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PEN CITY CURRENT It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 74

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County extends closures, pay

STATUS QUO: County buildings stay closed and employees on leave paid through April

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – County officials extended the closure of public buildings with the exception of courthouse facilities through at least May 1 due to the coronavirus outbreak.

As part of the move approved at Tuesday's teleconferenced Board of Supervisor's meeting, the county also extended full pay and benefits for all county employees through the same time period.

Supervisor Matt Pflug said it was critical that the county keep serving the public as completely as possible under the circumstances.

"I think it's critical to function as we are, and we are far from being out of the critical stage," Pflug said.

Several department heads indicated their staff was working from home including Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, and Lee County Attorney Ross Braden. But several others, including Lee County Treasurer Chris Spann and Recorder Nancy Booten said many of their staff couldn't work from home either from lack of laptops or lack of work, and were currently on paid administrative leave.

Michelle Reed, the county's benefits coordinator said the county will be implementing federal emergency paid sick leave and

See PAY, page 6



Can you dig it?

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Archeologists with Bear Creek Archeology comb through the dirt of the Hwy. 61 reconstruction project looking for artifacts in the subsurfacing of the road. The archeology crews will be on hand for at least two more weeks going through deeper soil levels where the new sewer lines will go.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

www.pencitycurrent.com

Siemens to furlough 100

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With the Siemens-Gamesa plant labeled an essential business in the state and continuing operations, the COVID-19 virus is still having an impact.

On Tuesday Siemens officials from the U.S. headquarters in Orlando, announced that 100 Fort Madison employees will be furloughed due to problems in the supply chain caused by the global pandemic.

"The global pandemic is causing an interruption in our business operations. Driven by parts and material delays directly caused by COVID-19 impacts to our international suppliers, Siemens Gamesa has made the difficult decision to furlough 100 employees at the Fort Madison, Iowa, facility and about 200

See JOBS, page 6

COVID-19 Reynolds says hospital capacity in 'strong' shape

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – Gov. Kim Reynolds unveiled data at Tuesday morning's press conference that portrayed the state in "strong" shape as Iowa heads into what experts say will be the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak. The state is broken into six regions where metrics give a score to each region based on data used by the Governor and Iowa Department of Public Health to determine increased support to combat the coronavirus in those areas. Lee County is located in Region 5 which is the southeast corner of the state and includes Cedar, Clinton, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lee, Keokuk,

City to reopen parks, but school stands pat on closures

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Public Works Director Mark Rousselot is keeping all the barricades for the parks in city trucks.

After spending half the day Tuesday

finishing closing all the parks to traffic following Gov. Kim Reynolds' Monday presser, city crews are now going about reopening all the parks.

During Monday's press conference, Reynolds increased closures around the state to include "skating rinks and parks, outdoor and indoor playgrounds or children play centers." However, the written proclamation carried the verbage,"roller or ice skating rinks and skate parks" and did not mandate the closure of parks in general throughout the state.

Shortly after the press conference, Fort

See PARKS, page 2

See $\ensuremath{\textbf{STATE}}$, page 4

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WEATHER

| WED 08 Apr Light Rain, 74.5° F/ 45.5° F | : 60 |
|--|------|
| THU 09 Apr Clear Skies, 51.1° F/ 34.7° F | - 0 |
| FRI 10 AprClear Skies, 44.9° F/ 44.6° F | |

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For the Record/From the Front

FMCSD keep outdoor facilities closed for now

PARKS - Continued from Page 1

Madison City Clerk Melinda Blind sent out a release stating that all city parks were closed.

Bousellot said the city is now in the process of taking down the barriers.

"It took us a significant amount of time and we just finished closing them to meet the desired need to enforce what we heard in the press conference," he said Tuesday afternoon.

"Upon learning that the proclamation was different than what was stated in the conference we are now taking action to open it back up."

He said walking trails will now be open including the trails at Rodeo Park, but residents will not have access to playgrounds or other facilities including drinking fountains and restrooms.

"Our goal today is get them all opened back up and then put some signage around the playgrounds to remind people to stay off during this time."

Fort Madison High School Athletics Director Jeremy Swink said the district is going to keep its facilities locked up until further information is obtained. Upon hearing the city had closed all city parks Monday, FMCSD officials ordered the closing of all public athletic facilities including tennis courts and the high school track.

"We've been going with the same direction the city is going, but if this region is close to entering a shelter in place, it might not make sense to open everything back up just to run around and close it all down again," he said.

Reynolds said Region 5, which is the southeast Iowa portion of the state, has a metric score of 9 and she said a score of 10 could prompt additional measures to further protect the well-being of Iowans. The 9 is the highest score in the state. Region 6, which includes Linn County where an outbreak has occurred at a long-term care facility is also at a 9.

For the Record

Fort Madison

Police Report 04/01/20 - 5:46 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue A. 04/01/20 - 7:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kevin David Nussbaum, 36, of Marina Del Rey, Calif., on the 1000 block of Avenue H, on a charge of 3rd degree harassment. He was released on a promise to appear. 04/02/20 - 2:31 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested David James Levins, 29, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue K, on a charge of serious domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/02/20 - 2:58 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Robert Lee Dunn, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released with a citation. 04/02/20 - 9:18 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2200 block of Avenue F. 04/02/20 - 12:54 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Richards Drive. 04/02/20 - 4:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 04/02/20 - 5:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 04/02/20 - 5:47 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area. 04/03/20 - 10:44 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on Storms Court. 04/03/20 - 12:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue H. 04/03/20 - 4:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue F. 04/03/20 - 4:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft of 300 block of Avenue F. 04/03/20 - 5:05 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of 35th Street. 04/03/20 - 5:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of Avenue E. 04/04/20 - 2:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Roderick M. Flores, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 200 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released with a citation. 04/04/20 - 5:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Grant James Shallcross. 30. of Fort Madison in the 600 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/05/20 - 3:53 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Billy Carter, 45, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue N, on a charge of aggravated domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/05/20 - 1:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2100 block of Avenue H 04/05/20 - 1:54 pm. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue F.. 04/05/20 - 5:30 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police cited Lisa Craw, 30, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of violation of a no contact order. She was released with a citation. 04/06/20 - 2:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Miguel Angel Alvarez, 27, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block of Avenue E, on a charge of probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/06/20 - 8:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kyle Forrest Nielsen, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 4800 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released on a promise to appear. 04/07/20 -8:28 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue H.

Lee County

Sheriff's Report 04/01/20 - no accidents or arrests to report 04/02/20 - no accidents or arrests to report 04/06/20 - 3:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Erica Marie Bushinger, 36, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for violation of probation. She was released on bond. 04/06/20 - 8:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Hope Catherin Eid, 22, of Wever, at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for violation of probation. She was held in custody. 04/03/20 - 10:37 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kimberly Jo Juss, 43, of Wever, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a temporary hold. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/04/20 - 8:05 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Simarius Dayana Jefferson, 22, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear, and on charges of 1st-degree theft and being a fugitive from justice. She was held in custody.

04/04/20 - 10:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Lee Doss, 35, of Fort Madison, in Fort Madison on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/05/20 - 8:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle rollover accident in the 1900 block of 340th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Michael Allen Wagner, 36, of Keokuk was headed east bound when he lost control of his vehicle crossed the center line entering the left lane, over corrected entering the right lane and ditch where the vehicle overturned. Allen allegedly admitted to texting and driving and was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

03/31/20 - Melissa C. Bruner, 36, of Carthage was arrested on a warrant charging her with failure to appear/failure to pay on original charges of aggravated driving under the infliuence. Bruner was released on her own recognizance and given a court date. 04/02/20 - Ike L. Byers, 26, of LaHarpe was arrested on a warrant charging him with failure to appear on charges of unlawful possession of methamphetamine. Byers remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & **Rescue Report**

04/04/20 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one false alarm. 04/05/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one grass fire, one car wreck, one lift assist, and one report of smoke. 04/06/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call and three burn complaints.

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From the Front/Classifieds

Almost half of state's COVID deaths were at long-term facilities

STATE - Continued from Page 1

Louisa, Muscatine, Scott, Van Buren, Washington, and Wapello counties.

"Despite our increasing cases, our patient volume in these regions is manageable, our hospital capacity is strong, and our ventilators are in good supply," she said. "This is encouraging, but we are in a very fluid situation which is why we continue to monitor data on a daily basis."

In Region 5, as of Monday, 20 individuals were hospitalized, 3 in the last 24 hours and 7 were in ICUs, where 3 were on ventilators. Also as of Tuesday morning, there were 713 inpatient beds available in the region, 94 intensive care unit beds, and 181 ventilators available.

She also said the Region had a metric score of 9, which is the highest in the state.

Reynolds also had Iowa National Guard Adjutant General Benjamin Corell on hand Tuesday to talk about the efforts underway and the commitment of Iowa National Guard soldiers and airman to help the state's six Regional Medical Coordination Centers respond to the virus outbreak.

Corell said the National Guard had already run supplies to all 99 counties in Iowa and some several times. He said response teams made up of 200 soldiers and airman were on duty and the guard was prepared to increase those numbers if necessary to help move supplies around the state.

Reynolds said patients can even be moved if necessary to areas where treatment can be received.

"RMCCs give us the ability to monitor resources and patient volume and will enable our health care facilities to surge and flex to accommodate increased needs across those regions," she said.

She said 102 new positive cases were identified in the past 24 hours for a total of 1,048 positive cases. Three counties saw their first positive bringing the state's total to 78 of 99 counties. The Iowa Hygienic Lab also reported 1,017 negative cases in the past 24 hours bringing to the total negative tests to 11,670. That means the state has reported 12,718 total tests with a 8.2% positive occurrence.

There was one additional death on Monday bringing the state's total to 26. Reynolds said 46% of the deaths are longterm care residents.

Reynolds also said she has reached out to the FEMA director for additional tests and the Abbott Lab testing machine to get a better and quicker handle on who is getting sick and helping stand the workforce back up.

When asked about employees who don't feel their workplace is essential but are being required to come into work, Reynolds referred those questions to state legal team at 1-800-332-0419 as a resource.

According to IDPH, the locations and age ranges of the 102 new positive individuals include:

Benton County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years) Black Hawk County, 3 adults (18-40 years) Buena Vista County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years) Delaware County, 1 older adult (61-80 years) Des Moines County, 2 older adults (61-80 years) Dubuque County, 1 adult (18-40 years), 1 middle age

(41-60 years), 1 older adult (61-80 years) Greene County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years) Hamilton County, 1 adult (18-40 years) Henry County, 1 child (0-17 years), 1 adult (18-40 years), 2 middle-age adults (41-60 years)

Johnson County, 10 adults (18-40 years), 4 middle-age adults (41-60 years), 1 older adult (61-80 years), 1 elderly

adult (81+)

Linn County, 4 adults (18-40 years), 5 middle-age adults (41-60 years), 2 older adults (61-80 years)

Louisa County, 7 adults (18-40 years), 3 middle-age adults (41-60 years), 3 older adults (61-80 years)

Mahaska County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years) Marion County, 1 adult (18-40 years) Marshall County, 2 adults (18-40 years)

Muscatine County, 2 children (0-17 years), 3 adults

(18-40 years), 3 middle-age adults (41-60 years), 2 older adults (61-80 years)

Polk County, 1 adult (18-40 years), 1 older adult (61-80 years)

Pottawattamie County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years)

Scott County, 6 adults (18-40 years), 5 middle-age adults (41-60 years), 3 older adults (61-80 years)

Story County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years)

Tama County, 3 older adults (61-80 years), 3 elderly (81+)

Warren County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years) Washington County, 1 adult (18-40 years), 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years), 2 older adults (61-80 years), 1 elderly (81+)

Woodbury County, 1 adult (18-40 years) A status report of monitoring and testing of COVID19 in Iowa is provided by IDPH and can be found here. In addition, a public hotline has been established for Iowans with questions about COVID-19. The line is available 24/7 by calling 2-1-1 or 1-800-244-7431. The state of Iowa has started sharing the number of negative tests conducted at outside labs, and is providing additional information on the conditions of those infected with COVID-19.

EN CITY CURRENT CLA

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES Fort Madison **Community School** District 1930 Avenue M Minutes of the **Public Hearing**

April 6, 2020

I. The Public Hearing was called to order by President Wondra at 5:03 p.m. Directors Hope, Ross, Wykert, Steffensmeier and Menke were

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PUBLIC NOTICES

present via zoom. Also present was Dr. Slater, Superintendent and Secretary Elmore. Director DiPrima was absent.

II. Approve the agenda. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Wykert to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

III. Certified Budget

HELP WANTED

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FY2020-2021. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive written and oral comments regarding the Certified Budget

FY2020-2021. IV. Receive written comments. President Wondra asked for written comments. There were none.

V. Receive oral comments. President Wondra asked for oral comments. There were none.

VI. Adjourn. The public hearing was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Tim Wondra, Board President

retary Elmore. Director DiPrima was absent.

II. Approve the agenda. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Wykert to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

III. Approve Certified Budget FY2020-2021. The Board reviewed the Certified Budget for FY2020-2021. It was moved by Menke and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the Certified Budget for FY2020-2021 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice

Board reviewed the Fort Madison Community School District Pandemic Pay Resolution Regarding District Employees. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the Fort Madison Community School District Pandemic Pay Resolution Regarding District Employees as presented. A roll call vote was administered with Directors Menke, Wykert, Steffensmeier, Ross, Hope and Wondra all responding Aye.

V. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. Tim Wondra, Board President April 6, 2020 Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary



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Application and complete job description can be found at www.FortMadisonLibrary.org or contact Sarah Clendineng at (319) 372-5721.



April 6, 2020 Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES Fort Madison **Community School** District 1930 Avenue M Minutes of the **Special Meeting** April 6, 2020

I. The Special Meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 5:05 p.m. Directors Hope, Ross, Wykert, Steffensmeier and Menke were present via zoom. Also present was Dr. Slater, Superintendent and Secvote.

IV. Consider approval of the updated Fort Madison Community School **District Pandemic Pay Resolution Regarding** District Employees. The

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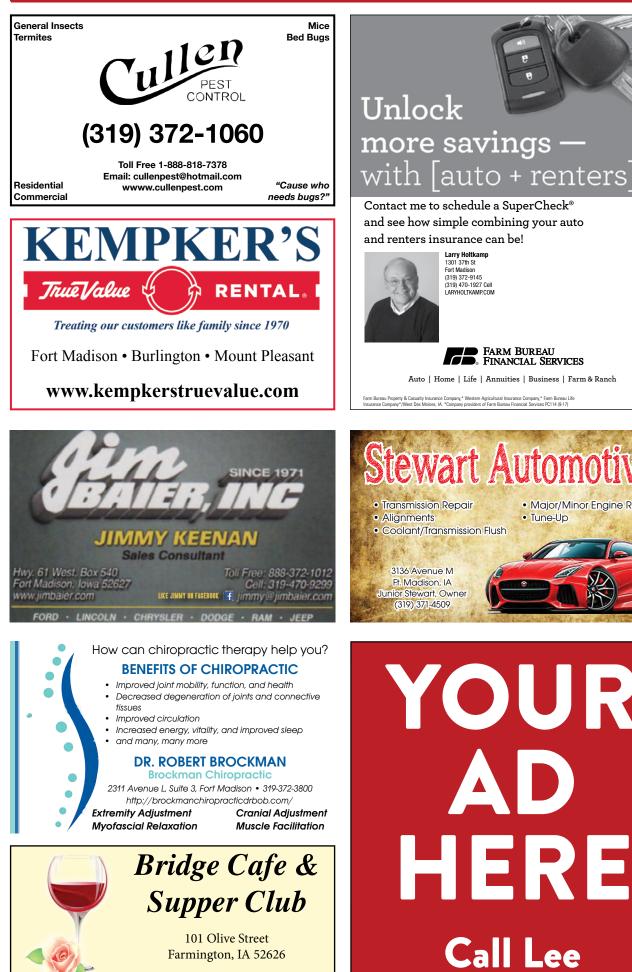
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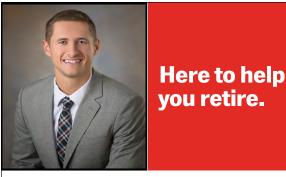
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From the Front

County continues search for ambulance service

PAY - Continued from Page 1

Family Medical Leave Acts on April 13 to help differentiate sick leave and family benefits related to COVI-19, or other illnesses.

Lee County Conservation Director Nathan Unsworth said the county has to be cognizant of the ever-changing nature of the impact of the coronavirus.

"Over the long term we need to think about how long this is gonna go on and how this is gonna change," he said. "Workloads could go up and down depending on the time of year, so we need to consider that as well."

Auditor Denise Fraise said some employees are just on administrative leave at this point, and the county would have the option of having those employees file for unemployment with the state. The federal government would also supplement the unemployment by \$600.

She added that while on unemployment, the employees wouldn't be contributing to the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS).

Reed said it would cleaner if the county just treated all employees the same.

Supervisor Rich Harlow made the motion to continue the current building closure and pay structure through April 30 and Pflug seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

In an unrelated matter, Supervisor Gary Folluo said the county had received one proposal to provide ambulance services in the county, but didn't provide details because the process is on-going.



Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

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- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins

Supervisors then authorized Folluo and Supervisor Rick Larkin to continue to negotiate with Fort Madison and Keokuk fire departments on the possibility of them providing ambulance services in the county. The motion, approved 5-0, also opens the door for any other companies to submit proposals to the county.

In other action, the board:

• voted, 5-0, to put out a request for proposals on a countywide digital radio conversion. A committee comprised of the heads of first responder departments throughout the county has been informing cities within the county of the upgrade and it's estimated \$7 million price tag. The county would levy a tax to pay for the upgrade that will give all county emergency crews 95% coverage in the county.

• voted 5-0 to approve a purchase, software and services contract with Know Ink LLC of St. Louis for new poll pads to replace laptops for the county polling locations. The contract is for five years and includes 25 new computer pads. The Iowa Secretary of State's office won't support the current laptop system software after 2020 so the shift was required, according to County Elections Administrator Nikki Sugars.

Auditor Denise Fraise also announced that June 2 primary voting has been moved to the 1st Christian Church at 3476 Main Street in Keokuk, and the 1st Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 301 24th Street in Fort Madison to allow people to spread out more and accommodate more voters.

• voted 5-0, to approve the purchase of two new dump trucks at a cost of \$313,000. The new trucks have a 35% reimbursement from a federal grant so supervisors moved ahead with the purchase rather than risk the potential loss of the grant. The grant requires the county to dispose of two of the older trucks under a diesel enhancement program by Aug. 31.

• voted 5-0, to approve new employee leave and, 4-0 to approve a new telecommuting policy.

Siemens furloughs could last a month

JOBS - Continued from Page 1

employees at the Hutchinson, Kansas facilities. The company informed employees on Monday, April 6," said a company spokesperson.

Officials said they expect the temporary furloughs to last three to four weeks, but the company is doing everything they can to restore the supply chain as quickly as possible, and will resume full operations as soon as supplies are available.

"Siemens Gamesa's highest priority continues to be to safeguard the health and safety of our employees, families and communities during this crisis," according to the spokesperson.

"We are continuously assessing the impact the virus is causing on our supply chain, the movement of components/people and the operation of manufacturing facilities. Every resource is being applied to get the business back to normal as quickly as possible.

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- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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