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## *COVID-19 Statement from Noble County EMA*

By Chasity Schmelzenbach  
Noble County Emergency  
Management Agency Director

Many things have transpired in the last few days with the spread of COVID-19. Sunday, the Governor's Directives closed dine-in at bars and restaurants, today elections have been postponed. These are unprecedented times. On March 15, 2020, Noble County Health Commissioner, Shawn Ray, declared a Public Health Emergency for Noble County to further protect our citizens. The Orders, by Health Commissioner Ray, in addition to the Governor's restrictions are as follows:

1. Immediate cessation of all public meetings not required by law (no election night gathering)

2. All Day Cares closed (Class A & Pre-school)

3. All government buildings to limit entrances to building and each entrance those en-

tering the facility should be logged into the facility time in and time out, occupancy is to be limited by ability to keep an arm's length distance between people.

4. All businesses not closed by Governor are encouraged to do drive-thru, curb side pick-up or home delivery. (store delivery drivers will receive recommendations)

5. All Little League/ Private Sport Practices ordered discontinued

6. The Public Library is to close.

On March 16, 2020, the Noble County Commissioners have also issued a Declaration of Emergency at the request of EMA Director Chasity Schmelzenbach. These two declarations position Noble County to take actions to protect the citizens and streamline processes to obtain assistance from the state and federal government as it is needed.

Several of the Noble County offices are closing their lobbies to the public other than by appointment or limiting the services they are providing. Please call first when possible to verify that you will be able to obtain your services and know what you will need to bring to minimize repeated visits. Further, you will be asked to provide your name and a contact phone number and the time you enter the building will be logged to ensure we can track who has been in the public buildings should an exposure occur. Again, these are not activities any of us are accustomed to. They have been put into place to protect our public workers and our citizens who must visit their offices to do business during this emergency time. If your business can be done online or by telephone please do so. If your business can wait for a few weeks consider delaying.