

**ORDER OF THE HALE COUNTY COMMISSION
ESTABLISHING COUNTY COURTHOUSE REOPENING PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been detected in Alabama; and

WHEREAS the existence of COVID-19 in the State poses the potential of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people; and

WHEREAS the State Board of Health has designated COVID-19 to be a disease of epidemic potential, a threat to the health and welfare of the public, or otherwise of public health importance; and

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, on recommendation of the State health Officer, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, declared a state public health emergency crisis exists in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS on March 19, 2020, the State health Officer issued an order and on March 20, 2020, March 27, 2020, April 3, 2020, April 28 2020, and May 8, 2020 amended orders, of statewide application regarding restrictions to certain public gatherings; and

WHEREAS social distancing and related measures remain necessary on statewide basis to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS Ala. Code section 22-2-2(4) authorizes the State health Officer, on behalf of the State Board of Health, to direct that conditions prejudicial to health in public places within the State be abated;

NOW THEREFORE, THESE PREMISES CONSIDERED, it is ordered that:

A. General provisions.

1. The Hale County Commission has determined COVID-19 to be a disease of epidemic potential, a threat to the health and welfare of the public, or otherwise of public health importance in Hale County, Alabama.

2. The Hale County Commission declares that a continuing public health emergency crisis exists in Hale County, Alabama.

3. The Hale County Courthouse will reopen to the public on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 8am.

4. The courthouse will have one designated entrance point and a separate exit point for the public.

5. Only 25 people will be allowed access to the entire courthouse at a time, excluding employees. The number of people allowed in each individual office for services will be limited to accommodate this requirement.

6. To facilitate the limitation on the flow of traffic, individuals with county or court business may be asked to check-in upon arrival, provide a cell phone number and wait in their vehicle until called to enter the building.

B. Protections for the public.

7. Each individual entering the courthouse will be required to wear a mask/face covering as recommended by CDC guidelines. Appropriate masks/face coverings will be provided before entrance for individuals unable to obtain them. Access to the courthouse will be limited to individuals meeting this requirement.

8. Each individual entering the building will have a temperature check. If the individual's temperature exceeds the limit established by government guidelines, access to the building will be denied until the temperature meets government guidelines.

9. Everyone is required to observe social distancing guidelines at all times. Signage markers will be placed throughout the building to help maintain the 6 feet social distancing requirement.

10. Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that any area where there may be close contact when conducting county business, such as a clerk's window should be fitted with a plexiglass or other similar barrier.

11. Any smaller enclosed area, such as an office, bathroom, supply room or break room should not have more than one person in the space at a time unless the 6 feet social distancing guideline can be maintained.

12. Frequently used items and surfaces will be disinfected regularly, by courthouse personnel in accordance with CDC and Alabama Department of Public Health guidance.

13. Additional guidance may be provided through supplemental orders.

C. Protections for employees.

14. Effective immediately, and unless otherwise permitted or required by this order, all department heads shall take reasonable steps, where practicable as work duties permit to protect their employees by:

a. maintaining six feet of separation between employees;

- b. regularly disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces;
- c. preventing employees who are sick from coming into contact with other persons;
- d. promoting and facilitating telework and remote working arrangements where practicable;
- e. minimizing employee travel;
- f. requiring all employees to wear appropriate mask/face coverings

15. Employees who have symptoms, as designated by the CDC and/or the Alabama Department of Public Health, should notify their supervisor and stay at home.

16. Employees that are high risk, with pre-existing conditions, as designated by the CDC and/or the Alabama Department of Public Health, should notify their supervisor and all reasonable efforts will be made to create a remote working plan when practicable.

17. Sick employees should follow CDC- recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and department supervisors.

18. Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow [CDC recommended precautions](#).

19. Employees will have a designated entrance and exit point separate and apart from the public.

D. Courts.

20. There will be no in-person court hearings before June 1, 2020.

21. Additional guidance regarding court operations will be provided in an order by the presiding judge.

Done on this the _____ day of _____, 2020.

Arthur L. Crawford, Sr., Chairman
Hale County Commission

ATTEST:

Sylvia Williams, County Clerk