

City of Sidney Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: 4/06/2020

On Thursday, April 2, 2020, Governor DeWine announced an extension of the Ohio Department of Health's orders until May 1, 2020. Part of those orders affects the operation of public swimming pools.

"The city has been monitoring the impact that COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on city operations since March 13," stated City Manager Mark Cundiff. "Parks and Recreation Director Duane Gaier and I have had multiple conversations over the last few weeks about how the Stay-at-Home orders, as well as the orders to close swimming pools, and how those things would affect the Sidney Waterpark. It was not a decision we made lightly, but the Sidney Waterpark facility will not open for the 2020 season."

Parks and Recreation Director Duane Gaier added, "Last year we struggled to find certified lifeguards to properly staff the facility and we had a plan in place this year to offer training through the Sidney-Shelby County YMCA and we had a few prospective new candidates. We really thought we were headed in the right direction this year. When the first round of orders to close pools came in mid-March we were hopeful that our April course would be able to continue. Now with the extension of the orders until May 1, the harsh reality is we simply will not have enough properly certified lifeguards for the season."

For additional information about how the COVID-19 pandemic as it pertains to city operations, please visit the city's COVID-19 Update website at: www.sidneyoh.com/465/COVID-19-Update.