



City of Barre, Vermont

"Granite Center of the World"

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)
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CITY of BARRE

PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

With the ominous warnings and in preparation for the arrival of the COVID19 virus, the City of Barre is implementing the following:

1. The Manager is holding "COVID-19 team meetings" with Department Heads on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 a.m. The 30-minute staff briefing may be held by conference call. Preparation of COVID-19 is beginning to have substantial impact on staff time and priorities, but increased communication will allow the course of action for anticipating contingencies.
2. Details from the briefings will be provided at City Council meetings under the City Manager's Report. The City Manager will also keep the Council posted as developments warrant during the course of each week.
3. Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth, with Chief Brent, are designated as the lead contacts and advisors regarding COVID19 response internal to the City of Barre.
4. City Manager Steve Mackenzie will be the point of Contact (POC) for public inquiries. He will deal generally with administrative questions, and where appropriate, refer to Deputy Chief Aldsworth for virus specific questions/issues.
5. City Staff are developing protocols and alternatives for, and will discourage, public access to City buildings.
6. All Committee meetings will be cancelled until further notice. The City Manager has notified all the respective Chairs.
7. City Staff are preparing an Incident Action Plan re-assessing mission critical functions and incorporating City-wide Department Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP).
8. We anticipate the virus will eventually reach City staff and are proactively planning for staff absences and shift changes as needed.
9. The City of Barre will provide COVID-19 information to the public on the City Website, which will include updates on City Response and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as well as provide links to the [Vermont Department of Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) for [Community Mitigation Strategy](#) and [Infection Control Recommendations](#). The target date for implementation is Monday, March 16th, 2020.

10. The City of Barre will also monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on the daily operations and priorities of the City. For examples, the Civic Center has already received event cancellations and the upcoming VCRD Community Visit has been postponed.
11. The City Clerk has expanded the “Pay On-Line” feature on the city website to accept credit card payments for water/sewer bills (current & delinquent), property taxes (current & delinquent), dog licenses, parking tickets and burn permits. This allows the public to practice social distancing around public spaces such as City Hall.
12. When seeking any information on the web and insure you are using trusted and verified sources. A website that has an “https:” tag is usually more secure and the extension for State and Federal sites have and extension of “.gov”

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