

Kelli Wollmann, Commission Chair
Aaron Johnson, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2020

Madison, SD – On April 28, 2020, Governor Noem released South Dakota’s Back to Normal Plan and Executive Order 2020-20 with direction to local governments to consider current and future actions in light of the guidelines outlined in those plans. The Plan encourages local governments to begin to resume normal activity with a well-followed and deliberate plan to account for the inherent uncertainties of this pandemic.

As we have stated before, the safety and health of our community and our employees will always be a top priority, and any decisions to limit or restrict services will be made with that priority in mind.

Even though office doors have been locked, county employees have shown innovation and quickly adapted to new ways of conducting business. Over the next few weeks, county offices will be working to develop and implement a more long-term plan of operation. Effective Monday, June 1, county office doors will again be open, but the county will still be taking active steps to mitigate the risk to our employees and the public, maintain healthy business operations, and maintain a healthy work environment. Department heads will be given the discretion and flexibility to take steps that best suit the needs of their office and employees, which may include things such as:

- 1) Reducing in-person contacts with the public by requiring appointments;
- 2) Limiting the number of people in the office at one time;
- 3) Conducting business and delivering services remotely (phone, video, web);
- 4) Implementing flexible scheduling and/or telework and supportive policies and practices for employees;
- 5) Increasing physical space between employees and between employees and the public;
- 6) Using videoconferencing or teleconferencing for work-related meetings and gatherings; and
- 7) Utilizing PPE, plexiglass, and other protective measures.

In addition to these operational changes, county employees will continue to practice good hygiene and sanitation practices, stay home when sick, and practice physical distancing, as appropriate.

Also effective Monday, June 1, Lake County will resume accepting applications for use of its facilities for in-person events. Each application will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using current CDC interim guidance, which takes into account factors such as the overall number of attendees, population risk, density of attendees, level of transmission in the community and in areas from which attendees may travel. Applicants may be required to take active steps to mitigate risk during their event.

It has been said often that responding to COVID-19 is a marathon, not a sprint. While we wish we were near the finish line, we know that are simply entering another stage of the race. As this situation continues to evolve, we will continue to adapt and modify our operations accordingly.

We thank the public in advance for their patience and cooperation as we work to adapt to our new normal.

Department contact information is listed below:

Auditor: 256-7600 / lakeauditor@lake.sd.gov

Treasurer: 256-7618 / Debra.Walburg@state.sd.us

Register of Deeds: 256-7614 / lakerod@lake.sd.gov
Equalization: 256-7605 / lakedoe@lake.sd.gov
Zoning / Welfare: 605-256-7610 / lakezoning@lake.sd.gov
Community Health Nurse: 256-5309 / DOHMadisonClinic@state.sd.us
Veteran Services: 256-7612 / lakevso@lake.sd.gov
Emergency Management Office: 256-7611 / lakeema@lake.sd.gov
Highway Department: 256-7606 / lakehwy@lake.sd.gov
Building Maintenance: 256-7623 / lakebldg@lake.sd.gov
Extension: 256-7603 / Lake.County@sdstate.edu
911 Communications: 256-7620 / lake911@lake.sd.gov
Sheriff's Office / Jail: 256-7615 / tim.walburg@lake.sd.gov
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