

Press Release 03/31/2020

The Executive Order issued by Governor Kelly regarding the Statewide Stay at Home order began Monday, March 30 at 1201 am.

This order will not prohibit "essential functions" such as gathering essential items like food and medicine. You are not locked in your home. You WILL NOT need identification or papers to travel to and from work. There will not be roadblocks. For example, if you work at the grocery store, that is an essential function, so you are covered as you travel to work at the grocery store. Grocery stores, restaurants, fuel, agriculture and livestock activities and repairs, the delivery trucks that restock supplies, medical, EMS and pharmaceutical are all listed as essential functions. We have received many questions regarding this order and will continue to try to find answers and address your concerns. Most outdoor activities are ok if you can maintain social distance. Many services are still available, they may just look different than we are accustomed to. Restaurants are open for carry out or curbside delivery. Payments may be made online. Several places of business and the Haskell County Courthouse have drop boxes for payments and phone numbers posted if you need to speak to a clerk. Many forms can be completed electronically instead of face to face. Please check with offices and businesses to see if these options are offered. And as always wash your hands, use hand sanitizer and don't touch your face after being in public places. There are varying reports on how long the Covid 19 Virus can survive depending on the type of surface and the size of the droplets. The virus has been found to still be viable after 72 hours or longer on solid surfaces. It is for this reason that playgrounds in Sublette are closed. There is no efficient, timely way to disinfect the playground equipment to keep the children safe from Covid 19.

Take steps to keep yourself healthy. Get plenty of rest. Eat fruits and vegetables. Avoid sitting down in your home in the clothes you wore to work. Take a shower or bath to remove any lingering viruses from your hair or skin. Detergent or soap kills the virus. Wash metallic surfaces very carefully because the virus can live on these surfaces for an extended amount of time. Take note and be vigilant around touching handrails, doorknobs, gas pumps, pens at stores, keypads and keyboards. Use hand sanitizer after touching these objects and wash your hands with soap as soon as possible.

Evidence continues to show that Stay at Home orders and Social Distancing along with good hand washing are our best defenses to slow the spread of the Covid 19 virus. Social distancing also means no get togethers at your homes, no house parties etc....really, only the people that live in your home should be at your home. We can do better! That means, don't go visit your neighbor or your parents or grandparents while under Governor Kelly's Stay at home order. There is a list of Essential functions attached to the order. A complete list of the Kansas Essential Functions Framework can be found at keff@ks.gov.

Our Haskell County Emergency Operations team has been participating in the State Emergency Operations Center briefing at 1 pm every day for most of March. Haskell County Public health participates in daily updates from KDHE and CDC. We will continue to get updates and share with our communities. Check with your neighbors to see if they need help with supplies or groceries. These can be exchanged outdoors and maintain social distancing. If you see someone with difficulties, please contact my office or the Sheriff and we will try to help. Our communities are strong, faithful and giving. We will get through this together.