

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-3

ORDER AND PROCLAMATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO CIVIL EMERGENCY AUTHORITY MODIFYING
CERTAIN PARAMETERS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA'S "OPEN UP AND RECOVER SAFELY" PLAN

WHEREAS City of Tahlequah Ordinances, Part 13, Chapter 3, Section 13-313 provides authority as Mayor to proclaim a civil emergency in the City of Tahlequah; and

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus COVID-19 disease to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency, due to the COVID-19 Virus pandemic; and

WHEREAS on March 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma declared an emergency caused by the impending threat of COVID-19 to the people of this State and the public's peace, health and safety; and

WHEREAS on March 19, 2020, I issued Executive Order 2020-1 proclaiming the existence of a civil emergency in the City of Tahlequah; and

WHEREAS on April 16, 2020, the President of the United States in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) announced the "Opening Up America Again" guidelines to the Nation, providing guidance for State and Local officials to open the country and assist in the economic recovery using a phased approach intended to mitigate risk of resurgence, protect the most vulnerable citizens, and encourage businesses to reopen safely starting on May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS on April 22, 2020, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma announced the "Open Up and Recover Safely" plan implementing a three-phased approach to open Oklahoma's economy starting on April 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS it is my continuing duty as Mayor to protect the health and safety of the City and its inhabitants, to preserve the peace, and to provide civil defense and emergency functions; and

WHEREAS the City and County created and populated a joint task force to make recommendations to their respective governing bodies for further action to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the City and County created and populated a joint task force to make recommendations to their respective governing bodies for further action in support of recovery of the economy within Cherokee County and the City of Tahlequah; and

WHEREAS it is essential that each phase of the recovery plan be undertaken in a manner that allows continued monitoring of COVID-19 medical statistics within Cherokee County and that the recovery plan be paused if needed to prevent local medical resources from being overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS it is desirable consistent guidance be provided to industry segments and other organizations in preparation for their return to standard business operations;

Therefore, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tahlequah, I hereby proclaim the continued existence of a civil emergency in the City of Tahlequah and further, it is hereby declared and ordered as follows:

1. The "Open Up and Recover Safely" plan will be modified to allow for a 14-day period before moving to the next step of the plan as required within the President of the United States' "Opening Up America Again" guidelines.
 - A. As Phase I of the "Open Up and Recover Safely" plan has two separate steps, and the first step of Phase I began April 24, 2020, the second step of Phase I will begin on May 8, 2020. Phase I, Step 1 provided for reopening of personal care businesses such as hair salons, barbershops, spas, nail salons and pet groomers by appointment only. Retail businesses previously designated as non-essential reopened, and State parks and outdoor recreation facilities reopened.
 - B. Dining rooms within restaurants continue to be closed. Restaurants are encouraged to continue provision of curbside, carryout and delivery services. Outside seating at restaurants that adheres to social distancing and other safety guidelines will be permitted. Safety protocols and guidance provided by the National Restaurant Association should be followed.
 - C. Dental and other medical facilities reopen.
 - D. During Phase I, Parts 1 and 2, as provided in "Opening Up America Again", groups of 10 or more should be avoided. Non-essential travel should be minimized.
2. If there is no evidence of a rebound that threatens to overwhelm local medical facilities and resources, Phase I, Part 2 will begin May 8, 2020.
 - A. Dining, entertainment, movie theatres, gyms and sporting venues can open using safety protocols developed by oversight agencies or national/state industry organizations and provided by the City of Tahlequah Recovery Taskforce.
 - B. Tattoo Parlors can reopen for appointments only and must adhere to sanitation and social distancing protocols similar to those developed by the Oklahoma State Board of Cosmetology and Barbering and Advisory Board on Massage Therapy.
 - C. Places of worship can reopen for in-person meetings or worship if they leave every other row or pew open and adhere to CDC-recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols plus the recommended guidelines from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.
 - D. All vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place. Social settings of 50 or more should be avoided.

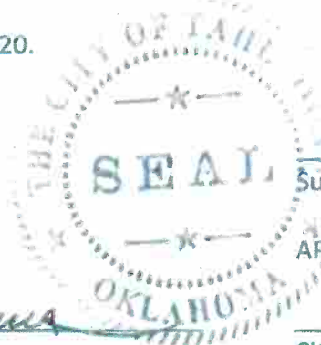
3. If there is no evidence of a rebound that threatens to overwhelm local medical facilities and resources, Phase 2 of the "Open Up and Recover Safely" plan will begin May 22, 2020.
 - A. Organized sports activities and bars can reopen under social distancing and sanitation protocols provided by the City of Tahlequah Recovery Taskforce.
 - B. Funerals and weddings may resume.
 - C. Social settings of 100 or more should be avoided.
 - D. Non-essential travel may resume.
4. If there is no evidence of a rebound that threatens to overwhelm local medical facilities and resources, Phase 3 of the "Open Up and Recover Safely" plan will begin June 5, 2020.
 - A. Summer camps and schools can open.
 - B. Large venues can operate under limited physical distancing protocols.
5. In all phases vulnerable individuals should practice physical distancing and observe other precautionary measures.
6. Businesses may choose to remain closed or limit access as they determine safety parameters for their own business and clientele. All businesses are encouraged to provide accommodations to customers who may be part of a vulnerable population.
7. At any time if there is evidence of a rebound that threatens to overwhelm local medical facilities and resources, additional safety measures may be recommended by either the City of Tahlequah Recovery Taskforce or the City of Tahlequah Crisis Taskforce.
8. The City of Tahlequah Crisis Taskforce will provide COVID-19 status updates to the general public weekly, to be published on the City of Tahlequah website, social media sites, and in local newspapers.

This Executive Order shall take effect as of 11:59 p.m. Monday, April 27, 2020, and shall continue in effect until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, 2020, provided that this Order may be rescinded or extended prior to said date and time if assessment of the pandemic so warrants.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

City Clerk



Sue Catron, Mayor

APPROVED:

City Attorney