



# Village of Brookfield

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## Reason for Emergency Disaster Declaration

The Emergency Disaster Declaration passed by the village board is the next step in preparedness for our community in dealing with the rapidly evolving Covid-19 pandemic affecting our country, and specifically, our community. There are no known cases of the virus within our community at this time, but that could change at any moment. Residents will see no difference in activities around our town at this time as a result of this declaration. This declaration is meant to ensure continuity of your local government during this health crisis, provide us with the ability to act quickly as situations change, to continue to function financially in terms of making emergency purchases or paying bills, and put us better-positioned for state and federal resources, should the need arise. Over the last several weeks, we have learned that this crisis and the multitude of issues around it, change daily, if not hourly. The Emergency Declaration increases the readiness of our community in going forward in dealing with this health crisis.

## To my fellow board members, staff and government officials throughout our state and country...

We constantly work to make our communities better, move things forward, and handle the challenges that we are faced with every day. We have been forced to change course many times in the past due to what lies in front of us at a particular moment. No one signs up for public service in advance with the intent to issue emergency declarations or deal with pandemics. But there are times like this, more than ever, when we are tasked with keeping our communities strong and safe, and taking the necessary actions to ensure that.

This is not something our community can do alone. We are all in this together. We need government unity on all levels to help us through. We look to our staff, to Cook County President Preckwinkle, to Governor Pritzker, and to President Trump to all work together, and help us to guide our community through these uncertain times.

## To our first responders...

Thank you. You are on the front line in our community, and we will continue to work to make sure you have what you need to stay safe and help our community stay safe. We are proud of each of you and your commitment, day in and day out.

## To our local businesses...

Our local businesses are facing tough and painful times. Hours are being adjusted, many are closed, and employees are having to adapt to new ways of doing their jobs during these challenging circumstances.

There have been some questions regarding the stay at home order issued by our governor and how it pertains to businesses. Some have asked what is an essential business, and who is allowed to stay open. The governor's order does contain specific language on this. But there is a basic point to consider...if we have to give considerable thought to whether a particular business is considered an essential business or not, then it probably is not. There could be ways to find loopholes in the order, and consider certain businesses essential, when they truly are not. But what is accomplished by that?

Certainly, closing businesses was not taken lightly by our governor, as the result of such actions will have long-term economic impacts on business owners, our state, and our local community. Please keep in mind what the chief goal of the governor's stay at home order is: slow the spread of this virus, reduce the number of those that get infected, and, ultimately, limit the number of those who may die. Trying to find ways around the order will not help.

### **To our residents...**

Guidelines on social distancing, hand washing, staying home if you are sick, and group size limitations are still in effect. The COVID-19 virus can affect any and all of us within our community, young and old. Yes, we have heard it can have less effect on those younger and healthier. But those same people who may not show severe symptoms can carry the virus and pass it on to those more vulnerable. We all need to stay smart and take this situation serious.

At the minimum, there will be inconveniences in the short term for each of us in how we go about our daily lives. There can be anxiety caused by the uncertainty in situations like this, but we have to work to make sure that anxiety does not create its own health issues. Ultimately, the community around us, from family and friends and neighbors, will help us to make it through. When this is all done, we will find we emerge even stronger.

The next public meeting of the village board will be held during a time different from the one we are in now. We remain ready for the resulting challenges we will face. We will continue to post the most update information we have on the village website, thru Facebook, thru email blasts, and directly by phone. Village staff is still available by phone and email. We are not shutting down government operations within our community...just adjusting how they operate for the time being.

Stay positive about today. Remain optimistic about how quickly this will be resolved. And remember that those around us...our children, our parents, our spouses...look to each of us for guidance and support during times like this.

Stay strong Brookfield.

Kit Ketchmark