

Adams County Commissioners Update – May 15, 2020

- Since May 4th, Adams County has been engaged in the cautious and gradual re-opening of County and Court offices to the public. The Governor's office announced this afternoon that Adams County will be moving to Yellow status effective Friday, May 22nd. Maryland, our southern neighbor, has lifted its Stay At Home Order today, with the expectation that some Maryland businesses will re-open today as a result. Assuming that our transmission rates continue to decline, and absent any unforeseeable setbacks, we are projecting a tentative re-opening date for Adams County government of **Tuesday, May 26**.

There is no doubt that welcoming the public back into the Courthouse, Human Services Building and Ag Center will look somewhat different than before the COVID-19 pandemic surfaced. There is still a Stay At Home Order in Pennsylvania and Center For Disease Control Guidelines should be adhered to in order to reduce exposure risk. The wearing of masks, temperature scans, proper social distancing, and limits on congregate gatherings, including court proceedings and County administrative meetings, will continue. Some offices may serve the public by appointment only. The Adams County Department of Emergency Services (911) and the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex will remain closed to visitors until further notice due to the critical nature of operations.

- As indicated in the opening Update, the *Adams County Veterans Affairs Office* will be re-opening to the public on Monday, **May 18**. Appointments will be required. Call 717-337-9835 or email sclark@adamscounty.us The *Sheriff's Department* will also be re-opening on **May 26** for firearms permits. It is anticipated there may be significant permit requests due to a backlog and appointments will be required to make in-person application. Call the Sheriff's Office at 717-337-9824 for an appointment.
- Yesterday, we were invited to be on a conference call with US Senator Bob Casey. Commissioner Qually and I were able to participate. The call was limited to Adams, Franklin, Perry, Lebanon & Fulton counties. We made a strong case that additional funding from the Federal government should come directly to all counties, not just the counties that have over 500,000 residents. We emphasized that counties, not the state, know what is best for counties. Commissioner Qually and I explained that the

Adams County economy is largely dependent upon Tourism, Agri-tourism and Ag-Retail. With the economic shut-down, many small businesses that support these economic drivers in the County have also been devastated. This is quite different from our neighbors in York who have a much larger Industrial base. Our needs are different. Senator Casey was verbally responsive to this issue and seemed receptive to the message.

- As the CCAP Region 3 Board member, representing Adams County and 9 counties to our west, I will be participating with the CCAP Board on a conference call with Governor Wolf late this afternoon. I am sure that South-Central Pennsylvania's transition from Red to Yellow, and then to Green, within the Governor's guidelines, will come up as a discussion item. I will report the results of that meeting in our next Update.
- We are all aware that a Yellow light means **Proceed With Caution**. All of the CDC and DOH health and safety precautions remain in effect as we move to Yellow status. It is critically important that all staff continue to follow the Work Place Safety mandates that are in place, and that all members of the public continue to adhere to social distancing, masking, and the other health and safety mandates published by the Department of Health. This pandemic is very real, and we must use both science and common sense to protect both lives and livelihoods. Yellow allows some more retail businesses to open. Please patronize these local businesses; whether it be a walk-in business, or currently a take-out only business.
- Adams County has so much to offer in outdoor trails, roads, streams, wildlife and vistas to safely enjoy. As we move from Red to Yellow and prepare for Green, do your part in acting responsibly to protect yourself, your family and others as we enter this new transitional phase. Be Safe & Stay Well!

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