

To: Media  
From: Keith Johnson, Franklin County Administrator  
Re: County Operations during COVID-19 Pandemic

Today the Franklin County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 2020-074 in response to state and federal orders and guidance regarding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus (Coronavirus). We express our concern for the safety and well-being of the employees of Franklin County and their families as well as the public we serve. We also recognize this is a challenging time for individuals and families to accommodate needed restrictions on work, meetings, travel and social interactions to which we are normally accustomed.

The resolution tasks elected officials and department heads to close or partially close offices, restrict public access, organize work schedules of employees yet still maintain continuity of essential operations of county government. Employees are being asked to work remotely where possible, yet are required to remain available and reachable during their normal work hours. Administrative leave is being authorized to minimize the economic disruption to employees. While the courthouse remains open on a limited basis, each office and department has been tasked with ensuring appropriate social distancing restrictions are followed and assisting with essential needs of the public. The current resolution is effective immediately and runs through April 5. If adjustments need to be made, we will notify the media and post information to the county website at [www.co.franklin.wa.us](http://www.co.franklin.wa.us). For citizens who have business to conduct at the courthouse, we strongly encourage you to call that office beforehand as you may need to schedule an appointment. Departmental contact information is listed on the county's website.

We encourage citizens to pay attention to the information that comes from official sources listed below. We recognize that the situation remains fluid and quickly changing. We ask all citizens to exercise appropriate caution personally as well as act responsibly in maintaining a supportive and safe community.

Benton Franklin Health District -- <https://www.bfhd.wa.gov>  
Washington State Department of Health – <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>  
Center for Disease Control and Prevention – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCov>

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