

# City of Keene, New Hampshire

George S. Hansel, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, March 14th, 2020

Contact: City of Keene, (603) 357-9804

## City of Keene Takes Proactive Steps to Protect Public and Minimize Risk of COVID-19

Public Library And Recreation Center To Close To The Public Beginning Monday While Other City Services Remain Operational

KEENE – In consultation with the City’s emergency management team and public health officials, the City of Keene is instituting several protective measures to limit the risk of infection of the COVID-19 virus while ensuring the continued operation of critical City services.

As of March 16th, the Keene Public Library and Recreation Center buildings will be closed to the public for a two-week period (through March 30th). The remainder of City facilities will remain open and maintain normal operations. All City facilities have implemented CDC recommended cleaning and sanitation practices in high-touch areas.

“While the risk in Cheshire County remains low, the City is being proactive in order to keep our citizens safe and maintain vital services.” Mayor George Hansel said. “City residents should remain vigilant and seek accurate information and updates from the City’s website and the CDC.”

If any citizens are exhibiting cold or flu symptoms, they should contact their primary care provider and refrain from going to work or attending large gatherings. All citizens are encouraged to utilize the City website to complete various bill payment, license renewals, motor vehicle registration, parking ticket payment, and vital records certificates.

“This is a resilient and collaborative community” Mayor Hansel said. “If we all do our part by taking reasonable precautions, we’ll ensure we are all as prepared as possible.”

“We have capable, experienced, and professional staff coordinating our local emergency efforts. I’m very confident in our team and their ability to maintain vital City services.” Hansel added.

The City will continue to monitor the situation and update the public regularly. For the latest information about the COVID-19 virus, updates on city services and steps the public can take to reduce the risk of this disease, please visit [www.ci.keene.nh.us](http://www.ci.keene.nh.us).

The City continues to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to educate and limit the exposure to the disease. On Monday, March 16th, the Mayor, City Manager and Emergency Management Team will be meeting representatives from Cheshire County, SAU 29, Cheshire Medical Center, Keene State College, Antioch University, River Valley Community College, The Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, and The Greater Monadnock Public Health Network in a continuing effort to coordinate our local emergency response.

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