



FROM:
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County Administrator (322-4300)

For Immediate Release:
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BUTLER COUNTY FACILITIES CLOSURE AND DECLARATION

El Dorado, KS —The Butler County Commission held a special meeting today adopting a Public Health Emergency Declaration and closure of Butler County facilities to the public beginning Monday, March 23rd, through Friday, April 3rd, to mirror the preventative actions being taken by the State of Kansas.

The declaration passed today will allow the County access to additional resources that under normal conditions are unavailable from the State Division of Emergency Management. The declarations also provides tort liability protection for first responders and temporarily suspends purchasing requirements needed for the response phase of this incident.

Beginning Monday, March 23rd, all Butler County Facilities will be restricted from Public Access. Buildings will remain open only to County employees, mail deliveries, and available essential business for individuals by appointment only through Friday, April 3rd. As this crisis continues to evolve, the County Commission will review restriction requirements weekly. The purpose of these closures is to minimize our employees' exposure to the public in order that, should the crisis pandemic reach Butler County, our mission-critical employees have the best opportunity to remain healthy and deliver those essential services provided by Butler County.

During the closure County Commission meetings will be closed to public attendance. To comply with Kansas Open Meetings Act requirements the Commission meetings are viewable through live stream via the County's website and the County's Granicus agenda management software. Follow this link to watch meetings: http://bucoks.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1

No non-essential external County operations involving public contact will be allowed through April 3rd. Examples of these services include building inspections, day care inspections and data collection.

The Butler County Landfill will remain open, as the operations of the landfill are an essential function of Butler County and public health. Public Works crews will remain in the field working where there is not contact with the public. Modifications of the afore mentioned work functions and openings may change as warranted.

The County Commission is committed to the health and safety of our employees and citizens and to delivering the services necessary to carry Butler County through this crisis. The Commission will review the situation at their normally scheduled weekly meetings and may extend the closures as necessary.

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