

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

WHEREAS, Chapter 14 of the Stillwater City Code and Titles 21 and 63 of Oklahoma Statutes empowers the Mayor of the City of Stillwater to proclaim a civil emergency when a natural disaster, which results in the death or injury of persons to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of "community spread" of COVID-19 within the City of Stillwater remained consistent through June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Governor J. Kevin Stitt's May 30 2020 Executive Order 2020-20 and June 12, 2020 Amended Executive Order 2020-20 the City of Stillwater allowed previously declared emergency orders to expire and adopted State requirements set forth in the "Phase III" Open Up Recover Safely ("OURS") Plan (Proclamation Declaring State of Emergency, June 1, 2020 Amendment); and

WHEREAS, since that date, the incidence of positive COVID-19 tests in Stillwater increased from 22 cumulative cases on June 8, 2020 to 5,948 on February 25, 2021, including 23 deaths; and

WHEREAS, there are now 138 active COVID-19 cases in Stillwater, 195 in Payne County, and 13,544 state wide; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Payne County Health Department report that contact tracing has linked much of the current spread to congregation of persons in bars, restaurants and unorganized gatherings wherein those attending did not exercise social and physical distancing or wear face coverings; and

WHEREAS, the recent spike in the number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases has begun to subside and local efforts to administer vaccines to prevent the spread of the virus have commenced, there is still a need to keep certain measures in place to safeguard the health of Stillwater residents until CDC and other public health authority recommended immunity levels in the population are reached; and

WHEREAS, the existence of an ongoing public health emergency necessitates the issuance of a revised emergency proclamation to address specific concerns of the City of Stillwater and to more completely protect the health and safety of its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE STILLWATER CITY CODE AND STATE LAW, I, WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF STILLWATER, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM AND DECLARE:

SECTION ONE: A state of emergency exists within the corporate limits of the City of Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma.

SECTION TWO: This proclamation supersedes all previously issued Proclamations Declaring State of Emergency and amendments thereto. This proclamation shall become effective on February 26, 2021 at 11:59 PM CST.

SECTION THREE: The aforementioned conditions continue to constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and welfare of the city necessitating additional restrictions and creating a civil emergency situation within the meaning of Chapter 14 of the Stillwater City Code and Titles 21 and 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION FOUR: The following restrictions are hereby established on the effective date of this

order:

A. Bars and Restaurants.

Bars, taverns, dancehalls, restaurants and food service establishments providing seating areas for on-premises consumption of food and/or beverages are strongly encouraged to follow the guidelines below and implement all other CDC or public health authority recommended measures to minimize crowding and promote social and physical distancing of patrons.

Tables and chairs should be positioned in a manner to permit a minimum of six feet of separation between groups of bar patrons. Excess tables and chairs should be removed or remain unoccupied if located within the six foot radius and cannot be removed. If the establishment includes booths, tables should be positioned in a manner that will permit a minimum of six feet of separation from the nearest booth as well. Provided, however, that these separation standards do not apply if the tables and/or booths are separated by properly sanitized glass or Plexiglas.

Patrons should not be seated in any booth that adjoins another unless such booths are separated by properly sanitized glass or Plexiglas. Absent such protective measures, the adjoining booth should remain empty.

No more than ten persons should be seated at a single table or booth.

Patrons should not be allowed to stand next to occupied tables.

These recommendations should also be followed in outdoor seating areas.

Waiting areas (indoor and outdoor) should be configured and marked to facilitate six feet of separation between groups of patrons.

Patrons shall wear face coverings at all times while indoors or outdoors in any designated table service area. Patrons may remove face coverings only while seated at a table to consume beverages or food.

Employees and all other persons involved in the operation of the establishment shall wear face coverings at all times while on the premises. This includes all employees providing carry-out, curbside, and drive-through service.

B. Retail Businesses.

It is important that retail establishments continue efforts to protect customers and employees from exposure to COVID-19. Such establishments are encouraged to continue practices such as providing face coverings to customers and employees who do not have them and making hand sanitizer and wipes available to those persons. It is also recommended that measures which assist social distancing in stores (floor markings, signs) and protective barriers remain in place. Retail businesses should consider adjusting hours of operation to minimize crowding in stores.

C. Churches and other religious institutions are strongly encouraged to enforce social and physical distancing practices and require participants and guests to wear face coverings during worship services and all other organized events and activities. It is recommended that these institutions consider offering additional worship service opportunities if facilities are not large enough to accommodate participants and guests in accordance with CDC and other public health authority recommended distancing standards.

D. Closure of City Hall and Facilities. The Main Lobby and other public access areas of the First Floor of City Hall shall remain open. Offices and other non-public access areas of the First Floor and the entire Second Floor of City Hall shall remain closed. Development Services shall continue to maintain a service window in the Police Department Lobby for permits and other services provided by said department. The City Manager and City Attorney shall develop procedures for public access to all other Second Floor operations and services. The City Manager shall continue to offer electronic and telephone options for all transactions normally conducted at City Hall and citizens are encouraged to utilize these. Persons entering City Hall and the Police Department Lobby shall be required to wear face coverings. The City Manager shall make face coverings available to those entering the building that do not have one.

The Stillwater Community Center, Stillwater Armory, Stillwater Public Library, Stillwater Senior Center and the Swimming Pool at Couch Park shall be open to the public. Persons entering these facilities shall be required to wear face coverings while inside the premises and the directors of these facilities shall make face coverings available to users who do not have one. The director of each facility shall prepare a plan addressing social and physical distancing requirements, maximum occupancy levels, and hours of operation consistent with current CDC and public health authority guidelines and submit such plan to the City Manager for review and authorization.

All Stillwater City Park facilities shall remain open. The City Manager shall post notices that said facilities are not sanitized on a daily basis and that users do so at their own risk. SASA and other league sponsors shall adopt and enforce appropriate social distancing protocols for all activities held at City-owned sports fields until further notice.

SECTION FIVE: Penalty. In accordance with Section 14-63, Stillwater City Code, violation of this order is a Class "C" offense.

SECTION SIX: This amendment shall expire at 11:59 PM CST April 30, 2021 unless and until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

PROCLAIMED THIS 26th day of February 2021.



WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR

TERESA KADAVY, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY THIS 26th day of February 2021.

JOHN E. DORMAN, CITY ATTORNEY