



LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY, MN  
Emergency Operations Center  
422 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 303  
Madison, MN 56256

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Press Release

### Lac qui Parle County COVID-19 Update

MADISON, MN – As the threat of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) affecting our area increases, Lac qui Parle County is taking steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of county staff while striving to maintain important, uninterrupted services to our local community.

While there have yet to be any confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in our county or surrounding counties, the Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners, along with Emergency Management, Public Health, and other key partners have begun cooperative discussions on preparedness measures, essential government services, and feasibility of providing virtual services for citizens. On Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>, Emergency Management met with all department heads and other staff to discuss preparedness efforts and priority services provided to the public, including essential personnel and vital recordkeeping. A Continuity of Operations Plan is being finalized to help guide services in the event of a disruption.

**Staffing:** Departments are taking additional sanitary steps and wiping down all counters and door handles multiple times per day. Meetings and large gatherings hosted by the county are being evaluated by individual departments to determine need and possible alternative options. County staff along with the public are encouraged to stay home if they are feeling unwell and to call into the hospital before showing up at the Emergency Room. Members of the public are encouraged to contact County offices by telephone or email in lieu of in-person visits whenever possible. Contact information for all offices can be found on the county website, [www.lqpc.com](http://www.lqpc.com)

**EOC Activation:** The County Emergency Operations Center has increased its activation and monitoring level from 'Normal Operations' (Level 4) to 'Enhanced/Stand By' (Level 3) in order to better help coordinate and facilitate issues and concerns that may arise.

County facilities and services will remain open as usual for the time being as we are working collaboratively with area cities, businesses, hospitals and schools to coordinate appropriate public information and prevention activities. Please stay tuned for future updates

For more information on COVID-19 and preparedness information, please visit the following websites:

- MN Dept of Health: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>



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Thank You,

Todd Patzer, Lac qui Parle County Board Chair  
Blain Johnson, Lac qui Parle County Emergency Management Director

###END###

[For Immediate Release]

For questions on this Press Release, please contact:

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