



# BECKER COUNTY

## *Administration*

915 Lake Avenue • Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

218-846-7201

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 27, 2020

### **BECKER COUNTY RESPONDS TO GOVERNORS ORDER TO “STAY AT HOME”**

**DETROIT LAKES, MN** – Pursuant to Resolution of the Becker County Board of Commissioners meeting, March 27th, 2020, a revised Emergency Declaration was adopted relating to its response to COVID 19. The Becker County Board Chair, Ben Grimsley, stated, “we are committed to providing critical services to the citizens of Becker County and our partners during this time of national concern regarding the spread of COVID-19. We are concerned about the health and safety of all employees, the ability to respond to our constituent’s expectations, as well as legal and financial obligations of the organization.”

According to Becker County Administrator Brethorst, “like so many other organizations the County has implemented a business continuity plan.” To comply with the Governors’ order, the County will continue to limit access to all public buildings effective until April 10, 2020 at 11:59pm or until otherwise amended. Exterior doors will be locked at the Law Enforcement Center, Courthouse, Family Service Center and the Highway Department. The only entrance open for emergent, scheduled and 7th Judicial Court operations will be located on Lake Ave of the Becker County Court House. The Motor Vehicle Department will be closed to walk in traffic in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Safety guidelines. See the Becker County website for procedure changes at the Motor Vehicle Department. Basic COVID screening will be conducted to everyone that enters the Court House Building.

By implementing these measures, Becker County will be following guidelines presented by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Executive Order of Governor Walz. Providing for the well-being and limiting exposure to our employees and the general public is of the utmost importance to the Becker County Board of Commissioners.

While the buildings will be closed to the public for routine services, operational hours will continue to be provided to the citizens through phone, email, fax and by appointment only. Becker County also offers many on-line services. Citizens are encouraged to explore these options and utilize them whenever possible. Citizens should call prior to coming to campus to ensure department/staff availability. During business hours, a listing of department/agency contacts will be provided at the main door on Lake Ave. Public access to the courthouse will continue for court related business.

Due to the critical nature of our Landfill operations, it will be open but at reduced hours. Due to the fluidity of information regarding COVID-19 it is anticipated that further updates will be provided. The Becker County website ([www.co.becker.mn.us](http://www.co.becker.mn.us)) will be updated and can be utilized by citizens for new announcements, press releases, preparedness recommendations, along with local closure information. This procedure will be in place until Friday, April 10 at 11:59 pm at which time, these procedures will be rescinded or if needed reevaluated. If you have any questions, please contact (218) 846-7200.

**Contacts**

The point of contact for this press release is Michael Brethorst, Becker County Administrator; 218-846-7201 or via e-mail at [mike.brethorst@co.becker.mn.us](mailto:mike.brethorst@co.becker.mn.us).

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