

FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-9

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS BY IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY TO SLOW THE COMMUNITY SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, the Fall River County Commission has the authority to pass Resolutions, per SDCL§7-8-20 (10), for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals and general welfare, of the community and the promotion of health and the suppression of disease; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of the disease COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, has been confirmed in more than 100 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease transmitted by person-to-person contact, or by contact with surfaces contaminated by the virus. In some cases, especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions, COVID-19 can result in serious illness requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on the same day, Governor Kristi Noem, issued Executive Order 2020-04 which declared a state of emergency to exist in the State of South Dakota in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Western South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and health experts have recommended social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is a method of slowing down or stopping the spread of a contagious disease by reducing the probability of contact between infected persons and those not infected in order to minimize disease transmission; and

WHEREAS, in response to the need to implement social distancing all schools in the state have been closed for at least two weeks; and

WHEREAS, on March 16th, 2020, the White House issued guidance recommending that social gatherings of more than ten people be avoided and

WHEREAS, the failure to successfully implement social distancing will likely result in higher numbers of infected individuals and has the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the County's

health care providers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that control measures be taken to reduce or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of the County's residents, especially for seniors and those with underlying health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fall River County Commission that:

1. Effective immediately, all Fall River County Facilities are closed to the general public. County and Unified Judicial System offices will continue to operate and conduct business by mail, email, online, by phone or by arranging to work face-to-face/in person on a case-by-case basis.
2. Effective immediately, in cases when a member(s) of the public displays symptoms of COVID-19, as specified by the South Dakota Department of Health, the County offices are directed to refuse face-to-face/in person service and encourage the individual(s) to seek medical attention as specified by public health authorities.
3. This Resolution shall remain in effect until the last commissioner meeting of April (April 21st, 2020), at such time it may be extended or repealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of Fall River County and shall become effective immediately upon passage.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2020.

Joe Falkenburg
Fall River County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Sue Ganje
Fall River County Auditor



FALL RIVER & OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY TREASURER

906 North River Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone: 605-745-5145
Fax: 605-745-3530

March 26, 2020

RE: Face to Face Interaction between Staff and Public

Dear Commissioners,

Thank You for taking the time to meet with us about our concerns with the face to face contact we have with the public.

I feel very passionate about doing what I can to keep my customers, staff and family safe from the Global pandemic that we are living with. I would like to explain my part in it and let you know from a Treasurers Office what we can do to keep people safe.

The State DMV is still closed, meaning if we have any issues with the State DMV system, we may not get immediate assistance or if there is a problem with the customers record, they will have to come in at a later time to get it fixed. The State of South Dakota understands the inconvenience of this and have extended the renewals and title transfer deadlines until May 1, 2020 knowing that at the county level there are some delays and encouraging customers to not have to come into the county offices to handle their business. The Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe has a Travel ban in place and will fine its residents for going anywhere but essential places.

Just a few examples of what we currently have in place for my office; we are sanitizing EVERYTHING all the time. We keep our front door closed from easy entrance from other departments, we choose to call or email instead of walking over and having that interaction with other departments. We wash our hands on a regular basis. We encourage customers to call in or mail in their business so they do not have to come in and stand in line with other customers. We have public notices posted on the doors, websites, radio stations and Facebook pages.

This still doesn't stop the public from coming into the office and having unnecessary face to face contact and they will continue to do so as long as the window or doors are open. I am at the point where face to face contact needs to stop. We have an obligation to keep customers, employees and their families safe. This is too scary of a thing to play around with. The end of the month is generally the busiest time for my office and I regret that I haven't been more proactive in getting the face to face option shut down sooner. Just having that option available still brings the people in.



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It is important that you understand that by shutting my windows and not letting the public have that option, we can still function 100%. It's not costing the county any money to shut my window, it's only protecting ourselves and others and encouraging people to follow the guidelines, recommendations and closures set fourth by the Tribe, CDC and Governor.

Attached I have a map for you. I have been in contact with every Treasurer's Office in the state and I have pointed out some good information you need to know. The counties in yellow are the counties that have shut down access to the public having face to face contact by either shutting down the individuals department or locking the court house doors all together. The green counties are the counties that are still open with restrictions; like we are currently in. You will also notice that there are meeting dates on some of those counties where they will be meeting and more than likely going from green on my map to yellow.

I am just asking that you understand the necessity of this to keep your employees safe and understand that we can still operate at full capacity by shutting down the face to face contact for a bit. Again, I am very passionate about this decision and all I'm trying to do is the right thing. I live with a high risk child and I am taking this very seriously and will do anything I can to not bring this home to him. This decision can make a world of difference.

Thank You,

Kelli Rhoe
Fall River/Oglala Lakota County Treasurer

