

Office of
SHERIFF OF FORD COUNTY

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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 03-23-2020

To: Media Outlets

From: Ford County Sheriff, Mark R. Doran

Subject: Ford County Courthouse and Jail Closure

Ford County Citizens,

Starting at 12:00 noon today, March 23, 2020, and continuing until further notice, The Ford County Jail and Courthouse will be closed to essential personnel only. Courthouse security will allow essential Ford County personnel into the courthouse. Litigants and attorneys who have court ordered by the Judge will also be allowed. No other family members will be allowed into the courthouse. Department heads for each office can set up appointments as needed, but are encouraged to handle most business by telephone, computer, or mail.

The Ford County Sheriff's Office and Jail will be locked at the front door. Control room staff will let essential personnel into the lobby for essential business purposes. Jail visitation and Church services are also suspended until further notice.

All indications I have received through the weekend are that this pandemic is going to get much worse. These precautions may be considered an overreaction by some, but I must do whatever I can to mitigate the risks to the staff and citizens. Please continue to be vigilant about hand washing, distancing where possible, cleaning and disinfecting your work areas and covering your coughs and sneezes. Do not take un-necessary risks with your health. I need you and your family needs you.

Sincerely,
Mark R. Doran
Sheriff of Ford County, Illinois