



March 16, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

As the outbreak of the coronavirus continues to evolve within Iowa, City of Mount Vernon staff and elected officials have been working closely with the Linn County Public Health, Linn County Emergency Management, Linn County Schools, area government agencies, Medical professionals, and emergency responders to develop action plans for the communities of Linn County. Because this is a widespread emergency, the response also needs to be widespread and consistent.

Based upon current recommendations and guidelines from the Center for Disease Control, Governor Reynolds Office, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Linn County Public Health, the City of Mount Vernon has made the decision to:

1. Close the Lester Buresh Center effective today 3/16/2020 at 5pm and will remain closed for the next 4 weeks. Staff will continue to monitor events to determine when the facility can safely reopen.
2. Close public access to all City Buildings, including City Hall effective 3/17/2020 and will remain so until further notice. City Staff will continue City operations within the building and remotely as necessary. Citizens needing to speak to staff are requested to call City Hall at 319-895-8742. Payments can be deposited in the 24/7 drop box located on the west side of the building, by signing up for online payments or by calling city hall for other options.
3. Cancel the MV Park and Rec Spring Soccer Activities that were scheduled to begin 3/23/2020.
4. Cancel the Easter egg dash scheduled for April 11th, 2020.
5. Cancel the Mount Vernon Fire Department Breakfast scheduled for April 11th, 2020.

City staff, emergency responders, and elected officials will continue to partner with the many Linn County agencies professionals in managing this public safety event. The City of Mount Vernon will continue to strive to maintain the highest levels of service to the community with the top priority of maintaining the health and safety of our community. Citizens are encouraged to:

Protect Yourself:

- Wash hands
- Hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching face
- Avoid close contact with others that are sick
- Social distancing: Put distance between yourself and others. No less than 6 feet.

Protect Others:

- Stay home when sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes – elbow or tissue
 - Wash hands after or use hand sanitizer



Mount
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Police Department

Douglas J. Shannon, Chief of Police

- Wear facemask if sick – when around others, before seeking treatment/doctor, or if caring for sick person
 - No facemask if not sick
- Clean and disinfect
 - Frequently touched surfaces
 - Clean before disinfecting – bleach solution, alcohol, or common disinfectants according to label

A full list of closures and announcements for the City of Mount Vernon will be listed on the City of Mount Vernon webpage. The City of Mount Vernon is asking the public to stay informed by regularly visiting these websites:

City of Mount Vernon: <https://www.cityofmtvernon-ia.gov/>

Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group: <http://www.visitmvl.com>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Iowa Department of Public Health: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>

Linn County Public Health: <https://www.linncounty.org/1372/COVID-19>

Contact information:

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