



Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Blackwell:

March 16, 2020-

The City of Blackwell has declared a State of Emergency and is encouraging citizens to stay indoors and practice safe social distancing. We recommend handwashing often and make sure that you stay hydrated. These precautions are a response to the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) which just had its first confirmed case in Ponca City over the weekend.

Cory Hanebrink has been designated as Emergency Management Director by our City Manager/CEO, Janet Smith. They are requesting that residents call or email staff at city hall for assistance, rather than come in person. A full staff will be present to help anyone needing to conduct business with the city. This request is made in an effort to help keep everyone healthy so we can continue serving the public.

The City of Blackwell is declaring a State of Emergency, allowing access to federal funding. Please note that a State of Emergency does NOT mean the City of Blackwell is in a pandemic state at this time.

For bill payment, it is advised to do so online to reduce the risk of possible infection. Due to the circumstance, the City of Blackwell will be waiving the \$1.25 online convenience fee for bill payment. Bills may be paid online by visiting cityofblackwell.org and clicking "Pay Bill" under the "Residents" tab. Residents are encouraged to use the drop box outside for physical payments.

The Blackwell City Council will be meeting for their regularly scheduled meeting Thursday night, March 19. Residents are advised, for their safety and the safety of city employees, staff, and

Council, to stay home and keep up with the meeting through Facebook, where it is broadcast live. There will be no 4 p.m. work session that night.

The Blackwell Public Library will be available for curbside pickup service if residents will phone ahead. The library staff want to continue to serve our residents so please call and let them know what you may need, and they do still plan to serve meals for children.

The Police Department Dispatch area will be closed to the public, however the number to call for assistance is the Dispatch number. Police officers will continue their normal patrol at this time.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise that COVID-19 is a person-to-person illness and that the best ways to avoid the virus are to clean your hands often (washing for 20 seconds, and using hand sanitizer of 60% alcohol or more), to avoid contact with people and especially those who may be infected, to stay home if you aren't feeling well, cover coughs and sneezes, and wear a facial mask if you are sick.

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

If you believe that you are sick: please INFORM first responders beforehand if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Stay home and avoid close contact with pets or other people