



CITY OF
Crystal Lake
ILLINOIS

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As you are well aware, Crystal Lake, together with the entire nation, is facing uncertain and difficult times due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic. The circumstances surrounding this crisis do not change every day; they change every hour. As such, it is a challenge for local leaders throughout the United States to provide information to our residents in a timely way. Many local communities, including Crystal Lake, do not have a dedicated health department. We rely on staff from other agencies including those at the county, state and federal levels to provide information regarding regional and national health concerns. Our goal is to funnel this information to you through various communication channels, including the City's website, the print version of the City Letter, and press releases sent to our local media. The City has also set up a dedicated phone line and e-mail address to answer your questions regarding COVID-19. You can submit questions to info@crystallake.org or call (815) 356-2448.

I am confident that because of our community's strength we will overcome this challenge. The City of Crystal Lake was four years old in 1918 when a flu pandemic struck and the residents at that time overcame the crisis by sticking together. We have better tools at our disposal now than our forefathers, which is why I am confident that we will emerge from this crisis as strong as ever. We cannot stop Coronavirus from coming to Crystal Lake; it is already here and in each of the 50 states. However, there are so many things we can do, beginning with following all the directives of the Governor, including most notably the March 21, 2020, directive to STAY HOME unless you are participating in essential activities.

In order to successfully navigate this health crisis, each individual and family should be asking themselves, "What can I do to respond to this public health emergency?" I hope that this communication will help you to answer this question.

First, it is important that you keep yourself informed by using *reliable* news sources. To access the most reliable resources, I encourage you to visit the City's website where you will find a dedicated [COVID-19/Coronavirus](#) webpage. This page has important information about City services and other resources, including links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health and the McHenry County Department of Health. The City website is updated frequently as new information becomes available.

Another way for you to respond to this pandemic is to support our local Crystal Lake community, especially those who are hurting. While following the Governor's stay at home order, don't forget to call or contact the most vulnerable members of our City. Your kindness will go a long way in this challenging time. As you can imagine, the economic impact on local

businesses will be significant. We hope that you will support local restaurants, many of whom are offering curbside pick-up/carry out or delivery. Many grocery retailers are also offering these services, and special hours for seniors and other high-risk individuals.

A third way for you to respond to this situation is to calmly follow the recommendations and directives of the CDC and state agencies. These recommendations include, working from home if possible, social distancing, washing your hands, and only going out when necessary for groceries, getting gas or other essential activities. Your help will limit the spread of COVID-19 to friends and neighbors.

Finally, I want to reassure every Crystal Lake resident that we will make it through these challenging and uncertain times. Please know that the City is following recommendations made by federal, state and county agencies that are taking the lead in this ongoing effort to mitigate the spread of this virus. The City's staffing plan ensures continuity of services. Also, be thankful for all of the members of the community who are sacrificing to help others.

Sincerely,

Aaron T. Shepley, Mayor