

March 23, 2020

Colleagues,

Yesterday the governor ordered Ohioans to stay at home for the foreseeable future in order to help combat the Covid-19 virus. There are exceptions for essential businesses, everything from grocery stores to gas stations, but the very idea of such an order may seem frightening, and these *are* uncertain times. However, I know that we as a nation, and we as a county are more than a match for this crisis. The current restrictions are not undertaken lightly, but are the tools we have at our disposal to combat this virus. By taking these steps today, we will save countless lives and suffering over the course of the coming weeks and months.

The current public health crisis has already caused us to close county facilities for non-essential business, and a significant number of Board of Commissioners' employees are already following a teleworking schedule, so the new order will change very little in Franklin County government. We have greatly increased cleaning and sanitizing in the buildings that are still open, and essential employees are working in shifts so that they are exposed to many fewer people. Some of our essential offices will remain open during limited hours, such as Job and Family Services, Child Support, the dog shelter, and the Office on Aging. Others, such as Fleet Management and Sanitary Engineering must continue to provide the same level of support that they always do, but are taking other steps to limit their employees exposure.

We do these things to help in the overall fight against the virus, but also in order to balance the very real need to continue to provide the services that our residents rely on while also protecting our team to the best of our ability. We *are* a team, and we are in this together. County administration and the commissioners will continue to support our team throughout the current crisis, just as we have always done. As you know, all Board of Commissioners' employees have been granted 80 hours of paid permissive leave that they can use to help their families through this time. We are all also fortunate to have excellent health insurance that we can rely on for any health need that arises. One other benefit that I want to draw particular attention to is the Employee Assistance Program, or EAP. This resource can provide all manner of mental and behavioral health support, and it is something that I hope every member of our team will take the time to familiarize themselves with on our employee [Benefits website](#).

For more information about the Covid-19 virus or the governor's stay-at-home order, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). Other excellent sources of information include [Franklin County Public Health](#) and the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

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County Administrator  
Kenneth N. Wilson, MPA

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We are facing a challenge, but I know that we are more than a match for it and will come out the other side of this stronger. In the meantime, how well we weather this storm will depend on how well we work together and how well we take care of each other during this difficult time. Our success will be measured in lives saved and suffering prevented, and there is no choice but to succeed.

Thank you for all that you do to help make Franklin County the best place in the country



Franklin County  
**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

to raise a family or start a business, and thank you for all that I know you will continue to do to help our team in this difficult time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kenneth N. Wilson'.

Kenneth N. Wilson  
County Administrator

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Kenneth N. Wilson, MPA

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