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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2020

City of Vandalia Mayor Ricky Gottman announces Changes to City Procedures effective March 17, 2020
Urges citizens to use caution during the Coronavirus Pandemic

VANDALIA, ILLINOIS – March 16, 2020. Vandalia Mayor Ricky Gottman has announced changes to city procedures due to the increase of mandates from the Federal and State governments. “During this time of unknown, we need to take steps to keep our community and our city employees as safe as we can, so therefore, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, there will be no entry to any city buildings by anyone except authorized personnel. City hall will be open regular hours, but will only be accepting customer payments at either the drive-up window on the east side of the building (lane closest to the building only) or at the former walk-up window on the Gallatin Street side. For boat stickers, lake lot payments, building permits or other business of any kind, payments can be done at either window, but we strongly urge that you mail or email those documents in along with payment. They will then be mailed back to you once completed. We will re-evaluate on March 31, 2020 and will make an announcement then as to how we will move forward.” All contact information, including emails are listed on the city’s website, www.vandaliaillinois.com

Gottman further stated, “The City has decided at this time that they will not be disconnecting any services for non-payment. This will also only be for the two weeks and will be re-evaluated also.” “With the shut down of bars and restaurants by the Governor’s office, I urge everyone to help support those that are offering delivery or curbside delivery. Two parking spaces will be restricted in front of those restaurants on Gallatin Street who are doing the curbside pickup. Remember your local small businesses that are allowed to stay open during this time, it is going to be hard on them as well. Furthermore, I implore you to only buy necessities that you may need so that there may be plenty for everyone when it comes to groceries, paper goods and other household items. Finally, the city will be posting any changes on the announcements section of their website, as well as through the local media. If no access to those channels, please contact city hall at 618-283-1196.

The City of Vandalia

Also, during this time we are going to be taking some steps at the Vandalia Police Department to help in reducing the risk to exposure of the COVID - 19 virus to our staff and their families.

*For the time being Officers will only respond to calls that require an officer presence. All other calls will be completed by phone.

*When an officer is required to respond to the scene of an incident they will not enter homes unless it is absolutely necessary. The officer will require you to stop outside and speak with them regarding the incident.

*Officers will be practicing social distancing and will attempt to maintain a 6-foot gap between anyone they are dealing with that is not being taken into custody.

*Officers will be wearing gloves on all calls and will not be shaking hands and other social pleasantries that result in person to person contact. Officers may be wearing other Personal Protective Equipment as well.

*Citizens are encouraged to call into the Police Department and avoid coming into the Police Department unless absolutely necessary.

We are a small department and an exposure to our department could quickly be passed around to our entire department. We are taking these steps to try and reduce the risk of any exposure. Thank you for your understanding.

“Attached with this press release is the CDC guidelines for proper handwashing. Everyone please be mindful of handwashing and mind the social distancing that is being urged for safety. It is better to be safe than sorry in a time like we have not seen before.”

Contact Information:

Mayor Ricky Gottman, City of Vandalia

Contact Number: 618-267-9788

Police Chief Jeff Ray, City of Vandalia

Contact Number: 618-283-0556

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Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives

When and How to Wash Your Hands

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Learn when and how you should wash your hands to stay healthy.



Wash Your Hands Often to Stay Healthy

You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After [changing diapers](#) or [cleaning up a child who has used the toilet](#)
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

Follow Five Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community—from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.

Follow these five steps every time.

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

[Why? Read the science behind the recommendations.](#)

Use Hand Sanitizer When You Can't Use Soap and Water

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based [hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the product label.

product label.

Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations. However,

- Sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs.
- Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.

How to use hand sanitizer

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.



You can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Caution! Swallowing alcohol-based hand sanitizers can cause alcohol poisoning if more than a couple of mouthfuls are swallowed. Keep it out of reach of young children and supervise their use. Learn more [here](#).



New Handwashing Campaign: *Life is Better with Clean Hands*

To celebrate [Global Handwashing Day](#) on October 15, CDC has launched the *Life is Better with Clean Hands* campaign. This campaign encourages adults to make handwashing part of their everyday life and encourages parents to wash their hands to set a good example for their kids. Visit the [Life is Better with Clean Hands](#) campaign page to download resources to help promote handwashing in your community.

For more information on handwashing, visit CDC's [Handwashing website](#) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

More Information

- [Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives](#)
- [Life is Better with Clean Hands Campaign](#)
- [Preventing the Flu](#)
- [Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Hand Hygiene After a Disaster](#)
- [Water-related Hygiene](#)
- [Keeping Your Hands Clean on a Cruise](#)

Health Promotion & Education

- [Health Promotion Materials](#)
 - [Fact Sheets](#)

Publications, Data, & Statistics

- [Publications, Data, & Statistics](#)

Global Handwashing Day

- [Global Handwashing Day](#)