

IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF RESTRICTED ACCESS
TO COUNTY FACILITIES TO PROTECT THE
HEALTH OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND
THE PUBLIC

FILED

MAR 13 2020

**TERRI HOLLINGSWORTH
CIRCUIT COUNTY CLERK**

2020-0060
EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in China; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, in response to the recent COVID-19 outbreak in China, Iran, Italy and South Korea, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict non-essential travel to or from those countries; and

WHEREAS, in response to the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Japan, the CDC has advised older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions to avoid nonessential travel and all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families in the United States, including voluntary home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and disposal of the tissue immediately thereafter, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with 60%-95% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available and routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects to increase community resilience and readiness for responding to an outbreak; and

WHEREAS, one individual in the State of Arkansas tested positive with COVID-19 and additional individuals are presumptively positive with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures in communities with COVID-19 cases, including staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick and staying at home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, Pulaski County must ensure, as best as can be reasonably accomplished, the health and safety of county employees and the public served by Pulaski County, and to provide for continued services by Pulaski County to our public. This order is entered following consultation with health professionals and officials knowledgeable in the current state of affairs and preventative medicine.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARRY HYDE, as Pulaski County Judge, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Amendment 55, Section 3 of the Arkansas Constitution, as the chief executive of Pulaski County and the custodian of county property, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take effect Friday, March 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.:

Public access to the Pulaski County Administration Building, Pulaski County Courthouse, Pulaski County Regional Building (Bale Building), Prosecutor's Office, and the Pulaski County District Court/Juvenile Court Complex is restricted through March 31, 2020 to limit public exposure to COVID-19.


Access to each listed building is limited to County Employees, Court Employees and Elected Officials having offices in or conducting business in the respective building.

Persons seeking orders of protection shall be permitted entry to the Pulaski County Courthouse to complete and file documents for that purpose. Persons having business before the courts should contact the court to determine whether their presence is required. The County will provide reasonable accommodation on a request of the Judge(s) of the courts.

Business should be conducted digitally, by phone, email, online or video conference, if at all possible. If not possible, persons needing to conduct in person business with county offices should contact the office to schedule a meeting appropriate to their needs. Business that is not time sensitive should be postponed until after March 31, 2020, if at all possible.

County and court employees will report to work as normal, unless they or a member of their household is sick, or feeling ill, and the same must be reported to their supervisor. All are strongly recommended to practice good personal hygiene, including but not limited to, regularly washing hands with soap and warm water. Social distancing is also recommended.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



BARRY HYDE, PULASKI COUNTY
JUDGE/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER