



Garnett, Kansas
131 West Main Street
(785) 448-5496
www.simplygarnett.com

Public Access to Garnett City Hall and City Facilities Suspended

March 17, 2020

Effective immediately, the City of Garnett is closing all city facilities, including City Hall, to public access until further notice. The City will continue to provide all essential services as normal.

This effort is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect our employees, their families, and the community at large.

This decision was not taken lightly and comes following the confirmation late last week of a case of COVID-19 just north of us in Franklin County as well as the announcement today from the Allen County Regional Medical Center that there is a person under investigation in Allen County who has presented 'significant symptoms' of COVID-19 and has been tested.

As always, you may contact Garnett City Hall at 785-448-5496 or Anderson County Dispatch at 785-448-5428. Bills may be paid online, by mail, by phone (with a credit card), drop box (adjacent to the drive through window), and the drive through.

Please utilize the online bill pay or pay over the phone if possible. While we normally assess a convenience fee to utilize these options (as the credit card companies take a percentage of the total amount) – we will be absorbing those fees during this time period. As this fee is automatically applied when using the system, we are currently working with our vendor to get this fee changed.

As mentioned yesterday, there still are no known cases of COVID-19 in Anderson County and all of these measures are purely precautionary in nature.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are as follows: fever; cough; shortness of breath.

If you have any of the above mentioned symptoms please make sure you call prior to going to a clinic, hospital, emergency room, or health department.

Please take this virus outbreak seriously and abide by the recommendations President Trump issued yesterday. See below:

**The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America:
15 Days to Slow the Spread**

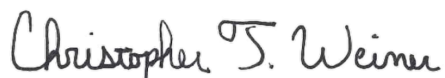
1. Listen to and follow the directions of your state and local authorities.
2. If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
3. If your children are sick, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.
4. If someone in your household has tested positive for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.
5. If you are an older person, stay home and away from other people.
6. If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.
7. Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to stop the spread of the coronavirus:
 - a. Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.
 - b. If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.
 - c. Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

- d. Avoid eating or drinking in bars, restaurants, and food courts – use drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options.
 - e. Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
 - f. Do not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
8. Practice good hygiene:
- a. Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
 - b. Avoid touching your face.
 - c. Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
 - d. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

Additionally, as mentioned yesterday, our local businesses are all going to struggle for a potentially significant period of time. You may still engage in the recommended social distancing guidelines and patron your favorite restaurants and businesses. Call ahead and see if they will be willing to offer curbside pickup. See if you can purchase a gift card online or over the phone for later use to help them through this challenging time. Please remember, we are all neighbors in this community and we need each other. When we emerge from this difficult period, we still want our local restaurants and stores to be here.

Our tremendous Garnett community has not even been touched yet by this virus. But by caring for each other and preparing for this before it hits, we can reduce the negative impact on our community and emerge even stronger.

Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful community and take care!



Christopher T. Weiner
City Manager