



505 Third Street
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FAX: (715)386-3385
www.hudsonwi.gov

Honorable Mayor Rich O'Connor
mayor@hudsonwi.gov
(715) 386-4765

Dear City of Hudson Residents and Visitors,

The City of Hudson is taking proactive steps to protect the health of our community in an attempt to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and help reduce the number of people infected. The steps we are implementing will have an impact on our citizens and visitors. I am making these decisions based on the best information we have, to protect the health of everyone in our community. These actions may be modified and new steps taken depending on further direction and information received from our State, County, and Federal partners. Please rest assured that all City functions will continue. Our City Hall, Police, Fire, Public Works and Utilities crews will be working to keep our City running smoothly and safely for our residents and visitors. The City team is here to assist you through these difficult times.

Effective Wednesday, March 18th, City Hall staff will be greatly reduced with most employees working from home. For any business that needs to be conducted at City Hall, we ask people to consider visiting our website or calling the appropriate office, rather than visiting in person. City emails and phones will be answered by our staff. We will continue to conduct business as usual, just in a different way. We are not turning visitors away from City Hall but understand that we will only have limited staff on-site. It will be much more effective to contact the employee or Department you need to speak with directly via email or phone. A list of City Departments can be found here, <https://www.hudsonwi.gov/8/Departments> Our goal is to limit person to person contact as much as possible.

For residents, you can pay your utility bills on our website at <https://www.hudsonwi.gov/381/Electronic-Payment-Links>, drop off payment in our drop boxes, or use the mail. For contractors, we are still processing all permits, forms and documents as normal. We ask that you conduct business with staff via email or over the phone. If you must meet with staff in person you will need to reach out to that staff person to set up a meeting time.

We are canceling all Committee/Commission meetings at this time unless there is an agenda item that requires the meeting to be held. City Council meetings will continue as scheduled at this time. The meetings are still open to the community, but we strongly encourage people to consider sharing any feedback with council members via email or phone call, Mayor and Council Member contact information can be found here, <https://www.hudsonwi.gov/317/Mayor-and-Common-Council>. You can also contact City Administrator Aaron Reeves at areeves@hudsonwi.gov or 715-716-5741 and he will forward those comments to the Common Council. If you attend a City meeting, please understand that we will be practicing social distancing. This means that all members of the Council and public will be seated at least 6 feet apart. If we do not have enough room in the Council Chambers we will have a side room available to watch the proceedings via live TV.

For voting in the spring general election on April 7, we encourage people to request an absentee ballot to vote by mail. You can request one from the state at myvote.wi.gov. For those without internet access,



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you can contact our City Clerk's office at 715-386-4765 for assistance. In-person absentee voting at City Hall starts March 23 as scheduled but because of the limited staffing at City Hall, we encourage all citizens to vote via absentee ballot. All polling locations will still be open and operating normally for anyone who prefers to vote in person on Election Day. The City is taking extra steps to make sure that we have adequate Election Officials available on Election Day to ensure that voting will occur as normal. In addition, we will have staff dedicated to cleaning the polling sites constantly during the day and we will be using disposable pens and other items to limit potential exposure. If you wish to vote in person on April 7 the City will be doing everything possible to ensure a smooth and clean process.

The Hudson Public Library has closed effective March 16 with plans to reopen on April 6. The Library Board will continue to evaluate the situation and will reopen as soon as possible. In the meantime, we are encouraging the use of our digital materials and resources. Patrons are encouraged to visit our website: www.hudsonpubliclibrary.org to access our digital resources including Wisconsin's Digital Library and Tumblebooks available at <https://hudsonpubliclibrary.org/resources/>. Library staff are exploring virtual story-time options, as well and we will post more information as it becomes available.

For the immediate future downtown parking will be free. We will be reassigning parking staff to other more critical duties.

Please understand that this situation can change daily. The City is committed to sharing the latest information with you as we are able. Follow our website and social media platforms for the latest updates.

Sincerely,

Rich O'Connor
Mayor, City of Hudson