

## Emergency Response Committee – City of Lockport

3-13-2020 Meeting Minutes

The Mayor began the meeting by explaining the purpose – to make sure that we are all on the same page and up-to-date on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) and to minimize miss-information.

1. *Building maintenance* is following the cleaning guidelines to keep the municipal building disinfected
2. One of the symptoms of COVID 19 is a fever greater than 100.4 degrees
3. Malaise / body aches is another
4. CDC recommendations testing people that have symptoms only if they have visited China or Iran or if that person has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID 19 (this has changed to include
5. One of the issues is that people can't tell if they have COVID 19 or the flu/other and the path to slowing the spread requires self-regulation
6. Two City employees are self-quarantining themselves at this point – cases not confirmed COVID 19
7. The City's protocol is for employees to stay home if they present with symptoms of COVID 19 and that sick days will not be dipped into for this -
8. The statewide ban on groups of 500 or more goes into effect at 5:00 pm today and occupancy limits for rooms shall be half the limit posted for the room – efforts to slow the spread
9. The Mayor may declare a state of emergency – if needed to help with acquiring aid/reimbursement at a later date from the State/Feds

**Chief Abbott** stated that the police department need cleaning solution and asked that building maintenance provide (Chris Landry provided after meeting)

He also stated that the police department is limiting exposure to potential carriers by requiring some calls to be taken care of at the police department window instead of the making house calls – non emergency calls

**Chief Brady** stated that the proper protocol for folks that present COVID 19 symptoms should first call their physician and ask for direction.

There has been an issue of some physicians directing folks to call 911 to get an ambulance and then a bed at the hospital.

The Chief explained the terminology Quarantine versus Isolation

Quarantine: separating the sick from the well

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Isolation: when one person is presenting symptoms they should stay home and the other occupants that are well should leave and stay elsewhere

Niagara County has no test kits at this time

Erie County has kits and has been testing when certain criteria are met – much of the supply of test kits have gone to Westchester county for fold in New Rochelle

Requirements to be eligible for testing include:

- Approximate contact with a person that has a confirmed case of COVID 19
- Travelled to a Level 2 or Level 3 infected country
- Presented with symptoms of COVID 19 including shortness of breath (not a symptom of the common flu)
- Or symptomatic and has tested negative for the normal flu/respiratory illnesses/etc.
- Fever of more than 100.4 degrees

No one in the City of Lockport is officially quarantined as of now

The State's February 14<sup>th</sup> policy on COVID 19 is still unchanged at this point

The virus is known to survive on certain surfaces for 72 hours

There are 16 known cases of self-quarantine in Niagara County

Roswell Park will likely have a testing center

Chief Abbott asked if the police will be provided proper PPE if responding to a call at the Eastern Niagara Hospital – yes they will be

The City will need to keep records of losses due to the pandemic in order to get reimbursed later – State/Fed aid audits

### Schools:

- Prepping for distance learning
- Will only shut down if there is a confirmed case
- Then it will only be for 24 hours to disinfect
- This may change due to increased concerns, due to other states shutting down schools, etc.

Poloncarz has been inundated with requests to close schools in Erie County, but his stance has been to follow the State protocols at this point.

The number of counties in NYS with confirmed cases has risen from 3 to 12