

## SHERIFF, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FIRE CHIEFS PROVIDE UPDATE ON EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Cook County Sheriff, Emergency Management Director and local fire chiefs issued a joint statement this morning regarding emergency services during the stay at home period ordered by Governor Tim Walz on Wednesday.

The statement reads as follows:

“In light of the COVID-19 virus outbreak, we would like to let the public know what to expect from emergency services for the foreseeable future.

“First, if you are simply not feeling well, please call the local clinic at 218-387-2330 or hospital at 218-387-3040. Staff will ask a series of questions and will advise you as to what your next steps should be.

“If you call 911, be aware that the dispatcher will ask screening questions. Please be honest in your answers and, as always, try to remain calm.

“If it is determined that you need emergency services, please understand that our response may be different than what you expect. We will respond, but we may be wearing masks, gowns, protective glasses and gloves.

“In response to a fire call, we may limit the number of personnel entering your home and making contact with you: in fact, only one person might enter your home. An example of this would be to check on a carbon monoxide alarm or fire alarm where no visible smoke or fire is observed. A full response will be given when fire or smoke is observed.

“We are trained to look at each incident and act accordingly. Please know that we are taking these measures to protect you as much as we are protecting ourselves.

“As always, rest assured that we are working diligently and together to provide you with the best care possible.”

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