

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:00PM  
To: Adams County Community & Staff  
From: Randy Phiel  
Subject: Adams County Buildings To Close To the Public

The Adams County Board of Commissioners and the Adams County Courts, based on current conditions due to COVID-19, and best available information for health, safety and welfare of the staff and public, are announcing that all county buildings will be closed to the public at 5:00PM today, March 18, 2020, except for emergency court proceedings. Access to the courthouse for emergency matters will be controlled by the Courts Supervisory Order which is available for view on the Adams County Court webpage. This policy will be in effect until at least Monday, April 6 pending re-evaluation. Adams County is taking this action to decrease contributing to the COVID-19 pandemic and increase the assurance that critical and essential county functions continue.

All Adams County operations will continue, with some adjustments depending on department function. Adams County staff will be assigned work-at-home status, except for essential personnel, who will function normally. Each department will have personnel to answer phone calls and respond to departmental emails. The department phone numbers and web information can be obtained by going to the Adams County website at [www.adamcounty.us](http://www.adamcounty.us). The Adams County Courthouse entrance will remain staffed by Security and open 10:00 – 3:30 for limited emergency Court hearings, orders, actions, filings.

Yesterday, the Adams County Board of Commissioners signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency, which went into effect at 12:01AM today which states that Emergency Management measures are necessary to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Adams County. It also directs the Chief Administrative Officer and the Department of Emergency Services Director to coordinate the County's activities and emergency response, to work with state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency. It also enables Adams County to seek Federal funding and reimbursement. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501), the Adams County Commissioners do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Adams County due to COVID-19.

Adams County Court of Common Pleas Judge President Judge Michael George issued a Declaration of Court Emergency on March 16, 2020 and a Supervisory Order addressing access to the Courts for emergency needs. The order is available on the Adams County website under Courts.

Adams County residents are urged to follow the recommendations of Federal, State and Local Health officials to reduce exposure and a spiked peak level of COVID-19. Contracting the virus can be especially serious to our older residents and those with immune deficiencies. Be cognizant of your distance, contacts, surfaces and surroundings. Testing is currently available in Adams County; just not up on a walk-up personal request basis. The amount of test kits is not infinite and you must meet certain criteria, to have the test ordered, to preserve supplies for those with more targeted symptoms or exposure. At the time of this release there are no confirmed cases in Adams County. There are confirmed cases in neighboring counties. Treat this as a serious threat and follow common sense recommendations to minimize and slow down this pandemic. Also, there is a serious need for blood donors. Donating blood does not present any additional risk to the donor. Let us come together and look out for each other in the weeks ahead!

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