West Sub Hospital in Oak Park

The above newly reported Oak Park case range in age from 30s.

Excluding individuals for which street addresses are not yet determined, the State of Illinois reports a total of sixty-nine (69) total Oak Park COVID-19 cases. It is important to note that as patient tracking and case follow-up occurs, individuals listing the number of Oak Park cases reported may change depending on residency confirmation.

The Oak Park Department of Public Health is notified of positive tests as established by state and local public health protocol. Because of privacy laws, no additional information can be released about the individuals. It is noted, that privacy precludes location information regarding individuals tested to anyone other than Public Health Officials and First Responders.

The Oak Park Department of Public Health is working closely with officials from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), investigating and notifying anyone who may have had exposure to the individual who tested positive for COVID-19. Local public health officials, hospitals and first responders are following protocols consistent with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- A Supplemental Order for Public Sports Courts and certain other prohibited activities was Extended today through May end of day on May 5, 2020. The extension affirms that gatherings for sports in public areas that is at public parks or outdoor recreation areas are prohibited in order to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19 disease because such activities could entail or promote non-compliance with the social distancing requirements set forth in Governor Pritzker's Order.

This was done in order to appeal to the public and essential businesses in the community regarding the important responsibility we all have to ensure our community is working together to limit community spread of COVID-19. The Public Health Department is concerned that without full cooperation we may not achieve the necessary impact to slow the spread and therefore, the guidance and order have been issued to assist as we move towards more robust conversations when violations are encountered.

### **Senior Housing Case**

Oak Park Public Health Director Mike Charley reported that a resident of a local retirement and assisted living facility had tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. The resident is currently being cared for in a local hospital. Brookdale Oak Park, 1111 Ontario Street, a retirement and assisted living facility operated by ARC Holley Court, LLC, has been ordered to take specific steps that comply with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for protection of the health of facility's residents and its employees. In addition strict measures preventing the acceptance of any new assisted living residents are in place. Other measures include the prohibition of any visitors and canceling events or gatherings within the facility.

Failure to comply with the public health order is a Class A misdemeanor under state law, which carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$2,500 fine. In addition, the facility could lose its license and face civil liability.

It is noted this is the second case in an assisted living setting. As part of the April 1, 2020 Daily Status Report Director Charley reported that a resident of Oak Park Oasis, 625 North Harlem Avenue, Oak Park, also a retirement and assisted living facility had a resident test positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus and that an Order was issued to the Oasis to take specific steps that comply with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for protection of the health of facility's residents and its employees.

Director Charley announced during the April 6, 2020, Village Board meeting that two positive COVID-19 tests have also been reported – one each - at the Oaks, 114 S Humphrey Ave (on March 28) and Heritage House, 201 Lake Street (on April 1). The Oaks and Heritage House are unaffiliated. Each is an apartment building and all units have age and income restrictions. Because of privacy laws, no additional information can be released about the individuals. Apartment buildings, even with age and income restrictions are not subject to the CDC/IDPH guidance for assisted living/nursing homes.

### **Village Board Meeting April 6, 2020**

As a part of the Village Board remote participation meeting yesterday at 7 p.m. a number of important actions were taken by the Board, including approval of Resolution 20-124, Extending the Declaration of an Emergency Affecting the Public Health thru May 5, 2020, changes to parking fees (see below) and late fees for delinquent water bills (also detailed below). I want to thank the Village Board for their attention to these important matters.

### **Temporary Parking Permit Fee Reductions**

The Village has decreased quarterly parking permit fees for Lots, Garages and Overnight Zones by 50 percent for parking permits with start dates of April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. This action was authorized by the Village Board to provide Emergency Assistance due to the financial hardships attributed to the COVID-19 outbreak.

### **Suspending most On-street, Overnight and Daytime Parking Restrictions Until May 5<sup>th</sup>**

On-street, overnight and daytime parking restrictions will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets through Tuesday, May 5 to accommodate residents' changing routines as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Please keep in mind restrictions are not lifted in metered or pay station spaces, or paid overnight permit areas, including posted on-street zones and lots. All other parking regulations related to traffic and public safety such as no parking here to corner or between signs remain in effect.

### **More Free Parking in the Avenue Public Parking Garage**

Village Board approved an Ordinance increasing free parking from 1 hour to 1.5 hours at the Avenue Garage at North Boulevard near Oak Park Avenue which is available during the Lake Street Streetscape Project.

### **Suspension of Late Payment Penalties on Water Bills**

Due to the COVID-19 disease outbreak, staff is recommending that the Village waive and suspend the 10% late payment penalty on water charges set forth in Village Code Section 26-2-3 for water/sewer bills due on or before December 31, 2020.

Please be aware that pursuant to Code Section 26-2-3, the late payment penalty is only applied on the portion of the water/sewer bill that pertains to water supplied (usage) charges. The sewer and refuse fee portion of the bill has always been excluded from the late payment penalty.

### **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

To ensure operational response during a local emergency, the Village's local emergency operating plan, provides for "the Village Manager or his/her designee has the authority to activate the EOC and order designated EOC staff members to report to the EOC." This afternoon, we moved from a Level 3 – Partial Activation to a Level 2 - Full Activation. This full activation follows the Village Board's approval of Resolution 20-124, extending the Declaration of an Emergency Affecting the Public Health thru May 5, 2020. The full activation is effective immediately and is done in part to recognize and document that nearly all Village resources are being directed to the response of the COVID-19 worldwide global pandemic as defined by the World Health Organization and as such, the Village cannot rely upon other units of local government via traditional mutual aid channels as would be the case if Oak Park were experiencing an isolated public emergency. Due to the nature of this worldwide pandemic, the Village must alternatively coordinate systems, procedures and practices in accordance with the

guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security as well as other Oak Park local units of government, neighboring communities and social service providers. In addition, the full activation recognizes that the Village will seek County, State and Federal resources, both financial and material in its emergency response.

During the pandemic, the Village's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functions virtually within the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which provides a common, nationwide approach to enable the whole community to work together to manage all threats and hazards. Under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) NIMS applies to all incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.

### **Liquor License Information**

Liquor licenses are renewed on a rolling 12 month basis from the date of the original approval and the Village on average has between 3-4 renewals each month. During the Illinois Stay at Home Order, a business that has closed business and whose license is expiring during this time would not be required to renew their license and could wait until they reopen to renew their license for the next 12 month period. Restaurants that are currently open are allowed to sell alcoholic liquors in their original containers only as part of a delivery or curbside pick-up as long as they have a current liquor license for the sale of such beer/wine products in the original container.