

INDIANA COUNTY Commissioners

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**R. MICHAEL KEITH
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County Commissioners**

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Chief Clerk**

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March 13, 2020

Indiana County government officials are closely monitoring information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and implementing protocols for the safety of our employees and the visiting public. In addition, the Indiana County Emergency Management Agency is closely collaborating with local, state, and national experts in health care, emergency preparedness, and crisis management as this situation continues to evolve. The commissioners are also receiving updates from the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania which will assist in monitoring the activities and responses of peer county governments.

In an effort to promote prevention and slow the spread of a contagious virus, the following plans are in place:

- 1.) The Facilities Management and Custodial staff are conducting 'disinfecting' sweeps of all common areas and rest rooms at the Courthouse several times daily. Regular cleaning schedules for all offices will be maintained in the evening after the close of business.
- 2.) Hand sanitizer dispensers are or will be placed at building entrances where the public enters buildings.
- 3.) A County COVID-19 Planning team has been initiated and will meet weekly (or more frequently as necessary) to assess County response and to provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding continuity of operations.
- 4.) The Indiana County PA website front page now displays a link to the County Pandemic Response Plan AND the Department of Health website which contains up-to-date information specific to Pennsylvania as well as guidance for health protocols. Please refer to this trustworthy site for ongoing information and guidance. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- 5.) The County Personal Care Facility, Communities at Indian Haven, has restricted visitation from the public effective March 13, 2020 until further notice.

6.) The Indiana County Jail has restricted inmate visitation from the public effective March 13, 2020 until further notice.

It is likely that the commissioners will be responding to this situation for many weeks to come. News outlets and social media are flooded with information and commentary about COVID-19; however, county residents are urged to use the Pennsylvania Department of Health's website as a resource regarding updates in Pennsylvania along with protocols for prevention and emergency preparation. The County is approaching this situation and the potential for widespread illness with great concern and vigilance, using best practices to ensure as little risk as possible to employees and visitors to County facilities.

The commissioners have reviewed business continuity plans and are prepared to continue to provide county government and court related services to best of our abilities. Please do not hesitate to contact the commissioners with any questions. Updates will be provided as needed.

Sincerely,

R. MICHAEL KEITH

ROBIN A. GORMAN

SHERENE HESS