

March 15, 2020



Dear Parma Residents,

On March 10, Gov. Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The City of Parma is taking the coronavirus and its impact seriously. Fire Chief Michael Lasky serves as the emergency operations coordinator for the city. Chief Lasky, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Safety Director Tom Weinreich have maintained daily situational awareness since the beginning of this rapidly evolving matter.

Every day, the City of Parma consults the following resources:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. Ohio Department of Health
3. Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management
4. Cuyahoga County Board of Health
5. International Association of Fire Fighters

We are adhering to CDC guidelines during this pandemic. For example, the city has increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting inside all city buildings. Other changes are as follows:

No In-Person City Tax Preparations

To prevent crowds of people standing in line, effective Monday, March 16, the Tax Department will not prepare Parma City taxes in person. Residents are being asked to mail their tax returns to: **Parma Tax Department, 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio 44129**. A resident's W-2 and other information needed to prepare city taxes should be included. The Tax Department will mail the tax return back to the resident when completed.

Another option is for residents to prepare their city taxes via the Tax Department's new [E-File system](#), or they can go to Tax Connect Online on the [Tax Department's website page](#). A resident must know his or her active city tax account number to use the system.

For more information, call the Tax Department at 440-885-8045, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Senior Center Services Suspended

Last week, the city suspended all onsite functions at Donna Smallwood Activities Center. The senior center, however, will still deliver meals to seniors who participate in the meal programs.

Starting this Friday, March 20, all senior center transportation will be suspended until further notice. We have made arrangements with Senior Transportation Connection to provide transportation service to seniors who have critical medical appointments. To reach the service, call 216-265-1489, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

As the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and CDC have communicated, older adults are the most vulnerable to COVID-19. We have been calling senior citizens who use the center's services to make them aware of these changes.

Recreation Department Changes

- The remaining Youth Basketball season, which has one game left, has been **cancelled**.
- The remaining High School Basketball (Class C and Class D) season, which has two games left, has been **cancelled**.
- Men's Basketball (Class B) season has been **cancelled**.
- Spring Soccer Divisions 5, 6, and 7 have been **cancelled**. Refunds will be provided to families as soon as reasonably possible.
- As conditions allow, all soccer events, practices and games for Tikes N Spikes and Divisions 1-4 are **postponed** until late summer/early fall.
- The Michael A. Ries Ice Rink is **closed** for the remainder of the season.
- Youth Baseball/Softball Registration **will continue**:
Register online or go to activenet.active.com/parmarec. At this time, there is no in-person registration.

For more information, go to the [Recreation Department's website page](#) or call the Recreational Department at 440-885-8144, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parking Ban Changes

Due to the mild weather and number of college students who have returned home because of college closures, the overnight parking ban will not be enforced unless weather conditions dictate otherwise.

All other city functions and departments remain open at this time. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or refer to the [City of Parma website](#) for the latest updates.

Public health officials have stated that it is vital for everyone to focus on education and prevention. Paramount is proper personal hygiene. We ask everyone to follow the CDC recommendations to prevent the spread of infectious diseases by doing the following:

- Wash hands, including under the nails, often (especially before and after eating and after restroom usage) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and rinse for 10 seconds before drying hands with a clean towel or air dryer.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing. If using a tissue, dispose of it immediately, and wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick, and avoid contact with people who are.
- Clean and disinfect bathrooms, common areas or commonly used items at work and home (phones, keyboards, doorknobs, door handles, sink handles, countertops, exercise equipment, toys, gaming devices, etc.).

Above all, do not panic but take this seriously. If you are not feeling well, do not go to work or go out in public. For more information about the coronavirus and preventive measures, go to these reliable government sources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019

Ohio Department of Health
www.odh.ohio.gov

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
www.ccbh.net/

Sincerely,

Mayor Tim DeGeeter
Safety Department Director Tom Weinreich
Fire Chief Michael Lasky