

City of Bellevue Coronavirus Response and Actions Timeline

Monday, January 27, 2020 – The Bellevue Police Department and the Fire Department began working on guidelines and plans for responding to Sick Party Calls. The Departments began looking into obtaining additional N-95 masks.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 -Bellevue Police Department personnel attended the Sarpy/Cass Health Update at the Sarpy County Board Room with County Leaders to discuss strategies and items moving forward. The 911 Center began implementing a series of screening questions to determine if the caller shows signs of being sick prior to dispatch. Detailed information on COVID sent out to all BPD Employees

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – Bellevue Police, Fire and EOC representatives met at the Fire Training Center with Dr. Ernest to discuss COVID-19 and ways to handle infectious diseases from a First Responder and City of Bellevue standpoint.

Thursday, March 5, 2020 – Bellevue Police Chief sent out decontamination information for vehicles and equipment to all of BPD.

Sunday, March 8, 2020 – The City of Bellevue issued a press release stating that we had been made aware of the week-long quarantine at Richmond Senior Living Center in Bellevue due to an employee identified as attending the same basketball tournament in Fremont as a woman who has tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Friday, March 13, 2020 – The Bellevue Public Library announced the cancellation of a popular music concert set for Saturday, March 14th due to health safety reasons.

Friday, March 13, 2020 – Pandemic Sick Leave policy for employees was finalized for Council approval (Emergency Resolution No. 2020-15)

Friday, March 13, 2020 – Communication sent to all employees regarding the City's preparation efforts including the Pandemic Sick Leave Policy and updates on local impact.

Friday, March 13, 2020 – Governor Pete Ricketts issued an Emergency Declaration for COVID-19.

Friday March 13, 2020 – The Bellevue Police Chief implemented mask standards and other procedures for how to handle calls for service. Travel and Training restrictions for the Department are put in place.

Sunday, March 15, 2020 – The Bellevue Recreation Department announced they will be delaying the start of registrations for all of its Spring/Summer 2020 Leagues and Activities until April 1, 2020.

Monday, March 16, 2020 – The City of Bellevue opened up the Emergency Operations Command (EOC) to begin working internally on the Coronavirus Pandemic. The EOC is led by Community Development Director/Emergency Manager, Mark Elbert.

Monday, March 16, 2020 – Emergency operation time codes and general ledgers are set up to track personnel expenses incurred in the event that we may be eligible for Federal reimbursement in the future.

Monday, March 16, 2020 – The City of Bellevue updated its website to feature Coronavirus information directly on the front page.

Monday, March 16, 2020 – The City issued an update on its response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Here are the highlights of the press release:

- The Bellevue Public Library will remain open to the public at this time but all programs have been suspended until further notice.
- Bellevue City Offices will remain open at this time; however, we are strongly encouraging citizens to conduct as much business as possible by phone or via the website.
- The City of Bellevue encourages local businesses to do what is best for their business, and to follow state and CDC guidelines and guidance. As of 1:30 PM, Governor Ricketts has updated Nebraska's guidance for closures and event sizes to align with the new guidelines issued by the CDC. This includes public events and gatherings being limited to fifty (50) people or less at this time.
- The City of Bellevue is working with its employees and departments on updated sick leave policies and safety procedures due to the uncertainty of the Coronavirus.
- The City of Bellevue's First Responders are taking necessary steps to protect themselves while ensuring the continued safety of our citizens.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – Mayor Rusty Hike issued an Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 for the City of Bellevue.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – Memo released to all employees notifying them of the City's efforts, the Governor's statement and preventative actions. Also included was Employee Assistance Information to help employees that need it cope with the stress and anxiety of the Pandemic.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – The City of Bellevue issued a joint press release with other Sarpy Jurisdictions to assure the public that we are working together to slow the spread of COVID-19 through regular multi-jurisdictional teleconference meetings.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – The City of Bellevue conducted its regularly scheduled meeting of the Bellevue City Council with some modifications that followed the Governor's guidelines that all public gatherings and events should be limited to 10 people or less.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 Mayor Rusty Hike and other City Leaders (Mark Elbert, Jim Ristow, Perry Guido and Tim Melvin) taped a statement to inform the public on the City's efforts to help flatten the curve.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 - The Sarpy/Cass Health Department confirmed the first case of Coronavirus in Sarpy County.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 - The Bellevue Public Library announced that as a precaution, they will close from now until at least April 1, 2020.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – The City's EOC team met to discuss the Coronavirus Pandemic and develop action items during the Coronavirus Pandemic for our community and our employees. The EOC team has met every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday since March 18th.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – Communication was sent to all employees notifying them of the passing of the Pandemic Sick Leave policy and information on how to utilize.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – The City of Bellevue released an update on their Coronavirus response. Highlights include:

- Following guidance from Governor Pete Ricketts, the Centers for Disease Control and the Sarpy/Cass Department of Health, the City of Bellevue is still strongly recommending that all public gatherings and events should be limited to 10 people or less.
- All other Bellevue City Offices will remain open at this time; however, we are strongly encouraging citizens to conduct as much business as possible by phone or via the website. Signs are also posted on every public access door at the City's Complex on Wall Street stating to not enter the facility if you have symptoms such as fever, cough or other respiratory symptoms.
- The Bellevue Senior Center has closed until further notice effective on March 18, 2020. The City of Bellevue's Senior Bus Service is currently operating as normal but please call 402-293-3138 to schedule an appointment
- The Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) reassures all customers that there is no threat to your public drinking water supply.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 - Chief Dargy completed and distributed a Memo to all Bellevue Businesses through the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, identifying steps the Department will take based on Business restrictions and enforcement action.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – The City of Bellevue shared a video message from Sarpy/Cass Department of Health, Sarah Schram, sharing the latest information from our area.

Thursday, March 19, 2020 – Governor Pete Ricketts announced the state's first Directed Health Measure (DHM) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The measure imposed an enforceable limit on public gatherings. Bellevue shares this information with a joint press release from all Sarpy jurisdictions.

Thursday, March 19, 2020 - Communication sent to all employees notifying them of free telehealth opportunity through the City's sponsored health plan.

Friday, March 20, 2020 - Mayor Rusty Hike was joined by all other Sarpy County Mayors, including Plattsmouth, and Col. Alan Dayton, Commander of Offutt AFB 55th Wing for a joint press conference. The purpose of this press conference was to offer Sarpy County's strong support for the Directed Health Measure that Governor Rickett's ordered on Thursday afternoon and to hear an update on how the Coronavirus is impacting our area from Sarah Schram.

Sunday, March 22, 2020- The Bellevue Fire Department limited entry to all Fire Stations for deliveries and outside personnel. The Fire Department began implementing internal procedures for its employees upon arrival to work.

Monday, March 23, 2020 – The City of Bellevue shared Disaster Relief Information to Bellevue businesses that have been affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Monday, March 23, 2020- The City of Bellevue began attending daily meetings with other Sarpy/Cass County officials and other municipalities within Sarpy County regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic. This meeting has occurred every work-day since March 23rd.

Monday, March 23, 2020 – The City of Bellevue supported a hotline Sarpy County Sheriff's Office and Sarpy County Human Services set up for the citizens of Sarpy County during the COVID-19 pandemic event.

Monday, March 23, 2020 – The Bellevue Police Command Staff implemented procedures for Traffic Stops due to COVID-19. All area Patrol Division Commanders in Sarpy County met and established protocols should each Department be impacted by manpower shortages and plans were made to establish a combined Sarpy County Law Enforcement Unit if needed. Cleaning stations were set up in the Department and daily sanitation lists were provided mandating daily cleaning and times.

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 – The City of Bellevue announced that the food pantry will reopen to the public beginning on Thursday, March 26th and will be open on Tuesday's and Thursday's per usual from 9am-4pm.

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 – Bellevue Mayor Rusty Hike and Bellevue Chamber President Kevin Hensel worked with Staci Nelson to produce a Spotlight on Bellevue feature that discussed ways to volunteer and help support local businesses in their time of need.

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – Guidance was sent to all employees regarding travel information, when to self-monitor, self-quarantine or self-isolate.

Thursday, March 26, 2020 – The City of Bellevue’s Planning Commission held the City’s first virtual public meeting.

Thursday, March 26, 2020 - The Sarpy/Cass Health Department announced two more confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in Sarpy County.

Friday, March 27, 2020 – Communication sent to all employees notifying them of the City’s first employee positive test. Additional guidance and information regarding symptoms and prevention are included.

Saturday, March 28, 2020 – The Bellevue Fire Department released a PSA discussing new procedures they are taking to keep the public and Bellevue First Responders safe during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Sunday, March 29, 2020 – The City of Bellevue shared an updated Directed Health Measure that stated barbershops, beauty salons, nail salons, tattoo shops, massage therapy or other businesses in Bellevue and Sarpy County that cannot maintain a 6-foot distance between employees and customers, they have been ordered to shutdown beginning on Tuesday, March 31st.

Monday, March 30, 2020 - Bellevue Mayor Rusty Hike participated with other Sarpy County Officials in a virtual press conference to discuss the impact of the Coronavirus in our community.

Monday, March 23, 2020- The Bellevue Fire Department, after conducting UV Decontamination Research, manufactures and implemented a UV light disinfection cabinet at each station to help conserve PPE.

Monday, March 30, 2020 - The City of Bellevue Recreation Department altered registration dates with the goal of starting accepting registrations on April 13, 2020.

Monday, March 30, 2020 - The Bellevue Public Library extended its date for being closed to the public until April 15, 2020 as a precautionary measure.

Monday, March 30, 2020 –The City of Bellevue became aware of two employees that had tested positive for COVID-19 and issued a press release discussing the measures that were taken. Communication is sent to employees notifying them of second positive case as well as prevention measures and symptom information.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 – The City of Bellevue shared a link developed by Sarpy GIS that provided a dashboard of information about COVID-19 cases specifically in Sarpy County.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 – The City of Bellevue issued a press release discussing an innovative concept that the Bellevue Fire Department has developed to help keep first responders safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 – The City of Bellevue issued a reminder that City Parks will remain open but please take safety precautions and follow social distancing guidelines.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 - The City of Bellevue suspended building and rental/minimum housing inspections for occupied structures. This applied only to inspections of existing, occupied structures undergoing alterations and additions as well as rental/minimum housing inspections. All unoccupied new construction is not included in this suspension.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 – The City of Bellevue issued new guidelines for Parks and Trails and orders signage announcing these new measures. Mayor Rusty Hike released a new Spotlight on Bellevue that discusses these changes.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 – Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) posters are placed in each City workspace informing employees of their rights under the act.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 – Police Department and City Hall fogged by Paul Davis Restoration.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 – Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) posters are placed in each City workspace informing employees of their rights under the act.

Thursday, April 2, 2020 – The Bellevue Fire Department released a new PSA discussing further efforts the Department is taking to keep residents and Fire Department personnel safe during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Thursday, April 2, 2020 – The City of Bellevue Legal Department analyzed approximately 800 pages of the CARES Act to look at ways the City of Bellevue could receive and recoup funds associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Sunday, April 5, 2020- The Bellevue Fire Department released a bulletin on how to properly collect and dispose of COVID-19 related used PPE.

Monday, April 6, 2020 – The City of Bellevue and Papillion Sanitation announced a delay in Separate Yard Waste Collection due to more people working, schooling, and eating at home which has led to an increase in residential trash and recycling volume.

Monday, April 6, 2020 - Chief Dargy announced that warrant arrests for Douglas County will be automatically transported to the Douglas County Jail instead of the Sarpy County Jail to limit exposure. Every Vehicle in the Fleet now contains bottles of Hand Sanitizer.

Monday, April 6, 2020- The Bellevue Fire Department developed training procedures for Donning and Doffing COVID-19 related PPE for EMS calls.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 – The City of Bellevue held its first virtual meeting of the Bellevue City Council.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020- The Bellevue EMS transitioned into full PPE on all EMS calls.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 - Mayor Rusty Hike ordered all playground equipment within City Parks to close for public use until further notice due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 - The Bellevue Recreation Department announced it will push back its registration period to begin on May 4th and registrations will only be accepted online.

Thursday, April 9, 2020 - Due to ongoing health safety concerns regarding COVID-19, the Bellevue Public Library extended its closure to the public through April 30th when the situation will again be evaluated.

Thursday, April 9, 2020 – The City of Bellevue worked with other Sarpy jurisdictions to share Governor Pete Ricketts' message of Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected.

Monday, April 13, 2020 – FFCRA Sick and Emergency child care time codes and general ledgers are set up to track personnel expenses and credits available under FFCRA.

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – The City of Bellevue hosted a virtual CDBG Technical Assistance Workshop.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020- The Bellevue Fire Department implemented a close mask procedure for all Fire Department employees on and off duty.

Saturday, April 18, 2020 – The City of Bellevue participated in the Sarpy County Virtual Earth Day event. This online event was held from Noon until 4pm as a way to highlight the environmental efforts within Sarpy County.

Monday, April 20, 2020 – Mayor Rusty Hike released a new “Spotlight on Bellevue” which featured an update on the Coronavirus Pandemic in our community.

Monday, April 20, 2020 – The Bellevue EMS developed a procedure for minimal contact on suspected COVID-19 patients for HIPPA signatures. They also updated the COVID-19 response to provide additional PPE and protection.

Monday, April, 20, 2020 – The City of Bellevue’s Legal Department sent letters regarding the CARES Act and other funding items to Nebraska congressional delegates, Governor Pete Ricketts, NEMA, Sarpy County Emergency Management, DHHS and the Sarpy/Cass Health Department, including:

- City of Bellevue letters to Nebraska congressional delegates & Governor Ricketts voicing support of Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act requesting additional fiscal relief for states and municipalities to be used for lost revenues.
- City of Bellevue letter to NEMA & Sarpy County Emergency Management advising of upcoming deadline to obtain grant funds awarded to State of Nebraska from CARES 3.0 for PPE, mitigation activities related to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and to provide funds to emergency managers to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
- City of Bellevue letter to DHHS & Sarpy/Cass Health Department requesting to partner with both entities to use CARES 3.0 funds they received to assist and deliver treatment options/services to City of Bellevue individuals fighting on the frontlines and individuals affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency within COB area with substance use disorders and mental health disorders.

Monday, April 20, 2020 – The City of Bellevue joined other Sarpy Jurisdictions to share Governor Ricketts’ Stay Home- Keep Nebraska Healthy initiative.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – The City of Bellevue held its second virtual City Council Meeting.

Thursday, April 23, 2020- The Bellevue Planning Commission held its second virtual meeting.

Thursday, April 23, 2020- The Bellevue Fire Department developed a procedure and policy for UV Disinfection in all four (4) fire stations for PPE.

Friday, April, 24, 2020 – The City of Bellevue’s Legal Department sent a letter to Governor Pete Ricketts requesting equitable distribution the State’s \$120 million CARES Act funds received to assist municipalities with revenue shortfalls and to combat COVID-19.

Saturday, April 25, 2020 – The City of Bellevue’s Public Works Department opened the City’s Tree Dump to the public from 8am to noon as regularly scheduled.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - The Bellevue Public Library extended its closure to the public until further notice.

Thursday, April 30, 2020- The City of Bellevue announced that the City’s Spring Cleanup, that was originally scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, has been postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the need to keep employees and citizens safe from possible exposures.

Friday, May 1, 2020 - Due to the impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic the City of Bellevue Recreation Department has postponed registration dates until further notice.

Monday, May 4, 2020 – Mayor Rusty Hike and City Administrator, Jim Ristow, joined other Sarpy jurisdictions at a morning discussion regarding a number of Coronavirus related topics such as opening of the library, opening of pools and playground equipment along with the possibility of holding Summer Activities.

Monday, May, 4, 2020 – The City of Bellevue created and shared graphics that explain Sarpy County's new Directed Health Measure.