

March 14, 2020

## Steuben County Community Letter about COVID-19 Preparedness

*Community Leaders unite amid growing concern for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

Dear Steuben County Community,

I know many people may feel anxious about COVID-19, also known as coronavirus. I want to assure you that the City of Angola continues to be actively engaged in efforts to prepare for and mitigate the impact of the virus on our community. At this time, no one in our community has been confirmed to be positive for COVID-19. However, this could change rapidly so please reference [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org) or [IN.gov/ISDH/](http://IN.gov/ISDH/) for the most up-to-date resources. Please know the health and well-being of our community remains our top priority.

The City's Emergency Management office continues to maintain consistent communication with our local lead agency, the Steuben County Health Department and other partners such as Trine, Emergency Management, Cameron Hospital, MSD and Fremont Schools.

If you are concerned you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider, the Steuben County Health Department (260.668.1000 ext. 1500) or Cameron Hospital. Cameron has implemented a free 24hr resource line (260.667.5555) to be used by our community in need of screening for Coronavirus, information on available resources and to answer common questions and concerns about COVID-19.

Currently, there are 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our state, with no confirmed cases in Steuben County. It is important to note that the latest data indicates that most people – 80% – will have mild, cold-like symptoms if they contract the disease. In the meantime, earlier recommendations remain the same for everyone:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.

While people need to remain attentive and being prepared for an emergency is always a good idea, there is currently no need for the average person to take out-of-the-ordinary protective actions.

The County has existing emergency management and operations plans and will implement procedures as needed to ensure our ability to maintain critical and essential services, as well as support state and city efforts. We are ready to activate the Emergency Operations Center if this public health situation escalates.

For all members of our community, I ask your assistance and patience as we proceed. Our response will be most successful if we do what Steuben County does best during challenging times: support one another and work together to protect our beloved community. We will continue to work with our public

health partners to provide you with the latest guidance and actions you can take to support a healthy community.

In community spirit,

Richard Hickman, Mayor of Angola