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PRESS RELEASE

July 4th Celebration Cancellation

July 2, 2020 – The City of El Dorado decided to cancel the July 4th Celebration activities this year in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The number of cases throughout the region, including Butler County, continues to increase and the City believes that it must do its part to encourage social distancing to prevent the continued spread of the coronavirus.

“After much discussion, the City Commission came to the realization that the most prudent action as a public entity was to set the example with respect to hosting events with the potential of large crowds,” said Mayor Bill Young. “The City Commission understands that the July 4th Celebration is an event that the community anticipates every year. We realize that the decision may not be popular. Even so, the governing body felt that it was the best course of action to make for the safety and well-being of citizens and staff.”

Events with the potential for large attendance create situations where it may be challenging for people to maintain social distancing. The City discussed several options to allow the celebration to continue, including requiring people to wear masks to participate in the activities.

The annual fireworks display remains scheduled to begin at 9:30 pm at McDonald Stadium. The City will allow citizens to view the display from inside the stadium, provided they are wearing a mask to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is a temporary situation that El Dorado will emerge from as a stronger community. Next year’s July 4th will be special both as a celebration of our nation’s independence and as the 150th anniversary of the founding of our great community,” said Mayor Young.

The City of El Dorado strongly recommends citizens wear a mask when social distancing is impractical or unlikely. The goal behind mask wearing is to prevent another shutdown of the economy and to promote a re-opening of the schools in the coming weeks. Wearing masks in El Dorado will not change the likelihood of these two situations, although if everyone begins to take proactive action the continuing threat of the pandemic will likely subside.

According to the Center for Disease Control, COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies show that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 lack symptoms and that even those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.