


POTTER COUNTY MEDIA ADVISORY

###FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE###

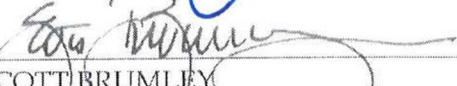
Potter County recognizes, and will comply with, Governor Abbott's latest executive order. That order provides for the phased reopening of the Texas economy, and it effectively withdraws authority from cities and counties to make orders that are more restrictive on the communities they serve. It does not, however, assume control over county property. That supervisory authority remains with the county under provisions of Texas law quite apart from the Texas Disaster Act. Meanwhile, all information available from the Amarillo Public Health Authority points to CoVID-19 infection rates in Potter County continuing to increase dramatically. While we all want to see Texans get back to work and the economy resume normal functioning as soon as possible, Potter County cannot disregard the obligation to safeguard the health and safety of its citizens and employees in matters that remain within the county's control. At this time, it cannot be said that it is safe to resume the kind of daily face-to-face contact entailed in normal county operations.

Bearing these factors in mind, all Potter County buildings will remain closed to the public until infection rates in Potter County begin to decline. Courts will continue to operate on a virtual basis, and other county offices will continue to work as they have throughout the CoVID-19 outbreak. The Governor's executive order specifically requires that filing, recording, and permitting resume, as determined by local officials. Much of the filing and recording done in Potter County already occurs electronically or by mail. Of course, those transactions will continue as they have before and throughout the epidemic. Filing documents, or obtaining permits or licenses in person, may be accomplished by appointment with the appropriate county office. But unrestricted face-to-face interactions still presents too great a risk of coronavirus transmission to reopen county buildings and offices for business as usual.

The epidemic continues to be a dynamic situation, with numbers and relevant safety factors changing and evolving daily. For that reason, we will re-evaluate the necessity of the closure and make an announcement on the subject on Friday, May 8, 2020. Regardless of when county buildings reopen, though, Potter County strongly recommends continuing to follow all recommendations from the President, the CDC, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Amarillo Public Health Authority concerning infection control, including social distancing, wearing of masks, and diligent hygiene practices.



NANCY TANNER
POTTER COUNTY JUDGE



SCOTT BRUMLEY
POTTER COUNTY ATTORNEY

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