

## **Adams County Board Updates – March 27, 2020**

- Following federal and state recommendations, and for the health, safety and welfare of our community, the Adams County Board of Commissioners and the Adams County Court of Common Pleas, is announcing the extension of county closure through April 10, 2020. All County Departments are remaining open on a work-at-home status through phone and email. Emergency Court proceedings and filings are taking place on a case by case basis. The Commissioners and Courts will re-evaluate the closure as this pandemic unfolds.
- As of early this afternoon Governor Tom Wolf, has issued and extended a Stay At Home order for York, Lancaster & Berks County's in a bid to counter the spread of COVID-19. With today's additions nineteen counties are now under that order. The order for these counties goes into effect at 8PM this evening and states that all individuals in counties subjected to this order must stay at home except for certain essential activities and work to provide life-sustaining business and government services. Individuals may leave their residence only to perform allowable individual activities and allowable essential travel.
- Adams County Human Resources has confirmed that a county employee has self-reported exposure to a family member that has tested positive for the Coronavirus. Following recommended protocols, and in an abundance of caution, that employee and several members of that employee's staff have been notified and are voluntarily following the recommended 14-day quarantine. Human Resources will continue to monitor the situation.
- Four Departments have been designated by the Board of Commissioners and by the Court as Emergency Responder Personnel. Both the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act include provisions that allow employers to exclude employees who are considered emergency responders from eligibility for these new benefits. We recognize the commitment and dedication that is required of our Emergency Responders. Our communities rely on the continuity of essential services that we provide, often at great personal sacrifice to those who are providing them. The determination to designate these County employees is not one that was made lightly. We take great pride in the work ethic and professionalism of these men and women.

- Given the need for continuity of essential services, Adams County has designated the following employees as exempt from the provisions of the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act:
  1. Corrections Officers at the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex;
  2. Sheriff's Deputies; and
  3. 911 Center Dispatchers
  
- Pursuant to Supervisory Judicial Order NO. 2020-SO-29 Probation Officers are hereby designated by the Court as Emergency Responder Personnel, and as such, they are exempt from the provisions of the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act:
  4. Probation Officers
  
- The Adams County Department of Emergency Services is requesting that any business, industry or individual, that has surplus Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as n95 masks, face shields, gloves and gowns, and is willing to donate them to Adams County first responders, please contact DES Director Warren Bladen at 717-334-8603.
  
- Recognizing the financial hardships caused by this pandemic, the Adams County Board of Commissioners announced that they will extend by 2 months the 2% discount and at par periods for this spring county tax. The 2% will be extended from April 30, 2020 to June 30, 2020 and the at par rate will then be in place until October 31, 2020. The Adams County Board of Commissioners is requesting that all 34 municipalities follow this format, and from preliminary responses the indications are that it will happen.
  
- The Pennsylvania Primary Election scheduled for April 28, has been changed to Tuesday, June 2. The legislation allows for polling places to be consolidated and poll workers to be drawn from anywhere in the county. Voters are reminded that there is a new mail-in opportunity for all registered voters.
  
- The Adams County Conservation Annual Tree sale, scheduled for April 16, has been canceled. This year's participants will receive a full refund for their orders, or they can choose to donate their payments to the Adams County Conservation District.

- The need for Blood Donations continues in Adams County and across the region. Blood donations have decreased as routine blood drives are canceled and blood drive locations have become unavailable. One in every ten hospital admissions requires blood. One blood donation can infuse an infant numerous times. Please contact Wellspan, UMPC or the American Red Cross for information to donate blood.
- The commissioners and other municipal partners are working with local non-profits and community groups to identify residents in need of services, especially immediate and near-term Food Supplies. For the moment residents who want to help our community should focus on three items. First, keep yourself safe. Second, safely check in with your family, friends, neighbors, and community groups to identify those in need. Third, donate to LOCAL community groups that you feel comfortable supporting. All of them need your support right now. At this time we are told that emergency food supplies are adequate; but non-profits will need funds to keep their doors open and to purchase more necessary supplies.
- Wellspan is currently working with Destination Gettysburg and community groups to identify safe places for people in need of quarantine to be housed. Some residents, who test positive or are awaiting a test result, are unable to return to their home. Although today this is not an emergency, thankfully our local community is putting processes in place for this eventuality. The County has agreed to be an intermediary in this process if necessary.

Keep Up The Good Work Adams County! Thank you to all our residents who recognize the seriousness of this pandemic and are following the recommendations to slow the virus while protecting yourself, your family and others. As of today, Adams County has 8 confirmed Coronavirus cases. Although we are not exactly sure what lies ahead, we are doing a commendable job as a community in keeping the curve from dramatically spiking. We cannot thank enough our medical personnel, first responders, and those who are providing us critical everyday services like gas, grocery's and medicine that we need, for their dedication, risk and sacrifice exhibited during this medical crisis.

THANK YOU!

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