

MEMORANDUM

To: All Media Outlets

From: Joseph Erickson, Village Manager

Date: March 17, 2020

Subject: Press Release – COVID-19

With the elevation of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) to pandemic status, the Village of Ontonagon is taking steps to help our residents. We have added an informational link to our website to the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department. The Health Department site has links to Federal and State resources about dealing with the virus. It is important that the public refer to these sites for reliable information as other sources such as social media may contain misleading information.

The Village urges everyone to follow the advice of public health officials to:

- Learn about the signs and symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and light switches.
- Practice good hygiene with frequent handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid large gatherings of people, if possible.

If you weren't aware, the Village water supply is filtered and chlorinated to meet clean drinking water standards of the EPA and the State of Michigan. The EPA has indicated that "The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual."

If you would like to practice "social distancing," that is, maintaining a distance between yourself and others to avoid the potential of passing germs, the Village wants to remind our water customers that payments may be made by mail, by credit card on-line through the Village website. Payments may also be dropped off at the Village Office after hours and dropped off at Citizen's or Miner's Banks.

The Village Council has canceled their meeting on March 23rd and the Rec Commission meeting on March 18th has been postponed. Updated information will be posted on the Village website - villageofontonagon.org

Again, we urge everyone to follow the advice of public health officials and to remain calm in the as we address the challenges of this changing situation.