

Valparaiso Mayor Provides Coronavirus Updates for Community

Valparaiso Mayor Matt Murphy has issued an update regarding the coronavirus pandemic. “I want to reassure the community that I continue to be in close communication with state and county officials about the spread of the coronavirus. I understand the uncertainty we’re all feeling and will continue to share updates and ways we’re working together as a city to support each other and reduce the risks for all,” he said.

“We’re very aware of the hardship that social distancing and business constrictions are having on our community. We’re working collectively to do all we can to assist. We’re currently working with downtown restaurants in creating newly designated carry-out/pick-up parking spaces, suspending downtown parking enforcement, and suspending utility shut offs to all Utilities customers,” he said. “We appreciate all of the collaboration we’re seeing in our city and encourage people to continue positive habits, checking in on neighbors, and respecting necessary restrictions,” he said.

Mayor Murphy has shared the following updates on Wednesday, March 18:

- All City of Valparaiso buildings are closed to the public, with the exception of City Hall, which is open daily 8:30 am to noon, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 462-1161 or email the department you wish to visit. Email addresses are available at Valpo.us
- Mayor Murphy encourages people to call ahead for any meeting or interaction, city-sponsored or otherwise, as all community organizations continue to monitor activities and conditions.
- City of Valparaiso services of public safety, utilities, trash and recycling pickup, etc. will continue uninterrupted. The mayor expresses his appreciation for these important employees and will provide all the necessary support they need.
- Valparaiso City Utilities will suspend utility shut offs and will not be assessing late fees during this time.
- City of Valparaiso will suspend downtown parking enforcement during this hardship period, effective immediately.
- In cooperation with downtown businesses, City of Valparaiso has created 30 additional designated parking spaces for 15-minute carry-out and pick-up customers to encourage ordering from city restaurants.
- City of Valparaiso strongly discourages the use of city playgrounds in order to maintain social distancing practices.
- Restrooms in the Porter Health Amphitheater at Central Park Plaza will be open to the public from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm seven days a week.

Murphy assures the community that the City of Valparaiso and Porter County governments are taking this challenge very seriously and working to keep the 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,” he said. For real-time updates, the City of Valparaiso encourages people to consult Valpo.us and the “Valparaiso Now” page on Facebook.

Valpo's current closure and modification list is below:

CITY HALL

- All City of Valparaiso buildings are closed to the public, with the exception of City Hall, which is open daily 8:00 am to noon, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 462-1161 or email the department you wish to visit. Email addresses are available at Valpo.us

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- The Board of Zoning Appeals meeting scheduled for March 17 has been postponed to March 31.
- City Council will meet as scheduled on March 30.
- Board of Works will meet as scheduled on March 27.
- While public meetings will remain open to the public, we encourage citizens to avoid attending a meeting unless they have specific business on the agenda. If a citizen has specific business on the agenda for a meeting, they can contact the City of Valparaiso at 462-1161 to reschedule their business for a future meeting. We will work to have public meetings recorded for later review.

PARKS

- The Valparaiso Parks office will be closed to the public. You may reach them via email or at 462-5144.
- Banta Senior Center will be closed Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27, with additional closing dates possible. In partnership with other organizations, meals are available to seniors who rely on this service. If you are a REGISTERED nutrition site member and in need of a home delivered meal, please contact Michele Murphy Wise at 465-1591
- The City of Valparaiso strongly discourages the use of playgrounds right now in order to maintain social distancing.
- Restrooms at the Porter Health Amphitheater at Central Park Plaza will be open to the public 8:00 am to 10:00 pm seven days per week.
- Start dates for future programs will be assessed and announced as available.
- Creekside Golf Course and Training Center and Forest Park Golf Course both remain closed with opening dates to be determined

POLICE

- The Valparaiso Police Department has suspended fingerprint services and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) inspections at the VPD station.
- The VPD encourages online reporting for non-emergency calls for service or filing of reports that are not in progress.
- Police reports or vehicle crash reports are available at the Records Division, which will remain open Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

FIRE

- Building inspections and child safety seat fittings have been suspended until further notice.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Trash and recycling service will continue without interruption, however curbside yard waste collection and spring leaf pick up will be suspended until further notice. The Public Works office will be closed to the public, and residents may call or email any questions or concerns to 219-462-4612 or ktravis@valpo.us
- Porter County Waste & Recycling has announced closure of the composting site until further notice.

TRANSIT

- Valpo V-Line, and South Shore Transit Connect continue running on schedule and Chicago Dash continues to run with a reduced schedule. For all details, visit valpotransit.com
- The Zoom bus service to Chicago airports and South Bend has been suspended by Royal Excursion. For further information, visit <https://royalexursion.com/royalzoom>

UTILITIES

- The Valparaiso Utilities business office and drive-up will be closed, however, the 24 hour drop box will remain open.
- Valparaiso Utilities will suspend all water shut offs and will not be assessing late fees during this time.

The City of Valparaiso will continue to keep the public informed and work to protect the community. For further information about city closures and modifications, visit Valpo.us. For additional resources, visit:

- [Indiana COVID-19 Call Center toll free number: \(877\) 826-0011](#)
 - If you are calling with general questions about novel coronavirus, please press 1; if you are a healthcare provider, please press 2.
- [Indiana State Department of Health, Public Resource Page](#)
 - This page houses information for childcare services, universities and schools and community organizations.
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on large events and mass gatherings](#)
- [Governor Holcomb's most recent announcements on slowing the spread of COVID-19 \(3/16\)](#)
- [Department of Workforce Development's response to COVID-19](#)
 - This page houses information on unemployment resources and benefits
- [Indiana Small Business Development Center](#)
 - Form for small businesses to complete in order for Indiana to assist evaluating a relief request from the U.S. Small Business Administration

Sincerely,



Mayor Matt Murphy