



Press Release- Immediate Release for City of Blackwell's State of Emergency

March 18, 2020-

The City of Blackwell is working in cooperation with Kay County and the State of Oklahoma- who have both announced emergency declarations- to keep residents safe. The following advisories have been released as precautions during this State of Emergency which is to last until April 15.

Senior Citizens: It has been advised by Governor Stitt that all men and women over the age of 65 avoid public gatherings as they are the most at-risk for complications from COVID-19.

For these individuals, stores like Wal-Mart and the Dollar General have encouraged them to shop there within the stores opening hours when fewer people are in, and the store is at its most clean. Wal-Mart will be offering curbside service as well to those over 65, and it is encouraged to call ahead, and Dollar General will open at 8 a.m. for those 65 and older.

Public Events:

- All events on City of Blackwell property, right-of-ways, and city owned or leased facilities that consist of gatherings of 50 or more people shall be cancelled or postponed.
- All City Exclusive Use Permits previously issued or pending for a date from

March 16, 2020 through May 12, 2020 are hereby revoked.

Restaurants:

- Restaurants, bars, and other privately-owned gathering places are highly encouraged to limit the number of patrons to 10 so that at least six (6) feet of space is available to each patron. Such facilities are further encouraged to transition to “take-out” or “delivery” options.

Facilities:

The following facilities for the City of Blackwell shall be closed and all programming and/or events scheduled at said locations shall be postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this Emergency Proclamation dated March 16, 2020 or Blackwell Public Schools are back in session.

- Blackwell Public Library (curbside access only)

- All City-owned sports facilities

- Park pavilions and walking trails will remain open for individual access, however, all public and private gatherings, meetings, and events are hereby postponed and/or cancelled and no permits for gatherings, meetings, and events shall be issued until the expiration of this emergency proclamation

Meetings:

Meetings of all City of Blackwell authorities, boards, commissions, committees, and trusts are hereby postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this Emergency Proclamation dated March 16, 2020. All meetings of the Blackwell City Council, and Blackwell Municipal Authority (BMA) are exempt from this cancellation requirement.

These meetings will remain open to the public, but steps will be taken to ensure no close

contact between attendees. The maximum number of those allowed to attend are 10 persons a gathering. At this time, "Public Comments" sections of the agenda have been removed to ensure public health and safety. These meetings will be broadcast via "Facebook Live".

Court:

All Blackwell Municipal Court Dockets are cancelled until the expiration of the Emergency Proclamation dated March 16, 2020. Cases scheduled for arraignment, hearing, and trial will be rescheduled. The Municipal Judge shall issue an order rescheduling cases and the Municipal Court Clerk shall provide notifications of the new court dates.

Utilities:

The City of Blackwell Utility Services:

- In lieu of making utility bill payments at the Utility Office at Blackwell City Hall, customers are encouraged to make check, money order, or cash payments through the drop box or by mail.
- Card payments can also be made through the City's website at cityofblackwell.org
- Payment and/or questions can still be handled at City Hall if necessary.
- The \$1.25 convenience fee online is being waived at this time.

In-Person Gatherings:

All in-person gatherings for social, spiritual, and recreational purposes including but not limited to community civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events, parades, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, and similar activities are strongly discouraged until the expiration of this Emergency Proclamation dated March 16, 2020.

Public Transport:

Users of public transportation are encouraged to maintain a distance of at least three feet from other people/riders.

IT IS ENCOURAGED THAT EVENTS OF ANY SIZE SHOULD ONLY BE CONTINUED IF THAT CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITH ADHERENCE TO GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, HAND HYGEINE, AND SOCIAL DISTANCING, WHEN FEASIBLE, ORGANIZERS SHOULD CONSIDER MODIFYING EVENTS TO BE VIRTUAL.