March 6, 2020

City of Ames Continues COVID-19 Planning

AMES, Iowa – Although not yet reported in Iowa, COVID-19 continues to be detected throughout the country. To be best prepared, the City of Ames has begun meeting with community partners including Iowa State University, Ames Community School District, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and Iowa Department of Health to share information and work together to keep the public safe.

“First, we are looking at each organization’s preparations for a potential outbreak as well as the role each organization will play in an emergency situation. This is followed by identifying the opportunities to assist one another,” said Ames Mayor John Haila. “We are working together to best respond to this potential challenge should it develop in Ames.”

The City of Ames has focused its planning on providing critical services and programs that are essential for public health and safety. Also, the City is looking at opportunities to scale back or eliminate non-essential services and limiting operations at community facilities if the need arises. Each City department is evaluating opportunities to cross-train staff, accessing inventories, and reviewing internal emergency plans that include operating with reduced number of employees.

“Please be assured that the City of Ames and our community partners are planning ahead,” Haila added. “It is extremely important to rely on facts, avoid speculation and spreading rumors, and to listen to the health care experts for direction and information.”

The City of Ames encourages residents to rely on medical information provided by experts at Mary Greeley Medical Center, Iowa Department of Public Health, ISU’s Thielien Health Center, local physician groups, and other state and federal health organizations. Quick links to those organizations are available on the City’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org/COVID19

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The public is reminded to prevent the spread of germs (not just COVID-19) by doing a few simple things:

- Stay home if you are sick. Reducing the amount of exposure to ANY illness is critical for keeping people healthy.
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched workspaces like desktops, countertops, tables, doorknobs, etc.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough. If you do cough, make sure you either cough into your elbow or into a tissue that you promptly throw away. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after coughing.

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