

# *Foy O'Brien*

DAWSON COUNTY JUDGE

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Dawson County is closely following the information we receive from federal, state and local health authorities regarding the COVID-19 virus. We have implemented extra precautions within the county buildings and have no plans at this time to cease operations. However, some departments have temporarily suspended public access as a precaution. All courts have suspended nonessential hearings until further notice as recommended by the Office of Court Administration.

I would like to emphasize that we have ZERO confirmed cases in Dawson County. I will NOT be issuing any type of county-wide disaster declaration when we have yet to have a confirmed case here. Panic could prove a larger enemy than the virus.

We are ALL struggling with the current "issue." What to do? What not to do? We are in a CATCH-22 situation. Some will be critical of the lack of action by the County (no disaster declaration, no state of emergency) while others will applaud a calm approach. There is no ONE way to address this challenge. Our local options and challenges are certainly different from those in larger, urban counties. There is not a one-size-fits-all solution.

If you have concerns about coming to the Courthouse or other county offices during this challenging time, we want to remind you that much of your business can be handled by phone, email and regular mail. Please feel free to contact the Courthouse at 806-872-7544, and we will help take care of your business.

We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as needed when updates are received from federal, state and health authorities.



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