

CITY OF
CHARLESTOWN

EST. 1808

Dr. Treva Hodges, Ph. D.
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlestown Parks and Public Areas to Close, Public Meetings to be Streamed Online

Monday, March 23, 2020 - Charlestown, Ind. - In accordance with Executive Order 20-08 issued today by Indiana Governor, Eric Holcomb, the City of Charlestown will comply with the stay-at-home protocols put into place by the state.

Specifically, all Charlestown residents are required to stay at home or their place of residence except as allowed by the Governor's order. Additionally, all non-essential businesses and operations as defined by the order are hereby required to cease all activities.

Furthermore, all public and private gatherings of any number of people are prohibited, and all public recreation locations including all City of Charlestown public parks and playground areas are closed.

Residents may still leave their homes for essential travel and activities including:

- To engage in activities or perform tasks required for the health and wellbeing of themselves, members of their households, or on behalf of others who are unable to leave their homes; for instance, seeking medical services or obtaining medication.
- To obtain necessary items or services for themselves, members of their households, or on behalf of others who are unable to leave their homes; for example, to shop for groceries, or household goods.
- To participate in limited but properly physically distanced outdoor activity such as walking, running, or biking in open outdoor spaces that do not include playground equipment.
- To care for elderly residents or people who are at high risk for severe illness.
- To go to work at essential businesses such as healthcare facilities, food production or supply locations and distribution centers.
- To perform essential government functions.

Essential business operations are defined as:

- Critical infrastructure workers as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
- Stores that sell groceries and medicine
- Food, beverage, and agriculture businesses related to the manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation of such.
- Non-profit organizations that provide essential services such as food banks, shelters, and social services.
- Gas stations
- Media outlets, financial institutions, hardware and construction supply stores, mail centers, religious entities, laundry service providers, business and office supply providers, construction companies, professional services, funeral homes, and manufacturing supply chains – although all are ordered to practice physical distancing protocol.
- Restaurants – provided they comply with orders to prepare and serve food only for consumption off premises (pick up or carryout)

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When it is essential to travel outside your home, all residents are required to maintain a minimum six-foot distance from individuals who are not members of your household. Everyone is encouraged to continue hygienic practices designed to reduce the spread of the virus by washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands), clean high-touch surfaces regularly, and avoid shaking hands with or hugging people who are not members of your household.

For this reason, any and all public meetings of councils, commissions, and boards for the City of Charlestown will limit physical attendance to only those members required to conduct business. In compliance with Governor Holcomb's prior orders, we encourage all residents to attend virtually via the City's livestream of the meetings via our Facebook feed. All councils, commissions, and boards will perform only the basic agenda items required for the operation of our government and any non-essential business items will be postponed. Community members who wish to submit public comment may do so by emailing their comment to the Office of the Mayor at Mayor@cityofcharlestown.com, mail them to 304 Main Cross Street, or drop them in the deposit box on the front of the building. All comments should include the name and address of the commenter and should be limited in scope to comply with time requirements for the meeting the comment is intended.

The next two weeks will be difficult. These provisions have been put into place based on the advice of health experts and out of an abundance of caution to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus as much as possible. Mayor Treva Hodges asks all Charlestown residents to remain unselfish at this time and commit to doing what is best for our community.

"Let me assure you that we do not have a supply shortage for your needs, therefore there is no reason to hoard food and products. You may still leave your home to get the items you need and should shop only for your requirements. Hoarding creates a demand where none is needed and diminishes the opportunity for those among us who are on complete home isolation from acquiring their needed supplies." Hodges said.

The Charlestown Police Department has established protocols to help minimize officers' exposure to the virus while remaining vigilant in providing for the safety and security of our community. Likewise, all of our first responders and medical personnel continue to offer their best efforts to provide assistance for our community.

"I ask you all to remain calm, but most importantly I urge you to take this order seriously and stay home."

If you or a loved one or neighbor is a member of a high-risk category and you have no other relative, friend, or neighbor who can provide assistance, you are encouraged to enroll in the city's Outreach Assistance Program at <http://www.cityofcharlestown.com/aop>

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