

**Thomas County's Modification to Kansas Executive Order 20-52**  
**Resolution #2020-15**

**WHEREAS**, securing the health, safety, and economic well-being of our residents is this Thomas County Board of County Commissioner's top priority;

**WHEREAS**, Thomas County is facing both a public health and economic crisis – the pandemic and public health emergency of COVID-19 – which has resulted in illness, quarantines, school closures, and temporary closure of businesses resulting in lost wages and financial hardship to Kansas citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020 the Governor of Kansas signed a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation, pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924, and the powers and effects of this proclamation are continuing. Governor Laura Kelly directed activation of the Kansas Response Plan and the utilization of all available resources of the state government and each political subdivision as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster; and to perform and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of all populations;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq. and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5), declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, as of this date, in Thomas County there have been 15 reported positive cases of COVID-19 and 13 recoveries, including zero deaths with a likely second wave of COVID-19 cases expected in the Fall;

**WHEREAS**, Thomas County must remain flexible to account for the evolving nature and scope of the unprecedented public health emergency posed by COVID-19, while also simultaneously beginning the process of safely, strategically, and incrementally reopening business and facilitating economic recovery and revitalization;

**WHEREAS**, for the aforementioned and other reasons, and in recognition and furtherance of our responsibility to provide for and ensure the health, safety, security, and welfare of the people of the Thomas County, Thomas County has determined that the evolving public health and economic threats posed by COVID-19 require a proactive approach to maintain the health, safety, security, and welfare of the people of the Thomas County;

**WHEREAS**, in these challenging times, Thomas County will work to avoid immediate dangers to the health, safety, and welfare of our constituents and prepare for future waves of COVID-19, including providing medical guidance and for entities who are making difficult and important decisions to protect the health and safety of their populations all while facing significant economic challenges;

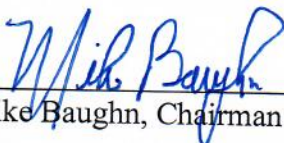


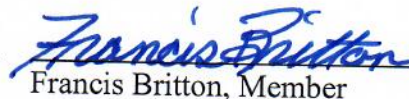
**WHEREAS**, the Thomas County Board of County Commissioners, in consultation with the local health officer and other local health officials, are better suited to make Thomas County specific and flexible provisions to protect the citizens and businesses of Thomas County against the quickly changing threats of COVID-19;

**BE IT RESOVLED THAT**, pursuant to the authority vested in Thomas County Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to K.S.A. 48-925(h), as it now exists, the Thomas County Board of County Commissioners make the following findings:

1. After consultation with the local health officer and other local health officials regarding the Governor's Executive Order 20-52; and
2. Following such consultation with the local health officer and other local health officials regarding the Governor's Executive Order 20-52, implementation of the full scope of the provisions in the governor's executive order are not necessary to protect the public health and safety of Thomas County; and
3. The Thomas County Board of County Commissioners find that with only 15 cases and 13 recoveries, the Governor's Executive Order 20-52 is overbroad and unnecessary to make mandates and requirements to protect the citizens of Thomas County.
4. The Thomas County Board of County Commissioners find the following are appropriate measures that can be taken by the citizens of Thomas County and visiting guests and that **the Governor's Executive Order 20-52 is only a recommendation and that we will not allow enforcement thereof in Thomas County**

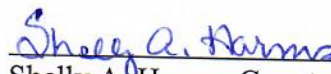
**ADOPTED & APPROVED**, by the Thomas County Board of County Commissioners, Thomas County, Kansas this 2nd day of July, 2020. This document shall be filed with the Thomas County Clerk's Office. It shall become effective as of July 2, 2020.

  
Mike Baughn, Chairman

  
Francis Britton, Member

  
Brad Flipse, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Shelly A. Harms, County Clerk