



740 Court Street P.O. Box 637, Imperial, NE 69033  
(308)-882-4368 www.imperial-ne.com

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CITY OF IMPERIAL PRESS RELEASE

IMPERIAL, NEBRASKA- In response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the City of Imperial has been closely monitoring various governmental agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Nebraska State Government, including the Governor's office, Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Four Corners Health Department, and Memorial Health Care Systems.

The CDC has updated their recommendation that groups of 10 or more people should not gather, especially if the participants are arriving from other communities, which would increase the chances of the virus being transmitted into our community and participants becoming infected and transmitting it back to their own communities. Although you may not be showing symptoms of the virus you could be exposed to others that have not yet shown symptoms and may be a carrier.

It is important during this time of uncertainty that we remain calm and follow the recommendations that have been advised for the safety and protection of our community, family, and friends. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience in these efforts.

**In the interest of public safety, effective at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 the City is cancelling all meetings and gatherings at all City facilities.**

**The Chase County Community Center is closed until further notice. However, they will be providing pick-up and home delivery services for seniors and at risk individuals. They ask that you call by 9:30 a.m. each morning if in need of these services. Delivery will begin at 11:15 a.m. Pick-up meals will be ready by 11:30 a.m. The Community Center will likely be in need of additional volunteers.**

**The Imperial Public Library computer lab and meeting room are closed until further notice. All other programs at the library are cancelled until April 1, 2020 or until further notice. The Library will be making curbside delivery available and extended checkouts as needed. You can call, text or email the Library and they will prepare the items for you so you can pick them up. The curbside pickup will be in the parking lot on the south side of the library. The Library asks that you do not return items until after April 1, late fees will be suspended during this period of time. If you feel you must return library items, please label your bag of returned items with your name and phone number on it so they know that they need to be quarantined. If you need copies made, we ask that you please come to the City Office drive up window for assistance.**

**All City Recreation programming is suspended until further notice, and use of the City ballfields, parks, gyms for games and practices are prohibited until further notice. The soccer program has been delayed to align with the Chase County Schools restrictions and guidelines. Currently the soccer program practices will be delayed until at least March 27, 2020 or until further notice.**

**The Imperial Theatre will temporarily be closed until further notice. Although movie theatres can be a great escape during stressful times, we will be pausing operations temporarily. Please check back for updates on the Imperial Theatre Facebook page.**

**In consideration of the City Staff we would like to reduce the traffic in the office to limit our exposure to others. If you need to make utility payments, we ask that you please utilize the online system, making payments online at [www.myproviderlink.com](http://www.myproviderlink.com), mailing payments, or utilizing the drop box window for payments. If you need to make a cash payment or purchase stickers we ask that you utilize the drive up window for these transactions. If you simply have a question or are in need of information we ask that you contact the City Staff via telephone at 308-882-4368.**

**The Chase County Food Pantry will not be staffed until further notice. However, if you are in need of pantry items we ask that you please come to the City Offices for assistance. If you have items you would like to contribute to the pantry, please contact the City Offices to arrange a delivery.**

The City will continue to provide essential services such as sanitation, electric, water, wastewater, police, and fire. The Special City Council Meeting/Retreat scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> will be planned for a later date that is unknown at this time. The next City Council meeting is tentatively being scheduled for Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00p.m. Circumstances at the time will depend on how the meeting will be conducted.