



Media Contact: Jenna Bowman  
Communications & Engagement Manager  
Direct: 507-328-2913 | E-mail: [jbowman@rochestermn.gov](mailto:jbowman@rochestermn.gov)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The City of Rochester Prepares for COVID-19 - Coronavirus

February 28, 2020 - ROCHESTER, MINN. – For the past month, City of Rochester teammates have been working with organizational partners, including Olmsted County, Rochester Public Schools, Olmsted Medical Center, Mayo Clinic, Rochester International Airport and others to monitor and take the necessary steps to prepare for the novel Coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends reviewing the Pandemic plans to prepare for the potential of significant disruption by the COVID-19 virus. The City of Rochester has a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) that includes a Pandemic Annex. Each department has COOP team members who will update the plan, attend training, and participate in exercises to prepare for disruption.

The City of Rochester continues to work closely with Olmsted County Public Health Services. Under the City's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Ken Jones, Director of Emergency Management, is the designed point-of-contact for the City.

Jones shares, "The City of Rochester is working proactively with Olmsted County Public Health Services and other community partners to prepare for the possibility of COVID-19 virus. We know that more can be accomplished by working together in a coordinated way. As a City, we are taking steps to ensure our services continue to operate."

Rochester residents are encouraged to take three main steps. The first is to be informed. The latest information can be found from [Olmsted County Public Health](#), [Minnesota Department of Health](#), and the [Center for Disease Prevention and Control](#). The second step is to reduce your risk of getting spreading COVID-19 virus. This includes taking precautionary measures like a person would for cold and the flu. Examples include staying home when you are sick, cover your cough and sneeze and practicing good hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Finally, if you have questions or concerns, please contact the appropriate agency.

The City of Rochester does offer an emergency alert system, Rochester Alert. Residents and visitors can sign up for free by visiting the [Rochester Alert page](#). The City of Rochester will continue to work closely with other agencies to provide additional updates and information as it is available and applicable.

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