

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, November 30, 2020

Regular Meeting

Item Resolut.1

Council to discuss and consider action on passing a Resolution related to COVID-19 and urging the use of community prevention strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19 and preserve hospital capacity.

Staff Contact: Rick Kuckkahn, Interim City Manager

Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDLUFF RELATED TO COVID-19 AND URGING THE USE OF COMMUNITY PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND PRESERVE HOSPITAL CAPACITY IN SCOTTSDLUFF IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PANHANDLE PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT, HEREAFTER PPHD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the CITY OF SCOTTSDLUFF,

THE CITY OF SCOTTSDLUFF, emphatically urges all persons at all worksites, faith-based institutions, health care and educational settings; at retail businesses, salons, restaurants and bars; at sporting, civic and social events; and in meetings or gatherings small and large, formal or informal, family or professional; to practice the following:

- Avoid the Three Cs:
 - Avoid Crowded Places – Avoid gathering in groups where you cannot maintain 6-feet of distance from others
 - Avoid Close Contact – Wear a mask over your nose and mouth or maintain 6-feet distance when you are spending more than 15 total minutes with people you don't live with
 - Avoid Confined Spaces – Avoid enclosed spaces with poor ventilation

WHEREAS, it is recommended to use community prevention strategies such as: social distancing, facial coverings, staying home when sick, washing hands frequently, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces and objects to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, according to UNMC Global Center for Health Security, studies demonstrate that countries which mandated facial coverings to decrease infection by blocking the spread of respiratory droplets saw a significantly lower per capita mortality rate associated with COVID-19 infection and states and counties in the United States which adopted mask mandates saw significantly lower case rate increases associated with COVID-19 compared to those without mask mandates; and

WHEREAS, hospitalizations related to COVID-19 have increased significantly in the area and are nearing capacity. We ask that the public to take these critical prevention steps to preserve hospital capacity and for the safety and protection of healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, exposure to COVID-19 presents a risk of death or serious long-term disabilities to any person; the exposure is widespread and poses a significant risk of harm to people in the general population; there is a particular subset of the population that is more vulnerable to the threat and thus at increased risk; and the threat is from a novel (new) infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the City of Scottsbluff is committed to schools being open and students learning with in-person instruction and while schools are working to adhere to the key mitigation strategies including consistent and correct use of masks, social distancing to the extent possible, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, and contact tracing in collaboration with local health department, the severe level of coronavirus transmission in the community will continue to impact the ability of schools to stay open due to staff and student exposures in the community; and

WHEREAS, PPHD is authorized to investigate reportable diseases and to protect the public using evidence-based measures appropriate to the disease or condition, including investigation of new

emerging diseases and epidemics of any health problem (71-1628.04 Core Public Health Functions; Title 173, Communicable Diseases); and

WHEREAS, for COVID-19, PPHD is further authorized by the State-directed health measures to investigate COVID-19 and to protect the public using isolation and quarantine measures and other evidence-based prevention interventions; and

- If you test positive for COVID-19, continue self-isolating, answer calls from the health department, cooperate with the health department's public health professionals and follow isolation instructions to protect others from spread of coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- If you are identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, answer calls, cooperate with the health department's public health professionals and follow quarantine instructions to protect others from spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- Get a flu shot. Flu shots will protect people from influenza this season and will keep people safe from the potential compounding complications of having flu and COVID-19.
- Rethink planning events. Work with PPHD to plan a COVID-19-safe event for your guests or patrons. Event safety plans are required by the State-DHM for venues with capacity of 500 or more people, but PPHD will provide assistance and guidance for any size event.
- Rethink attending events. Ask yourself how being exposed to COVID-19 might affect you (are you at higher risk of severe illness?), or might affect your job, your family, and those around you who are at higher risk of severe illness.
- Plan ahead and choose safe, creative alternatives for traditional holiday celebrations. Get tips for celebrating the holidays from the CDC or PPHD websites.

WHEREAS, this public health emergency requires the public to be caring citizens and to contribute to the solution for the sake of our communities and those we love; and,

WHEREAS, as individuals and as communities we have the power to choose our actions in the COVID-19 response and recovery process, and we can again reverse the trends if everyone comes together to take important steps in our daily lives to protect our communities;

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY of _____, 2020

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

"SEAL"