

Thomas County's Order Modifying Kansas Executive Order 20-59

Resolution #2020-16

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

WHEREAS, per Governor Kelly's Executive Order 20-59, Kansas is facing a crisis-the pandemic and public health emergency of COVID-19-resulting in illness, quarantines, school closures, and temporary closure of businesses resulting in lost wages and financial hardship to Kansas citizens;

WHEREAS, the United States Departments of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning January 27, 2020, with now more than 3,698,000 cases of the illness and more than 139,000 deaths as a result of the illness across the United States;

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

WHEREAS, a State of Disaster Emergency was proclaimed for the State of Kansas on March 12, 2020;

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;

THEREFORE, we, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners consider Governor Kelly's Executive Order 20-59 as it applies to Thomas County, Kansas.

WHEREAS, as of this date, in Thomas County there have been 32 reported positive cases of COVID-19, with zero deaths;

WHEREAS, Thomas County must remain flexible to account for the evolving nature and scope of the unprecedented public health emergency posed by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Thomas County Board of County Commissioners recognize that there are multiple school districts within the jurisdiction with varying student and staff populations;


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, the Thomas County Board of County Commissioners has determined that the evolving public health threats posed by COVID-19 requires an individual school district specific approach to implement commonsense mitigation measures to protect the safety and health of teachers, administrators, and students.

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 20-59; and
2. Following such consultation with the local health officer and other local health officials regarding the Governor's Executive Order 20-59, 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 finds that a less stringent approach to Executive Order 20-59 is appropriate in Thomas County; specifically that each individual school district will be better equipped to handle and make requirements of their students and staff as the scientific knowledge about Covid-19 continues to change and be updated frequently.

ADOPTED & APPROVED, by the Thomas County Board of County Commissioners, Thomas County, Kansas this 31st day of July, 2020. This document shall be filed with the Thomas County Clerk's Office. It shall become effective as of July 31st, 2020.

ATTEST:


Shelly A. Harms, County Clerk




Mike Baughn, Chairman


Francis Britton, Member


Brad Flipse, Member