



# MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

100 Park Road P.O. Box 65 Manhattan, IL 60442

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Date: March 20, 2020

**For more information, contact:**

Jackie O'Hara, Public Information Officer  
johara@manhattanfire.org

To the residents of the Village and Township of Manhattan:

On Friday, March 20th Governor Pritzker declared an order to Shelter in Place throughout the State of Illinois effective March 21st until April 7th, 2020. This executive order is to mitigate the spread of COVID 19.

We understand that this news could be alarming and we urge you not to panic. We ask that you remain calm during this time and to stay home unless it is absolutely necessary. This order to shelter in place is to limit your exposure and to limit the spread of COVID 19. The order does not shut down essential businesses such as grocery stores, gas stations and pharmacies nor does it stop fire and police department operations.

However, this is not a time for social gatherings and unnecessary shopping. All should adhere to the guidelines of social distancing to limit exposure including social activities which include parties and children's playdates. We also strongly discourage purchasing in bulk as this creates a widespread sense of fear and anxiety. Be courteous to your neighbor.

The information on the Coronavirus (COVID 19) is fluid and ever changing. The goal is to protect our "higher at risk" population and prevent the spread of COVID 19. We encourage you to check on the elderly in our community and to advise them to stay home. Some of our residents may not be receiving the most current information.

The governing agencies of Manhattan will continue to work together to monitor this situation and will share updated information with the community. We recommend all to continue to monitor the health departments' websites and recommendations.

Practicing proper handwashing and social distancing are imperative. We need your help to encourage others to follow suit. Use the same daily health precautions you would for influenza including washing your hands frequently using soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering your cough and sneeze, and staying home when sick.

If you have questions about the coronavirus contact the Will County Health Department Coronavirus Hotline at 815-740-8977. For local updates on COVID-19, visit the following websites:

Illinois Department of Health: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>  
Will County Health Department: <https://willcountyhealth.org/>  
Village of Manhattan: <https://www.villageofmanhattan.org/>  
Manhattan Fire Protection District: <https://www.manhattanfire.org/>

Please stay aware and safe as this is a fluid pandemic. We will get through this TOGETHER!

-Manhattan Fire Protection District, Village of Manhattan, Manhattan Police Department and Manhattan Emergency Management Agency

###