

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**I am posting the attached document, approved by the Love County Board of County Commissioners and the County Elected Officials. The release addresses the steps taken by the Board and County Officials this afternoon to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the citizens in, and the employees of, Love County.**

March 25, 2020

**First AMENDED Precautions placed in effect after Emergency Proclamation Dated March 17, 2020**

Marietta, Oklahoma, the Love County Board of County Commissioners declared an emergency during their emergency board meeting held on March 17, 2020 and approved amendments to the Emergency Proclamation on March 23 and March 25. The declaration was in response to the COVID-19 virus and the Executive Order issued by the Governor declaring an Emergency in Oklahoma; and the First Emergency Joint Order regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, handed down by the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. The Commissioners, along with the department heads from each office agreed to implement the following precautions, effective during said declared emergency by this board:

- Any employee exhibiting signs of illness are required to stay home until they are fever free, without medication, for a minimum period of 24 hours; and, if the employee is symptomatic of COVID-19, they are to be quarantined for a period of not less than 14 days;
- **AMENDED: Effective March 25 at 4:30PM the Love County Courthouse will be closed to the public; excluding Court access, pursuant to Judge, District Attorney and Court Clerk. Business for each county office can be conducted by telephoning the office needed and scheduling an appointment for contact. Each office will have a representative to come to the security check point (2<sup>nd</sup> floor eastside door of the Courthouse) to meet with the appointment.**
- **All entering the Courthouse may be subject to screening and may be denied access, if necessary.**
- Persons without business in the courthouse will be denied access, i.e., friends/family members of a person with business in the courthouse will be denied access;
- Employees with compromised immune systems are authorized to work from home;
- All common areas within the courthouse will be sanitized daily;
- Events scheduled for the Love County Fairgrounds within the upcoming weeks will be cancelled;

- That as much County business as possible be conducted by phone;
- That payments, and other business of the County offices be handled via mail, or other delivery service;
- The April 2020 jury docket has been postponed; and,
- All employees are encouraged to practice “social distancing,” and to wash hands frequently.

It was noted that this is a fluid situation and that more restrictive measures may need to be taken in the future. The Board and County Officials made it clear that the precautions were taken in order to protect the public, and the staff members in each County Office.

It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to protect the health, safety and well-being of each person, whether they are members of the general public, or are employees of Love County. The general public is encouraged to contact the County Office in which they need to conduct business to determine whether a trip to the courthouse is necessary as there are other ways to conduct a community member’s business without a trip to the courthouse.

As a note, **the tax deadline has been extended to April 30, 2020, without penalties.** This is tax season and many Love County residents need to make payments, or request a protest of the assessed value of their property. Payments may be mailed to the office in which they are due, or, may be placed in a drop box for the same office. Any protest may be lodged by phone by calling the Love County Assessor’s Office and renditions of property may be delivered via US Mail, facsimile, or left with security at the entrance of the Love County Courthouse.

**Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.**

**Stacy Rushing, Vice-Chairman  
Love County  
Board of County Commissioners**