

Dear Valparaiso Neighbors,

As a family man as well as your mayor, I understand that we're all concerned about the spread of coronavirus and its impact on our loved ones and our community. I can assure you that I've been in close contact with state and county officials for updates and guidance regarding the virus and the confirmed case at Porter Regional Hospital. Collectively, we are working to communicate all we can do to take care of ourselves and each other.

Here is what we know:

- The best way to prevent and contain the spread of coronavirus is to limit contact with others, avoid gatherings, practice frequent and thorough hand washing, contain coughs and sneezes, and clean frequently touched surfaces.
Here is a link to more information about the virus and its prevention from the CDC:
<http://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/DocumentCenter/View/7547/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Disease-Fact-Sheet>
- Symptoms of coronavirus include *fever, cough, and shortness of breath*. If you suspect that you or a loved one have the coronavirus, here are guidelines for care, from the CDC:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fsteps-when-sick.html
- For the safety of our community and our own employees, we are asking that anyone who is sick, please stay home. No validation of illness will be required for our employees.
- We are increasing cleaning routines at all city facilities for the safety of visitors and employees.
- We have published closures and changes to meeting policies, available on Valpo.us. We encourage you to call ahead for any meeting or interaction, city-sponsored or otherwise, as all community organizations continue to monitor activities and conditions.
- We are closing City Hall to the public, effective immediately. We can be reached by phone at 462-1161 or via e-mail. All e-mail addresses are available on Valpo.us.
- Your City of Valparaiso services of public safety, utilities, trash and recycling pickup, etc. will continue to serve. We appreciate these important employees and will provide all the necessary support they need.
- In the spirit of our Valparaiso community, we encourage everyone to maintain positive habits, checking on older neighbors, sharing resources and working together. We appreciate all of the cooperation we're already seeing in our city.

I assure you that the City of Valparaiso and Porter County governments are taking this challenge very seriously and working to keep our community safe and informed. We will continue to keep you informed and work to maintain city services throughout this worldwide pandemic. We're proud of our community and our resilience. Please continue to reach out as needed.

Sincerely,



Mayor Matt Murphy