



RAMSEY COUNTY

March 11, 2020

Dear Meals on Wheels Clients, families and volunteers,

With reports that individuals in our region have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to update you regarding additional steps we are taking to ensure that those who need our service, and those who volunteer with us, remain safe and healthy.

Our volunteers are a vital part of our program. We continually work to ensure that no volunteer who is sick delivers meals, possibly spreading illness of any kind to our clients. We instruct our volunteers to call in sick or find a coworker or other team member to fill in for them rather than coming in when they have so much as a sniffle. Our volunteers also have access to hand sanitizers and antiseptic wipes here at Meals on Wheels. Our delivery bags and materials are sanitized daily, and our meals are packed by kitchen personnel and volunteers who adhere to all state Health Department requirements for a clean, sanitary and safe kitchen environment.

We are distributing "Blizzard Boxes" to our clients living in our senior buildings, so in the event a building closes or restricts access, these clients have at least a little extra food until we can deliver there again. In addition, we will allow clients to place a bag, cooler or box outside their door, labeled "MOW", and we will put the meal in the container and knock to let you know we've arrived, so you can get your meal without having to go to the community room during this period. Please return the "Permission to Leave Meal" form to participate in this delivery alternative. We also offer the option to ask for frozen meals to be delivered weekly instead of daily delivery during this time.

Please take care to protect yourselves from illness. Wash your hands with good old soap and water for 20-30 seconds, don't touch your face, and cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough. Don't go out if you're not feeling well, and consult your doctor first before going to a hospital or ER if you have a fever or other flu-like symptoms. Be sure you have a "health buddy" who can check on you and possibly care for you in your home or apartment if you're not feeling well.

Mounds View Meals on Wheels is committed to continuing to provide our daily meal service to clients throughout this developing health situation. If it does become necessary to cut back service anywhere, we will make every attempt to be sure all clients receive frozen meals to cover the time we can't deliver daily.

We will continue to keep in touch with local authorities and you as this situation with COVID-19 changes. We thank you for standing with us and trusting us to keep your health first and foremost now and always.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Szurek

MEALS ON WHEELS

<https://www.moundsviewschools.org/mealsonwheels>

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