



Communications Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2020

Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin issued the following statement:

My administration is working diligently to achieve two goals regarding the COVID-19 outbreak:

First, to deploy in all areas under city government the state Health Department- and CDC-approved best practices that will help prevent the spread of coronavirus in our city and region;

and second to dispel the false rumors that can cause panic and distraction, rather than allowing people to focus on the simple measures that will see us through this period safely and responsibly.

Because the most important part of shutting down this virus is early response, I am closing our senior centers and all community centers effective immediately for at least a week.

City meetings, including council, boards and committees, remain scheduled. However, as evidenced by events nation-wide, we will address these decisions again as new information becomes available.

The Arkansas Department of Health as well as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have made it clear that as we prepare for a likely outbreak that the steps for safety don't change:

Wash your hands often. Don't touch your face. Avoid crowds. If you feel sick, stay home.

Our leadership is applying approved practices to address all legitimate concerns promptly and proactively.

We understand that every business, church and organization needs to decide on its own how to proceed, however the City of Jonesboro is taking this precautionary measure. Again, this is not because we are in a crisis, but because we want to prevent one.

(see next page for comment from Dr. Shane Speights)

Statement from City Medical Director Dr. Shane Speights:

As we have seen in the media, the Coronavirus (COVID19) continues to shape our day to day lives and we are not immune to those changes here in Jonesboro. It is important that we begin to think about how we can reduce our risk of having widespread disease in our community. In addition to routine handwashing and the practice of good hygiene, social distancing is also recommended.

Social distancing consists of limiting our interactions in large groups or gatherings, especially those at the highest risk of complication from this disease – our elderly and those patients with chronic diseases.

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