



PROCLAMATION

03-16-2020

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to be a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the governor of the State of Oklahoma have declared an infectious disease national emergency declaration to combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there have been ten (10) confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, health professionals and researchers have determined that COVID-19 is spread by human contact and interaction; and

WHEREAS, avoidance of human contact through methods such as social distancing is believed to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 is a disaster affecting life, health, and safety of Blanchard residents and non-residents alike; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has in accordance with its guidance for large and mass gatherings recommends for the next eight (8) weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of ten (10) people or more throughout the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDDIE ODLE, THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF THE BLANCHARD, OKLAHOMA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM AND DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF BLANCHARD, McCLAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA:

SECTION I: A state of emergency exists pursuant to Title 63 O.S. §24-683.1 et al, the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003 within the corporate limits of the City of Blanchard, McClain County, Oklahoma.

SECTION II: That the Mayor of the City of Blanchard has all rights and/or powers to perform such emergency response functions as are vested in the Mayor by and through the provisions of Title 63 O.S. §24-683.2. Findings and Declarations, and Chapter 6 of the Blanchard Municipal Code.

SECTION III: This Proclamation shall become effective immediately upon signature by the Mayor.

a) Emergency Purchases: The city manager and/or designee(s) shall be authorized to make emergency purchases of goods and services and enter into contracts as deemed necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the

public and to protect public or private property from further harm or damage. Emergency purchases of goods and services shall not be subject to competitive bidding or other purchasing requirements established by the city's municipal code. Contracts pursuant to this section may be entered into by the city manager and/or designee(s) without the prior approval of the City Council.

b) Curfew: The police chief or his designee(s) may establish a curfew as deemed necessary for the preservation of the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

c) Summary Abatements: The City of Blanchard, its agents, employees, contractors and assigns are hereby empowered to enter onto public and private property to summarily remove conditions that are deemed an imminent threat to the life, safety, health, and welfare of the city, its residents, or the general public. The City of Blanchard, its agents, employees, contractors and assigns shall suffer neither liability nor be responsible for any damages caused to private or public property during the abatement of existing and imminent threats to the safety, health and welfare of the city, its residents or the general public.

d) Marshaling of Resources: The Emergency Management Director, after due authorization from the Mayor or City Manager, shall have the power and authority to enforce all rules and regulations relating to civil defense and emergency management and, if necessary, take control of transportation, communications, stocks of fuel, food, clothing, medicine, and public utilities for the purpose of protecting the civilian population. Said director shall cooperate in every way with the activities of the governmental agencies or civil defense organizations; and if required by the mayor or city manager shall have control over any and all funds allocated from any source for the purpose of alleviating distress conditions in the city.

SECTION IV: City of Blanchard's Administrative, Public Works and Public Safety facilities are hereby closed to the general public, however, administrative and emergency services will remain on staff to answer phone calls and conduct essential services during regular business hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All public and private gatherings, meetings and events with ten (10) or more people are hereby postponed and/or cancelled and no special event permits for gatherings, meetings and events at said locations shall be issued until the expiration of this emergency declaration. The public is encouraged to conduct business by phone or on-line or by mail to the extent possible.

SECTION V: The City Manager and Department Heads are hereby authorized to make necessary operational changes to protect employees and the public from exposure to the COVID-19 virus, including, but not limited to the following:

a) Requiring certain employees to telecommute;

b) Implementing Best Practices for handwashing, the cleaning of surfaces

and social distancing for all departments.

c) Taking employee temperatures at the beginning and end of shifts and sending employees home with pay with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more;

d) Ordering self-quarantine of employees as recommended protocols dictate.

e) Closing City Hall, Public Works (including Transfer Site), Fire Department, Senior Citizens Center, Police Department and South Park and Lions Parks facilities (except trails) to the general public;

f) Implementing protocols to limit the exposure of First Responders to COVID-19;

g) Cancelling/rescheduling of job-related training or conferences (not including online training)

h) Discouraging off duty employees from travel or attendance at crowded venues of all kinds and encouraging off duty social distancing and sanitary precautions.

i) Encouraging all employees to follow recommended protocols if exhibiting certain symptoms indicative of COVID-19, including dry cough, fever and shortness of breath and low oxygenation of the blood.

j) Discontinuance of service cutoffs due to non-payment and waiver of late fees for utility payments.

SECTION VI: All public events on city property, rights-of-ways, and city owned or leased facilities that consist of ten (10) or more shall be cancelled or postponed.

SECTION VII: The following City of Blanchard facilities shall be closed and all programming and/or events scheduled at said locations shall be postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this State of Emergency Declaration:

a) Senior Citizens Center;

b) Old City Hall;

c) South Park Sports Complex and Lions Park ballfield;

d) Park Pavilions and Public Restrooms at Lions Park and Crystal Lake Park.

SECTION VIII: Meetings of all City of Blanchard boards, commissions and committees are hereby postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this

emergency declaration. All meetings of The Blanchard City Council and The Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority are exempt from this cancellation requirement. These meetings will remain open to the public, but steps will be taken to ensure no close contact between attendees and the cleaning of all surfaces before and after meetings.

SECTION IX: The Blanchard Municipal Court dockets are cancelled, and no arraignments shall be scheduled until May 2020 or until further notice. Currently scheduled arraignments, hearings, and trials will be rescheduled. This includes all juvenile dockets. The Municipal Judge shall issue an order rescheduling cases and the Municipal Court Clerk shall issue written notification of new court dates.

SECTION X: Throughout the term of this Disaster Declaration, the City of Blanchard will postpone cutting off water service for customers unable to pay their utility bills. There will be no disconnection or late penalties applied to anyone's bill during this time period and extensions will not be required.

- a) *In lieu of making utility bill payments at City Hall, customers are encouraged to make check, money order, or cash payments through the night drop or by mail.*
- b) *Card payments can also be made through the City Website.*
- c) *Questions please call City Hall.*

SECTION XI: All in-person gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational purposes, including, but not limited to community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events; parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers and similar activities consisting of more than ten (10) people or more are strongly discouraged until the expiration of this emergency declaration.

SECTION XII: Restaurants, bars and other privately owned gathering places are highly encouraged to limit the number of patrons to no more than ten (10) people such that at least six (6) feet of space is available to each patron. Such facilities are further encouraged to transition to "take-out" or "delivery" options.

SECTION XIII: Local gyms and exercise facilities, churches and schools are encouraged to discontinue all group activities of ten (10) people or more and to significantly increase and enhance facility cleaning regimens.

SECTION XIV: This "state of emergency" shall continue until 12:01 AM, Friday, May 1, 2020 unless terminated earlier or renewed due to the continuation of said conditions creating the local disaster circumstances.

SECTION XV: Further, this Proclamation is subject to amendment if conditions so warrant.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
BLANCHARD, OKLAHOMA, this 16th day of March 2020.



ATTEST:

Frank A. Baird

City Clerk

Eddie Odeh

Mayor