

March 13, 2020, 3:00PM

To: Adams County Staff & Community  
From: Randy Phiel  
Subject: Declaration of Disaster Emergency

The Adams County Board of Commissioners is preparing to sign and ratify a Declaration Of Disaster Emergency for the County of Adams, Pennsylvania due to the COVID-19. Commissioner Chairman Randy Phiel announced that the Adams County Board of Commissioners are preparing to sign the document tomorrow with ratification at their next public meeting on March 25.

The Declaration of Disaster Emergency 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. 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.

The document states that Commissioners direct 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. The declaration also allows the commissioners to create a Leadership Council to advise the Chief Administrative Officer and Department of Emergency Services Director in response to COVID-19 that shall consist of the Board of Commissioners, Chief Clerk, Human Resources and the County Solicitor and any and all additional members as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Commissioners. This Leadership Council shall meet as needed in response to COVID-19 without the need to formally advertise times and places of meetings due to the exigent and evolving circumstances of this disaster.

The Adams County Commissioners, pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501(d), authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

The Declaration is also necessary for obtaining any future Federal reimbursements related to the disaster. At this time Adams County Government is fully functional with staff rotation and work-at-home to reduce exposure; but still maintain services. The Adams County Department of Emergency Services (911) has been closed to the public and the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex has instituted several changes in protocols due to the virus. The Adams County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is operating at level 3, which is situational awareness. Chairman Phiel requests that residents reduce visits to county facilities if at all possible and utilize the Adams County website at [www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us) or by telephone at 717-334-6781.

Chairman Phiel also reminds resident's that on Monday, March 16, Adams County President Judge Michael George, issued Supervisory Order 2020-SO-16 declaring a Judicial Emergency in the 51st judicial District effective through April 14. The Order allows re-scheduling in most Court related matters, except for necessary and essential business.

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