

Dear Fellow Yankton County Residents,

By now, I assume most of you know that the Governor closed all school districts next week as an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19. Area medical advisors, the City and County held a joint press conference today, March 13 at 5:30pm, so please refer to media outlets for detailed information that was presented.

**Our main message is "please do not panic".** For most folks, this is not a life-threatening situation. However, this is a contagious bug which requires our full attention and smart response. All of us should take precautions in order to slow the spread and to not overwhelm our medical providers. If you are ill, please stay home. Wash your hands. Don't touch your face. Keep your distance.

**So what about next week for county business.** County buildings will be open. However, we ask the community to refrain from doing county business unless it is absolutely necessary because of legal time constraints. Calling first is the best option. If there are tasks that can be accomplished via mail or online, we ask that you use these options or to simply delay your county business for 7-10 days.

**We are postponing non-essential county meetings.** At this time, the commission meeting on Tuesday March 17 will take place. We will evaluate if there is a call-in option for citizens to listen live versus attending in person. Our county commission meetings are always video recorded for review on our website. At this meeting, we will review and adopt a resolution for emergency declaration.

Exactly one year ago today, our county faced an unprecedented flood event. We overcame that challenge with unselfish teamwork and a great deal of patience. We will overcome this event as well.

Be safe and be well.

***Cheri Loest***

Chair, Yankton County Commission