March 26, 2020

**Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH) Update**

COVID-19 response efforts

Renae Moch, Director of Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health provided the Bismarck City Commission COVID-19 update. It has valuable information about COVID-19 testing, Contact Tracing, Case Investigation, Symptoms, How to Protect Yourself and Resources. You can click on the link http://24.111.15.98:8100/CablecastPublicSite/show/6987 and watch from 12:08 to 23.57.

It is important now more than ever to continue to practice social distancing to slow the spread. To learn more about social distancing and how to protect yourself and family go to: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html

As of March 26, 2020, Burleigh County has the most cases in the state of North Dakota.

For current information go to: https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/north-dakota-coronavirus-cases

- Due to the increase in positive cases in our area, the state has reached out to us to assist with contact tracing for these individuals. BBPH staff will continue to conduct contact tracing.
• Individuals identified as close contacts of someone testing positive with COVID-19 will receive a phone call from the North Dakota Department of Health or the local public health department. You will then be provided with the appropriate steps to take next. Additionally, if a school or daycare is involved, letters will be sent to all parents. For more information visit https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus.

• Steps to take to avoid the spread of COVID-19
  o Stay home if you’re sick.
  o Practice good hygiene: wash your hands, avoid touching your face and cover coughs and sneezes.
  o If someone in the household has tested positive for coronavirus, keep the entire household at home.
  o Older individuals and those with underlying health conditions should stay away from other people.
  o Work from home when possible.
  o Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips and social visits. Use take-out and delivery services.

• What to do if you have symptoms:
  o Individuals who think they may have COVID-19 but have minor symptoms should self-isolate at home.
  o Individuals seeking medical attention should call before they go in.
  o Symptoms of COVID-19 in people who have been exposed can include fever, cough and shortness of breath.
  o The symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.
  o For questions related to COVID-19, the public can call the ND Department of Health hotline at 1-866-207-2880 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Individuals who need medical advice should contact their health care provider.

• If you are being tested, find what you need to know in the guide at the NDDOH link: https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Fact_Sheet_for_People_Being_Tested.pdf
City of Bismarck Services

- The City of Bismarck activated an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - EOC’s are activated and utilized during situations that go outside the span of control of a singular entity within the City, and provide for a single source entity for collecting, validating, analyzing, and organizing emergency information to provide for effective decision making.
  - The goals and objectives of the Bismarck EOC are the following:
    - Address and slow the spread of COVID-19
    - Collaborate with Community Partners
    - Educate the Public
    - Continue to Support Essential City Services

- Key items the EOC has been working on include:
  - Developing and finalizing the EOC/DOC integrated Organization Chart
  - Preparations for housing homeless individuals
    - Contacting area partners to identify possible locations for housing homeless individuals with the following purpose:
      - Immediate need to house healthy individuals to comply with social distancing protocols as the current shelter(s) may be approaching capacity
      - Eventual need to house individuals testing positive for COVID-19
    - Reaching out to area communities to understand how they are addressing the issue
    - A staff member from the Community Development Department Planning Division is acting as the EOC liaison to the Homeless Coalition working group and partner agencies on this issue

- A list of City departments providing essential services, and contact information for each, is available at: https://www.bismarcknd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35260/COVID-19-Essential-Operations-Phone-Guide-PDF


- Emergency Alert Feature is Now Activated on the City of Bismarck Website. This Emergency Alert Feature provides you with the latest news and information on COVID-19 and the actions the City of Bismarck is taking in response to it. To receive real-time updates via text and email from the alert system on your handheld devices sign up for “Notify Me” at https://www.bismarcknd.gov/list.aspx.

- Stay Connected with the City of Bismarck Mobile App Download Bismarck’s mobile app to stay connected to official city resources, news, and information from your smart phone, tablet or
other hand-held devices. Visit https://bismarcknd.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=6574 to see how to sign up.

- **Remember that live meeting coverage of government meetings** is available for viewing on Government Access Channels 2 & 602HD or listen to the meeting at Radio Access 102.5 FM Radio, or stream https://dakotamediaaccess.org/ch-2-home/ and https://radioaccess.org/.

- The Bismarck Municipal Court is restricting public access due to COVID-19. If you have business to conduct with them call 701-355-1350.

**Other**

- The Burleigh County Courthouse is restricting public access due to COVID-19. If you have business to conduct with any department located in the Courthouse, contact them for instructions regarding alternate communications (phone, email, website, mail, drop box). Phone number 701-355-1350 and website https://www.bismarcknd.gov/93/Municipal-Court.

- Effective March 23, 2020, Bis-Man Transit restricted public access to its facility and implemented changes to Capital Area Transit (fixed-route) and Paratransit service until further notice. Call 701-258-6817 or visit https://bismantransit.com/ for more information.

- Be aware, if you are receiving phone calls or e-mails asking for donations or personal information it could be scam. Members of the public can report suspected fraud scam related to COVID-19 by calling the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline at 866-720-5721 or emailing disaster@leo.gov.

**Information and Resources**

- Daily Bulletin
- City of Bismarck website
- COVID-19 information NDDoH website
- COVID-19 Hotline 7 am-10 pm: 1-866-207-2880
- Centers for Disease Control Español
- NDResponse.gov
- ND Response: COVID-19 Personal, Family and Community Support
- Where to Go for Help Resources
- Department of Commerce resources for businesses
- Federal Trade Commission Tips for Coronavirus Scams
- Follow us on www.facebook.com/BBPH.gov and www.twitter.com/BBPublicHealth
- www.facebook.com/bismarcknd.gov and www.twitter.com/BismarckNDGov
- Stay Connected with the City of Bismarck Mobile App