

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF POTTER

**JANUARY 15, 2021**

**ORDER EXTENDING CLOSURE OF POTTER COUNTY BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020 the Potter County Judge, under the authority of section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, declared a local state of disaster in all of Potter County as a result of the imminent potential for spread of an epidemic through infection caused by the virus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020 such declaration was extended indefinitely by the Potter County Commissioners Court until further order of the Commissioners Court or until Governor Greg Abbott vacates, rescinds, or cancels the current statewide declaration of disaster; and

WHEREAS, both the Governor's declaration of disaster and the Potter County Judge's declaration of a local state of disaster remain in effect as of the date of this order; and

WHEREAS, upon declaration of a local state of disaster, section 418.108(g) of the Code authorizes the Potter County Judge to control ingress and egress from a disaster area, and to control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the disaster area; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this order the spread of COVID-19 is continuing in Potter County as confirmed by a current COVID-19 related hospitalization rate in excess of 22 percent of hospital capacity in Potter County; and

WHEREAS, by reason thereof emergency measures are required to mitigate the continuing spread of the virus in the interest of public health and safety;

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** by the Potter County Judge, under the authority of section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code, that the Court's prior order of December 28, 2020, ordering the closure of Potter County buildings and properties, be and is hereby extended as follows:

**Effective immediately, all buildings and property belonging to Potter County, Texas, including but not limited to those buildings and properties leased to third parties, shall remain closed to the public through January 31, 2021 subject to further order of the court and the exceptions noted below;**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this order be and is hereby subject to the following exceptions only:

(a) Tax Office. The Santa Fe Building, located at 900 S. Polk, may remain open to the public for the purpose of allowing access to the offices of the Potter County Tax Assessor-Collector located on the first floor of the Santa Fe Building, under written guidelines and during hours set by the Potter County Tax Assessor-Collector.

(b) Courts. This order is not intended to prevent or interfere with any court performing any adjudicatory function. The courts of Potter County are encouraged, however, to make use of alternative means for conducting proceedings that prevent or limit in-person contact among parties, attorneys, court personnel, and the public.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this order continues in effect through January 31, 2021 subject to extension or earlier termination by further order of the Potter County Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed this 15th day of January, 2021.

  
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Nancy Tanner, Potter County Judge

Attest:

  
Julie Smith, Potter County Clerk

