

PRESS RELEASE – March 16, 2020  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a concern for communities across the nation, including our own. Because of these concerns, it is important that the County take preemptive measures to help ensure the health and wellbeing of County residents, visitors and employees. County Leadership is monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Montgomery County Emergency Management and the Montgomery County Health Department, and implementing best practices to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our community. The County is committed to take necessary, appropriate actions to keep our community and employees safe.

After much deliberation, the County is taking steps recommended by the CDC, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Montgomery County Emergency Management and the Montgomery County Health Department to help reduce the impact of Coronavirus in our community. The County is guarding the health of its employees and visitors to public facilities by increasing cleaning efforts, encouraging safe work practices and placing a moratorium on non-essential travel for County employees.

In an effort to maintain continuity of government, the County offices will remain open to the public for business. As of now, all regularly scheduled County meetings will go on as planned. The County offers many services that can be done online or over the phone. If you are not feeling well, please do not enter public buildings and consider taking advantage of the online services or giving us a call.

If Employee Mandated Quarantine for 14 days occurs, the following policy will apply:

- The County will provide paid sick leave that is not taken from the employee's sick leave account during the 14 days.
- Employees who are able and their duties allow for work at home remotely will be asked to work during work hours while quarantined.
- Employees returning from quarantine may be required to be assessed by the County Health Department for fever and/or signs of respiratory illness.
- All employees are required to report trip destinations to their department supervisor during the pandemic period.
- Employees are not eligible for Employer Mandated Quarantine paid sick leave if:
  - They subject themselves to crowded, confined spaces, not in the course of employment such as trips, cruises, concerts, or other large gatherings.
  - Travel out of the country; or
  - Travel to an area of known COVID-19 outbreak

It is important for all of us to make informed decisions to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our community. Please consult the Centers for Disease Control website [www.edc.gov](http://www.edc.gov) Kansas Department of Health and Environment <http://kdheks.gov/coronavirus> or World Health Organization [www.WHO.int](http://www.WHO.int) or Montgomery County Emergency Management [rwhitson@mgcountyks.org](mailto:rwhitson@mgcountyks.org) for up-to-date information before making decisions about attending County programs and other community activities. These decisions are with the interest of our County in mind. This is an extremely fluid situation that can change minute by minute. We will continue to keep you updated as this situation continues to develop. Thank you for your understanding and support.

\*This policy is effective through April 20, 2020 unless extended by the Board of County Commissioners.