

CITY OF
CHARLESTOWN

EST. 1808

Office of Dr. Treva Hodges, Ph. D., Mayor of Charlestown
Director of Communications and Media Relations | Leah Lowe (502) 631-2506 | Media@CityofCharlestown.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Charlestown COVID-19 Response Update from Dr. Treva Hodges, Mayor of Charlestown

CITY TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY CHECKS FOR SENIORS, VULNERABLE CITIZENS DURING CRISIS

Charlestown, Ind., March 17th, 2020 - As we continue to monitor the everchanging status of the COVID-19 virus outbreak in our community it has become imperative that we do everything we can to help slow the spread of the virus so that we give our medical facilities time to treat those affected without overwhelming the system and in order to prevent exposing those among us who are most vulnerable.

Following the advice of local, state, and national health experts I want to restate the importance of self-imposed social distancing behavior to containing this outbreak. If you do not have to go out, don't. If you have an event planned, cancel it. If you were going on vacation, stay home. I understand how difficult such decisions can be. I'm calling upon us all to do the hard things required of such situations. The lack of confirmed cases at this time in Clark County does not mean that the virus is not here, but simply reflects the limited testing available. Please assume that the virus is here and monitor your symptoms. If you become ill with a fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath, stay home and call your medical provider for advice on how to proceed. If at any time you believe you are in medical crisis, call 911 and tell them your symptoms.

While I want to encourage us to be proactive in containing this virus, I also want to discourage panic. When you visit the grocery store or pharmacy, use sound judgement. Our local merchants are working over-time to keep their facilities clean and well stocked. Please buy what you need but do not give in to fear or hype and feed into unnecessary panic-based purchases that deprive those who also need similar items. While it's ok to support our local restaurants who remain open, get your meal to-go and avoid congregating.

In order to help encourage healthy social distancing strategies, the City of Charlestown in partnership with the Charlestown Township Trustee is implementing an Assistance Outreach Program. If you or a loved one are unable to leave your home due to age, disability, or high risk factors for infection, or if you become infected and are homebound until healed, you may enroll in the Assistance Outreach Program by visiting the following link: <http://www.CityofCharlestown.com/AOP/>

Once enrolled, a city representative will contact you daily to check on you and inquire if you have any special needs. Should you need food or supplies, the representative will put you in contact with volunteers who can assist you so that you do not have to leave your home. If you have any questions please contact City Hall at (812) 256-3422, the Mayor's city cell phone at (502) 297-4390, or the Trustee's Office at (812) 256-2104.

Whether you have taken this virus outbreak seriously from the beginning or have assumed it would be over by now, it is time for us all to recognize the magnitude of this infection and work together as only Charlestown can to help ensure it goes no further. Check on your friends, family, and neighbors, help them enroll in our assistance program if needed, but please maintain safe hygiene practices by washing your hands frequently, sanitizing common touch surfaces, maintaining safe personal distances, limiting time in public places, and self-isolating if you develop symptoms. Rest assured that we are practicing safety protocols in city offices and will continue to offer services without interruption. If, six months from now, people accuse us of having overreacted and laugh at the few cases that affected our city, then we will have succeeded in our mission to stop the spread of this aggressive virus. Thank you for your help and your patience.