

RESOLUTION NO. 6-20-21

Resolution Establishing Emergency Operations of County Offices

WHEREAS, there are many uncertainties with respect to COVID-19 pandemic, but it has been determined that it is highly infectious and contagious and has been proven to place the elderly and persons with underlying health conditions at an elevated risk of death;

WHEREAS, 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 presents an immediate emergency disaster situation within the meaning of Section 683.3 of the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility and duty of the County Commissioners and other public officials of each county to take reasonable and proper measures in the operation of county government to protect the health and safety of the people, and more particularly, county employees;

WHEREAS, there has been a significant rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Texas County since August 15, 2020, and there have been multiple confirmed cases of officials and employees who work in the Courthouse in the last week; and

WHEREAS, the existence of this state of emergency compels the Board of County Commissioners and all other elected county officers to take appropriate action with respect to the operation of the Texas County Courthouse as may be reasonably necessary to protect the public and the employees of the county from contacting and becoming infected with the COVID-19 virus to the extent possible.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Texas County that effective immediately:

1. Access to the Texas County Courthouse shall be limited to the elected officials of Texas County and the employees of the county offices of Texas County and the District Attorney's Office and its employees, except and subject to the following:
 - a. Public access to the Courthouse for attendance or appearance in court is hereby prohibited except in cases where emergency access has been approved by the District Judge or Associate District Judge pursuant to local orders issued by them; and
 - b. Recognizing the existence of critical and necessary information and services being available only within the Texas County Courthouse for the operation of county and private business operations to continue, the County Commissioners and Elected Officers of the county may from time to time approve limited access to the Courthouse for specific persons to enter the Courthouse as they deem necessary to conduct essential and required business.

2. Unless access is approved by the County Commissioners or the District Judge for specific persons of the public to enter the Courthouse and Courthouse annex, for purposes deemed essential to the public, only those persons designated in Section 1, above, shall be authorized to enter the Courthouse until further order of the County Commissioners.

3. All persons authorized to enter the Courthouse as provided in this Resolution shall enter through the south door and shall be subject to screening as directed and approved by the County Commissioners. All other doors shall remain locked and only used for exiting the Courthouse or for emergency purposes.

4. In the event any person working at the Texas County Courthouse has been exposed or is exhibiting any known symptoms of COVID-19, they 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.

5. All elected officials should review and when possible direct all employees age 65 or older and individuals who are immunocompromised or have pre-existing conditions making them at high risk for COVID-19 complications to shelter in their homes with forced leave pay at their normal rate of compensation. Such employees should be requested to leave their homes only for essential needs. Any such employees may or may not be assigned designed work to be performed while sheltering at home. A list of these individuals shall be submitted to the County Clerk. With the approval of listed employees, elected officials may approve and authorize such employees to have limited access to the Courthouse to pick up or drop off work to be performed or performed at home, or for purposes of completing essential and required work at the office that cannot efficiently and effectively be performed by other persons.

6. County Officials should consider and grant self-quarantine of employees of Texas County who shall be entitled to leave from work due to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to telework from home, because the employee:

- a. Is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
- b. Has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;
- c. Is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
- d. Is caring for an individual subject to an order described in "a" or self-quarantine as described in "b";
- e. Is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed (or childcare provider is unavailable) due to COVID-19 related reasons.
- f. Any person covered by subsections "a" through "d" of this Section shall be placed in self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days, and shall not enter the Courthouse in the event they exhibit any of the recognized symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to any person known to have COVID-19. Such persons shall obtain an appropriate examination and/or testing for COVID-19 and will be required to provide a written verification to their employing elected official from an appropriate health care provider that he or she has does not have COVID-19 or has recovered and is non-contagious before being permitted to return to work.

- g. Any person authorized to shelter at home pursuant to subsection “e” of this Section shall be permitted 14 days of forced pay to allow adequate time to make satisfactory arrangements for the care of his or her child(ren). Unless approved and extended by the employing elected official, any such employee will be required to use available leave to be compensated during any extended periods of sheltering at home to care for his or her child(ren).

7. All elected officials should seek to reduce the number of employees present in the Courthouse during this emergency period to the extent reasonable and possible in order to continue to perform vital services to the public. When possible, remote work policies that balance the safety and welfare of county employees with the critical services provided should be implemented.

8. All county officers and employees and District Attorney employees are hereby encouraged to listen and follow the directions of federal, state, and local authorities, and immediately notify their employing county elected official if they or any member of their household is exhibiting known symptoms of COVID-19 or if they or any member of their family has been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive or exhibits the known symptoms of COVID-19. Older persons and those with underlying health conditions which could put them at increased risk should discuss sheltering at home with their employing elected official and should try to stay away from other people as much as possible.

9. 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 27th day of August, 2020.

Board of County Commissioners of Texas County

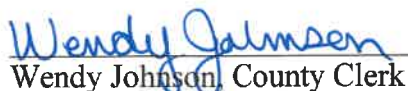

Ted Keeling, Chairman


Richard Bryan, Commissioner


Jack Strain, Commissioner



ATTEST:


Wendy Johnson, County Clerk