



# PRESS RELEASE

**March 18, 2020, 2:30 p.m.**

The Village and Town of Massena are working collaboratively to follow the advice, recommendations and Executive Orders from Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Department of Health.

We are facing a public health crisis. It is vital that we do not let this become a public safety issue.

This declaration will provide the Mayor and Supervisor the authority to implement the necessary steps to effectively protect the health, security, and safety of the public.

“My number one priority as Mayor is the safety and health of our citizens. The circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 crisis are changing rapidly and this declaration provides the Supervisor and I the ability to effectively protect our citizens.”

This is a fast-changing situation, and directions, recommendations and orders are coming from every level of government. Take the time to fully understand the information that is available, and please follow the recommendations and orders.

To do so however, it is vital that you ensure you are receiving your information from trusted sources, such as the Center for Disease Control, NY State Department of Health or the St. Lawrence County Health Department. Their web sites are listed at the end of this release.

There are several things we encourage our citizens to do to ensure we can effectively handle the effects of COVID-19:

- Plan to be impacted by the COVID-19 response for a minimum of three months.
- Follow recommended prevention guidelines to reduce the risk and spread of the virus including practicing good hand and cough hygiene, social distancing and staying home if you are sick.
- Use TRUSTED news sources. There is plenty of misinformation out there, use reliable and dependable news sources.
- Talk with your children. There is no doubt that the cancellation of school will create a burden and hardship for many families! It is likely that most adults are feeling stress and anxiety about this situation and our kids are as well. Sit down



with them, be honest with them and help them understand it. Reassure them they are safe. There are several good resources on-line, one of which is listed below.

“The Town of Massena has also been following the advice and Executive Orders from New York State and Governor Andrew Cuomo to keep COVID-19 in check in our community. We’ve closed the Town’s public buildings and sent nonessential Town employees’ home to self-quarantine. Mayor Currier and I are taking the further step of declaring a state of emergency in the event that we need to take steps to curtail the spread of the virus,” Said Supervisor O’Shaughnessy.

Massena and the North Country will handle this like we handle every other crisis – by working together and taking care of each other.

Covid-19 Resources:

Local Public Health at <https://www.stlawco.org/departments/publichealth>

Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>,

NYS Health Department: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

National Assoc. of School Psychologists:

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)