

RESOLUTION NO. 211 -19-20

**Resolution Amending Resolutions
165-19-20, 166-19-20 and 172-19-20**

Establishing Emergency Operations of County Courthouse and Offices

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization designated the spread of the COVID-19 virus as a worldwide health “pandemic” on March 11, 2020; President Donald J. Trump declared the COVID-19 virus to be a national health emergency under the Stafford Act on March 13, 2020, by reason of the spread of said virus across the United States; the Governor of Oklahoma has concluded that the existence and rapid spread of the virus constitutes a direct threat to the safety, health, and welfare of the people in all counties in the State of Oklahoma and presented an immediate emergency disaster situation within the meaning of Section 683.3 of the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003; and the Governor of Oklahoma has issued Executive Orders, with amendments, which declared and deal with a state of emergency existing in all 77 counties of Oklahoma due to the impending public health threat to the people of the state posed by the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, the Fourth and Fifth Amended Executive Orders included provisions commonly referred to as the “Safer at Home” policy and directive implementing further restrictive and protective provisions directly impacting all persons and businesses within counties where the presence of COVID-19 has been confirmed;

WHEREAS, Texas County has experienced a significant outbreak of confirmed cases of COVID-19 placing Texas County and the City of Guymon in the top five counties and cities in Oklahoma with confirmed COVID-19 cases;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners of Texas County issued Resolution 165-19-20 declaring a state of public health emergency to exist in Texas County, and issued Resolution 166-19-20 establishing emergency operations for county offices and employees;

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners of Texas County issued Resolution 172-19-20 amending in part Resolution 166-19-20 and establishing rules and guidelines regarding operations of offices in the Texas County Courthouse, including but not limited to public access thereto; and

WHEREAS, Governor of Oklahoma has issued additional amendments to his Executive Orders authorizing the easing and elimination of certain restrictions imposed by his Executive Orders related to COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Texas County that effective May 18, 2020, county Resolutions 166-19-20 and 172-19-20 are hereby repealed and terminated with the provisions of this Resolution to be effective immediately with respect to the operations of the Texas County Courthouse and the offices located therein as well as continuing restricted access to the courthouse in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth and provided, to wit:

1. All county employees and persons working at the Texas County Courthouse while at work and while away from work are encouraged to follow the recommendations set forth by the Center for Disease Control and the Oklahoma Health Department, which include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Avoid physical contact with other people at work and all other times, including activities such as shaking hands.
- b. To the extent possible, maintain separation from other people; six feet of separation is recommended.
- c. Take appropriate actions to cover coughs and sneezes.
- d. Understand that the virus can live on surfaces for an extended period of time, so anything that you touch could be contaminated. Wash hands and use hand sanitizer, if available, as often as possible. Disinfect all work stations and surfaces, including phones, door knobs, and keyboards, as often as possible when at work.
- e. Avoid touching face, mouth, or eyes.
- f. Realize that the virus can be carried on clothing or other items that are exchanged or purchased. Efforts should be made when returning home to try not to contaminate homes by removing outer clothes and shoes outside or at the door, clean items that were purchased or carried in before moving them through the rest of the house.
- g. Avoid gatherings where there are ten or more persons present.

2. Access to the courthouse by employees and the public shall be and is hereby restricted and limited to the south door entrance. All other doors to the courthouse shall be locked and not be used for entrance or exit except in cases of emergency. Appropriate signage shall be posted on the north and east entrance doors directing all persons to enter the courthouse by means of the south entrance door.

3. All persons entering the courthouse through the south door shall be screened as a condition of entry by a person ~~with medical training and/or education~~ sufficient to appropriately determine if a person has been exposed to or is exhibiting symptoms of having the COVID-19 virus.

- a. The Emergency Management Director is hereby authorized and directed to secure and schedule appropriate persons to conduct the screening of persons entering the courthouse during the business hours the courthouse is open.
- b. The screening personnel shall be temporary employees of Texas County and will be paid hourly rates to be approved by the Emergency Management Director from the Courthouse Security Fund or other appropriate fund of the county.
- c. The screening shall consist of a panel of questions to be asked as well as the taking of temperature and observations for the presence of known symptoms of the virus.
- d. Any persons with indicators of contact with or exposure to the COVID-19 virus and persons under 18 years of age, unless required or ordered, shall not be admitted access to the courthouse.
- e. The screening process shall include inquiry of all persons as to the nature of their business and what office they are seeking. If their intended business can be conducted by phone, email, or regular mail, they shall be encouraged to do so rather than enter the courthouse. If entry is necessary, the person entering shall be instructed to proceed directly to the office or place of business needed, to avoid

contact with persons in the courthouse as much as possible, and to promptly leave as soon as possible.

- f. The Emergency Management Director, with the approval of the County Commissioners, is authorized and directed to adopt and implement additional and appropriate procedures and guidelines to effectuate this policy.

4. All persons entering the Courthouse shall be required to wear an appropriate mask or face covering as recommended by the CDC and/or the Oklahoma Department of Health.

5. Each county officer should develop written policies and procedures with respect to appropriate actions to be taken by their offices and employees to limit and, to the extent possible, prevent the spread of COVID-19 to the employees of Texas County. Such policies and procedures shall include procedures and practices to be immediately implemented by all elected officials within their respective offices, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Methods and practices to limit exposure and protective actions which all employees should follow while at work.
- b. What to do in the event they or anyone with whom they are associated with express COVID-19 symptoms.
- c. The need for immediate isolation and possible testing if exposed or exhibiting symptoms.
- d. That all employees will be fully compensated without use of any accrued sick leave during any periods of quarantine or illness.
- e. Procedures to be implemented and followed in dealing with the public and the conduct of daily business with limitations, restrictions, and conditions established for the operation of each county office.
- f. Procedures for employee notification to elected officials of symptoms and/or contacts with persons having symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19.
- g. Alternatives and procedures for assignment and completion of work at home while any employee is quarantined away from work due to policies of the county related to COVID-19.
- h. Any other policy or procedure any official deems necessary and reasonable for their particular offices to protect their employees and the public.

6. The District Judge of the First Judicial District encompassing Texas County is requested and authorized to issue specific orders with respect to accessing the courts and the Court Clerk's Office in Texas County. Such orders shall be published to all county offices and the County Commissioners, and when published to the County Commissioners shall be deemed a part of this Resolution. The District Judge may modify any orders issued by him from time to time as he deems necessary and reasonable to protect the judges, court clerk officers and employees, other offices within the courthouse, and the public from the COVID-19 virus.

7. In the event any person working at the Texas County Courthouse who have been exposed or exhibiting any known symptoms of COVID-19 shall be directed to remain away from work for a minimum period of fourteen days before being permitted to return to work at the Courthouse. Such employees may be assigned work to do at home. Before returning to work any such employee shall obtain the prior approval of their employing elected official.


8. All officials shall conduct a screening and evaluation of all employees who are at elevated or high risk of serious complications from COVID-19. Officials should consider authorizing and requiring those employees at high risk to stay home, with or without work to perform while at home.

9. All officers should suspend all out of county work related travel by all employees, and employees should be discouraged from attending or being present at any gatherings where more than fifty people are present. Employees should be encouraged to use extreme caution and awareness as to their circumstances while off work in order to limit their exposure to the virus.

10. The Commissioners may adopt further rules and procedures as may be needed to further implement and carry out the purposes and intentions of this Resolution from time to time.

ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED, this 18 day of May, 2020.

Board of County Commissioners of Texas County



Ted Keeling, Chairman



Richard Bryan, Commissioner



Jack Strain, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Wendy Johnson, County Clerk