



# City of Forest Park

## PRESS RELEASE

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For more information contact:  
City Manager Don Jones  
(513) 595-5206, [drjones@forestpark.org](mailto:drjones@forestpark.org)

### **CITY OF FOREST PARK RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM GOVERNOR DEWINE**

At his June 18 update on the ongoing State response to the COVID-19 health crisis, Governor DeWine indicated that there had been an increase in the number of cases in a number of zip codes including 45240. The 45240 zip code encompasses the City of Forest Park and several other jurisdictions in Northwest Hamilton County. Forest Park officials want to assure residents that they are closely monitoring the situation and remain prepared for any “spikes” in cases due to increased testing or other reasons. However it is important to note that the number of COVID-19 cases in the City of Forest Park has been low. So new cases at an isolated location such as a nursing home or apartment complex can produce what appears to be a large percentage increase. Increases in the number of cases can occur, but they require attention not alarm.

“Our safety team takes this health crisis very seriously, and we encourage Forest Park residents to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and others. Wear face masks, wash your hands and practice social distancing. However the recent increase in COVID-19 cases here is the result of isolated outbreaks at a few locations and increased testing in the community. Residents should be vigilant but need not be alarmed,” explains Forest Park City Manager Don Jones. According to Hamilton County Public Health, there have been 204 cases in the City of Forest Park. More than 18,600 people live in the community.

City officials have taken a number of actions to protect residents during this difficult and challenging crisis. From securing adequate medical supplies to arranging for the uninterrupted delivery of essential services during the outbreak, Forest Park officials have taken substantive steps to guarantee the health, safety and welfare of those who live and work in the community. “We have not and will not ignore the clear challenges posed by this virus,” adds City Manager Jones. “Up to this point, Governor DeWine and his team have managed crisis communications well. However we were not informed in advance of his comments yesterday and feel they were unnecessarily alarming.”

City officials emphasized that residents can go to any of the nearby testing locations to confirm that they are healthy. There is a COVID testing location at Mercy Fairfield Hospital. They accept both insured and non-insured patients. The hospital is located at 2960 Mack Road, 45014. Other test site locations can be found by going to: <https://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org/announcements/testing-sites/>

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