

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-3-1

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO COUNTY FACILITIES
IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY CAUSED BY
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID 19”) is a severe respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a rapidly spreading virus that is transmitted from human-to-human and results in symptoms that include fever, cough, acute respiratory distress, pneumonia, and even death;

WHEREAS, it is believed that COVID-19 had never been contracted by a human prior to December 2019, therefore humans have no natural immunity to the disease;

WHEREAS, it is believed this lack of natural immunity is one contributing factor to the disease spreading so quickly worldwide and infecting over 200,000 people in approximately ninety (90) days, resulting in the deaths of over 150 Americans, including 2 Hoosiers;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak has affected more than 162 countries and territories around the world, including the United States, and is a pandemic;

WHEREAS, there is currently no vaccine or cure for COVID-19;

WHEREAS, citizens over the age of sixty (60) years old as well as those with compromised immune systems who contract COVID-19 are particularly susceptible to suffer from serious conditions, including death, the current mortality rate for COVID-19 is significantly higher for these citizens;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the COVID-19-outbreak a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern”;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Department Secretary declared a public health emergency for the United States;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a National Emergency and the President, Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other agencies of the federal government have continued to issue orders, directives, and recommendations to the public in order to slow the spread of the virus and enable the health care system to respond effectively;

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Governor Eric J. Holcomb issued an Executive Order declaring the COVID-19 outbreak a public health disaster emergency, in accordance with I.C. 10-14-3, and that the Governor, Indiana Department of Health, and various other agencies of the State of Indiana continue to issue further orders, directives, and recommendations in response to the disease;

WHEREAS, there are currently no known cases of persons diagnosed with COVID-19 in Morgan County, IN, but there may be in the near future.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners and their agents have been in regular contact with agents from the Morgan County Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Health ("ISDH"), first responders, law enforcement, local hospitals and health care providers, and other related entities in order to obtain the latest information and to be prepared for citizens of Morgan County to contract COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners urges all citizens to follow the Orders issued by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Indiana in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible with the goal of not overburdening our health care system and its dedicated personnel;

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of the citizens of Morgan County, as well as that of all citizens of our State, Nation, and the World at large, is the preeminent concern of the Board of Commissioners;

WHEREAS, health care professionals, virologists, academics, and other experts have stressed that social distancing, or limiting close personal contact, is the most effective way to slow the spread of the disease and best enable our health care system, and that all levels of government have issued several Orders and directives aimed at that goal;

WHEREAS, that as the Executive of the County, the Board of Commissioners has control of and responsibility for County property, including its real property, buildings, and facilities;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners are mindful of the importance of an open government and that County property and offices belong to the people;

WHEREAS, that while limiting access to public buildings is not a desirable action in any circumstance, the ongoing concern for the virus, along with Orders issued from higher levels of government including the Governor of the State of Indiana, along with the best interest of the country, and in the interest for human life, additional measures to limit human contact are appropriate and warranted;

THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, in accordance with Orders and directives from the Governor of the State of Indiana, I.C. 10-14-3, and Morgan County

Code of Ordinances Chapter 34 and 34.13, the Commissioners hereby **ORDER** as follows:

Sec. 1. LIMITED ACCESS TO COUNTY OFFICES

A. County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St., Martinsville

Effective at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2020, the County Administration Building will be closed to the general public and access will be limited to employees and members of the public who obtain an appointment in order to conduct necessary business.

Citizens who have business to conduct in an office within the County Administration Building should contact said office and request an appointment. Elected officials and leaders of each department will instruct employees to encourage that such business be conducted electronically, by phone, by facsimile, by U.S. mail, or at a later date, if possible. If said business cannot be effectuated by those alternative means, an appointment date and time will be given to each individual in order to gain access to the building to conduct said business.

An individual with an appointment to conduct business within the County Administration Building should arrive at the main entrance on the west side of the building and they will be met by an employee from the office with whom they have an appointment. In addition, each member of the public will be required to participate in a health screening in order to gain admittance. The screen is very brief and will be conducted by a professional from Morgan County.

B. Morgan County Courthouse, 10 E. Washington St., Martinsville and Courthouse Annex, 65 N. Jefferson St., Martinsville

These buildings are primarily used by the Morgan Circuit and Superior Courts, which are agencies of the State of Indiana and under its jurisdiction as well as that of the Indiana Supreme Court. In accordance with an Administrative Order issued by the Board of Judges of the Morgan Circuit and Superior Courts on March 13, 2020 as well as an Order issued by the Indiana Supreme Court on March 16, 2020, all trials, attorney conferences, and all hearings of any other kind, except those that are essential due to constitutional or other implications, shall be continued. This Order is currently in effect until April 10, 2020 until such other action from the Board of Judges, Indiana Supreme Court, or Governor that rescinds or extends the same. The Board of Commissioners is in regular communication with the Board of Judges and other relevant individuals with concern to Court

business and the continued limited use of these buildings. This will continue to be the case, but the decisions regarding access will be made by the Board of Judges, in contemplation of their duties to administer justice and Court processes, along with directives they may receive from the Indiana Supreme Court and Governor.

C. Morgan County Jail, 160 N. Park Ave., Martinsville

Due to its responsibility regarding public safety and the continued diligence of law enforcement officers and staff during these difficult times, the Morgan County Jail will be available to the public.

D. Facilities Not Explicitly Identified

All other facilities that have not been enumerated shall be considered closed to the public for the duration of this order, unless a requested meeting is deemed necessary by the respective department head, to effectuate essential business.

Sec. 2. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS TO ENCOURAGE SOCIAL DISTANCING

While all functions of government and society must proceed and conduct the people's business, County employees shall be prohibited from conducting or attending meetings or engaging in travel that is not essential in order to facilitate public services at this time. The Board of Commissioners directs the leadership of each department or agency with the County to not only continue to encourage those who feel ill or believe they may have been exposed to stay at home, to telecommute when possible, to implement paid leave options that are available liberally, but to also provide guidance and instruction to employees on what tasks or items are not essential and therefore may be postponed or cancelled in order to aid the national effort in social distancing to slow the spread of the virus.

Sec. 3. MAY 5, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

While the May 5, 2020 Primary Election is implemented by the use of county buildings and the work of county officials, it is officially administered by the State of Indiana. As such, any decision to postpone, extend, amend, or proceed with this election is at the sole discretion and authority of the State of Indiana and its agents.

Regardless of what decision is made, if any, the Board of Commissioners will make every effort to ensure County facilities and County officials are prepared to conduct a fair, open election in a professional manner as always.

Sec. 4. CONFLICTING ORDERS

Due to the fluid nature of this crisis regarding COVID-19 and its far-reaching implications, other units of government, namely state and federal government, may adopt

legislation similar to, or more restrictive than, the provisions contained herein. Citizens are reminded to comply with not only this Executive Order, but to be mindful of the obligation to abide by any Order issued by State or Federal government that may further restrict movement and travel.

Sec. 5. SUNSET OF THIS ORDER

Given the temporary, emergency nature of this order and the provisions contained herein, this order shall sunset and expire upon the rescission of the emergency declarations made by both the federal and state government, or upon rescission by the Board of Commissioners, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

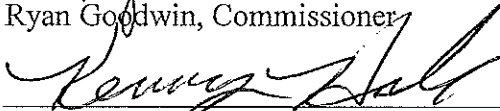
This Order and provisions contained herein shall be in full force and effect upon passage and execution by the Morgan County Board of Commissioners, this 19th day of March of 2020.

March

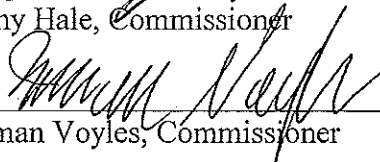
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
MORGAN COUNTY**



Ryan Goodwin, Commissioner




Kenny Hale, Commissioner



Norman Voyles, Commissioner

ATTEST:



DAN BASTIN

Morgan County Auditor