

GREGORY COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 03-24-20

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS BY IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN DEEMD NECESSARY TO SLOW THE COMMUNITY SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, the Gregory County Commission has the authority to pass ordinances for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community and the promotion of health and the suppression of disease;

WHEREAS, an outbreak of the disease COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, has been confirmed in more than 100 countries, including the United States;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease transmitted by person-to-person contact, or by contact with surfaces contaminated by the virus. In some cases, especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions, COVID-19 can result in serious illness requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on the same day, Governor Kristi Noem, issued Executive Order 2020-04 which declared a state of emergency to exist in the State of South Dakota in response to the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in eleven counties in South Dakota;

WHEREAS, there is evidence of community spread in multiple counties in South Dakota;

WHEREAS, the CDC and health experts have recommended social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, social distancing is a method of slowing down or stopping the spread of a contagious disease by reducing the probability of contact between infected persons and those not infected in order to minimize disease transmission;

WHEREAS, in response to the need to implement social distancing all schools in the state have been closed for at least two weeks;

WHEREAS, on March 16th, the White House issued guidance recommending that social gatherings of more than 10 people be avoided, and that people avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts;

WHEREAS, the guidance issued by the White House further recommended that in states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate should be closed;

WHEREAS, many states and communities across the country have already implemented the White House recommendations by ordering all bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate be closed until the public health emergency is over;

WHEREAS, the failure to successfully implement social distancing will likely result in higher numbers of infected individuals and has the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the County's health care providers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that control measures be taken to reduce or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of the County's residents, especially for seniors and those with underlying health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gregory County Commission hereby implements the following requirements of all citizens and businesses:

1. Practice proper hygiene.
2. Practice self-isolation.
3. Practice social distancing.
4. Recommend no gathering of 10 or more people.
5. Stay at home and contact your medical provider if you believe you have symptoms.
6. Limit trips to purchase essential items.
7. Limit the time spent purchasing essential items.
8. Stagger work schedules.
9. All County offices are closed to the public.

10. Effective at 12:00 AM on March 25, 2020, all restaurants, food courts, coffee houses, bars, breweries, distilleries, wineries, clubs, cafes, and other similar places of public accommodation offering food and beverages for on-site consumption, including any alcohol licensees with on-sale privileges, are closed to on-site sales or on-sale patrons. These businesses may continue to operate in order to provide take-out, delivery, curbside service, or drive-through service. Any business continuing to operate in order to provide off-site service should implement procedures to ensure social distancing and operate in compliance with federal and state health guidance in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
11. Effective at 12:00 AM on March 25, 2020, all recreational facilities, public pools, health clubs, athletic facilities, and theaters, including movie theaters and music or entertainment venues are directed to close and cease operations.
12. Effective at 12:00 AM on March 25, 2020, all hookah lounges, cigar bars, vaping lounges or other similar business which allow for on-site consumption are directed to cease allowing on-site consumption, but may continue to offer products for sale to consume off-site under the same conditions as bars and restaurants outlined in paragraph #1.
13. Effective at 12:00 AM on March 25, 2020, all arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, indoor climbing facilities, skating rinks, trampoline parks, and other similar recreational or entertainment facilities are directed to close and cease operations.
14. The prohibitions and closures in this order do not apply to the following businesses:
 - a. Places of public accommodation that offer food and beverages for off-site consumption, including grocery stores, markets, retail stores that offer food, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries, other than any portion of such business which would be subject to the requirements of providing delivery, curbside, and drive-through found in paragraph #1.
 - b. Room service in hotels.
 - c. Banks that have closed their lobbies but are offering drive-through and off-site accommodations for services.
 - d. Health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and correctional facilities.
 - e. Crisis shelters, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, or other similar institutions.
 - f. Airport concessionaires.

g. Any emergency facilities necessary for the response to the current public health emergency or any other community emergency or disaster.

15. This ordinance shall remain in effect until such time as it is amended or repealed.

16. Any violation of this ordinance is subject to the general penalty provision in SDCL 7-18A-32. Each day a violation of this ordinance is allowed to occur is considered a separate offense.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of Gregory County and will become effective immediately upon passage.

Dated this 24th day of March 2020.

GREGORY COUNTY:

Jeff Johnson, Chair

ATTEST:

Julie Bartling, Auditor

(SEAL)