

**For Immediate Release**

**March 17, 2020**

**Pottawattamie County Courthouse**

Today, Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors met with other county elected officials and department administrators to discuss contingency operations in lieu of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Out of an abundance of caution for the protection of our citizens and employees, the Board of Supervisors has made the decision to close the Pottawattamie County Courthouse to the public indefinitely or until conditions have significantly improved. This statement is effective 4:30 PM March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Pottawattamie County officials will fully cooperate and enforce Governor Kim Reynolds's guidelines as outlined in her Statement of Public Health Disaster Emergency.

The closure will not deny all services provided to the public. Essential county functions such as the 911 Call Center, Emergency Management Office, Jail, Public Health, Planning & Zoning and Sheriff's Office will continue to operate with slight modifications to protect citizens and employees' health. Other regular county functions will continue to provide services via email, online, by special appointment, postal mail, or over the telephone. Please review services by each department on the Pottawattamie County webpage: [www.PottCounty-IA.gov](http://www.PottCounty-IA.gov)

Pottawattamie County is dedicated to slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Useful tips include:

- Avoiding Social Gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.
- Avoid Discretionary Travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
- Practice Good Hygiene
  - o Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
  - o Avoid touching your face.
  - o Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
  - o Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
- If your children are sick, keep them at home and contact your medical provider.
- If someone in your household has tested positive for the coronavirus, keep everyone at home.
- If you are an older person, stay at home and away from other people.
- If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition that can put you at an increased risk stay home and away from other people.

**Notable Resources:**

- Pottawattamie County has a COVID-19 hotline (712-890-5368 or 712-890-5369) that is open M-F 8 a.m. 4 p.m. Outside of those hours should call 2-1-1 for the United Way hotline.
- For the latest COVID-19 preparedness, response, and public information for Pottawattamie County, visit Pott County EMA. <https://pcema-ia.org/>
- For more information regarding the COVID-19 virus, including information on signs and symptoms, visit IDPH COVID-19 Resources. <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention also has recourse available on the CDC website. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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