



March 16, 2020



As the Village of Riverside continues to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, I would like to update residents regarding the preparation the Village has taken to minimize the spread of this virus. It is the intention of the Village to sustain all of our services throughout this event. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to last for months with varying degrees of exposure and sickness.

The First Responders of the Village have all prepared and are equipped for the calls for service regarding this virus. Beginning with our dispatch center, callers will be asked a series of questions related to the health of the patient as well as those on scene. The individual will be asked the nature of the incident along with asking if anyone is experiencing flu-like symptoms. If there is an

affirmative answer to the flu-like symptom question, there will be follow-up questions regarding symptoms. The dispatcher will ask if you are experiencing a fever, general weakness, cough, respiratory difficulty, if the individual has traveled outside of the US in the last two weeks and if there has been any contact with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient. The purpose for asking these questions is to prepare the First Responders, so that they may remain as healthy as possible in order to continue working and serving others in need.

The Firefighters and Paramedics will be taking several precautions to keep themselves and their equipment as clean and virus free, as possible. They will gather information from our dispatch center and make decisions as to the proper protective equipment that will be utilized. Our Firefighters and Paramedics are equipped with gloves, eye protection, Air Purifying Respirators, N-95 masks, Tyvek suits and gowns.

The Police Officers who also respond to incidents or a call for service will also be utilizing Personal Protective Equipment. They will be utilizing gloves, eye protection and N-95 masks.

Although some of these items, when worn, may look intimidating or seem over the top, please do not be offended. They are there for your protection and the protection of the First Responders. As stated, we need to keep all of our responders as healthy as possible and minimize exposing others to this virus. We ask that you cooperate when you see responders utilizing this equipment. We also ask that you do not feel offended if you are asked to put on an N-95 mask.

It is the responsibility of each and every person to stop or minimize the spread of COVID-19. The Village of Riverside continues to get the word out regarding updates to this unprecedented and ever changing virus.

The Village of Riverside is committed to providing the highest level of response and treatment to our residents and those whose travels take them through our Village.

Please contact Chief Matt Buckley with questions or comments: 708-447-2123 x306 or [mbuckley@riverside.il.us](mailto:mbuckley@riverside.il.us).