

March 17th COVID-19 Update: Cancellations, Closures and Changes

With the continued spread of global pandemic COVID-19, the City of West St. Paul is announcing the following cancellations, closures and changes to upcoming events, City-owned facilities and operations. The following announcements are as of March 17, 2020 and could change at any time as we navigate this very fluid situation.

Cancellations

All community events are cancelled, effective immediately and lasting through the month of April. This includes but is not limited to:

- **Shred Event, Egg Hunt, Walk & Talk, Alcohol & Tobacco Business Training, Town Hall Meetings, Music Together**

The following public meetings are cancelled, effective immediately and until further notice.

- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, Environmental Committee, South Metro Fire Board Meeting (3/18 only)**

Closures

The following facilities will be closed immediately and until further notice:

- **West St. Paul Sports Dome (Regional Athletics Center), John V. Hoene Ice Arena, Harmon Park Neighborhood Center, South Metro Fire Department Lobby, and Thompson Park Activity Center (TPAC).**

Refunds will be given to groups and individuals that reserved rental time during this closure.

Changes

Taking recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are implementing the following measures to limit contact between individuals:

City Council Meetings and Planning Commission Meetings

Beginning March 18th and until further notice, for the safety of our community, City officials and staff, we will restrict all public meetings to only 10 people. Generally, these 10 spots will be taken up by Council or Board members, a clerk, an attorney and one or two staff members. However, members of the public will still be able to view and listen at home as well as communicate by phone during interactive agenda items, such as Citizen Comments and Public Hearings. Staff is currently working on a call-in phone queue system that will allow the public to view these meetings on television or live-stream them online and call in with their comments. More details on this will be released in the coming days.

Open Council Work Sessions

Beginning March 18th, and until further notice, Open Council Work Sessions will take place in the Council Chambers and will be filmed and available to view online. Members of the public will not be allowed in the Council Chambers to view in person.

City Hall

Beginning at 8am on March 18th, and until further notice, members of the public are encouraged to conduct business through the City's website, by calling City Hall or emailing staff, whenever possible. Normally accessible portions of City Hall will be closed to the public, however normal business will still be conducted. In the main entrance vestibule, phones are available to contact City staff for those without a personal cell phone to use. Necessary documents are available for pickup and a 24-hour dropbox is available near these phones for submitting physical documents such as plan submittals, applications, etc. Some processes may take longer than normal, as time is needed to safely handle documents coming in from the public.

Police

The police department will continue to provide regular police services to our community. However, when possible, information will be obtained via phone in lieu of in-person conversations

While we understand some of these announcements will make doing business with the City a little more difficult, these changes are necessary for the safety of our City, our State and our Country.

We understand some may feel these changes are unnecessary or go too far. The truth is, as we enter these unprecedented times, we may never know if we over prepared, but the ramifications of under preparedness could be devastating. With that in mind, we are taking all necessary precautions. Please know that the City of West St. Paul appreciates your patience in the coming weeks and months.

City Hall Main: 651-552-4100 | Emergencies: 911 | Police Department: 651-552-4200
Website: www.wspmn.gov | Staff Contacts: www.wspmn.gov/directory

Thank you,
City of West St. Paul