

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buffalo County Buildings Start to Re-Open to the Public

Kearney, NE: Buffalo County is preparing to open the county-owned buildings to the public. The health of our employees and the people that we serve continues to be of the utmost importance as we move forward through this pandemic. As we start to finalize a plan on how to re-open to the public, we want to emphasize that we are all in this together. We will continue to be here to serve Buffalo County.

The Registers of Deeds Office, Assessor's Office, and County Clerk's Office **ONLY** will open June 1, 2020. These offices are opened to help those who want to file a protest and/or file for homestead exemption. The rest of the courthouse will still be closed to the public. The county staff is still available to serve the public through phone calls, mail, drop box, and by appointment if needed.

Members of the public who would like to file a protest with the County Clerk's office, conduct research for the protest process with the Register of Deeds office, or file for Homestead Exemption with the Assessor's Office will need to enter through the Buffalo Entrance in the horseshoe parking lot where they will be screened and have their temperature taken. The horseshoe parking lot is located on the west side of the courthouse in the middle of the building off of 1st Avenue.

All other offices may continue to be by appointment only until the courthouse opens to the public.

In order to enter a county-owned building, the public will be asked to do the following:

- Public will be asked to wear a mask, which is strongly encouraged. Masks will be available as they enter the building.
- Everyone will be screened and temperature taken before entering the courthouse. Anyone with a temperature above 100.4 will not be allowed to enter any further into the building.
- Public will be asked to park in the horseshoe parking lot or in the north permit lot west of the horseshoe.
- Public will only be allowed to enter through the buffalo entrance in the horseshoe parking lot except Justice Center business will enter through the Justice Center entrance and DHHS business will enter through the north and south HHS doors.
- No children under the age of 14 will be allowed into the courthouse.
- No more than 1 person per group will be allowed unless it is necessary for business. If it is necessary to have more than 1 person, 2 is the maximum per group that will be allowed.

The rest of the courthouse and other county-owned buildings will open June 8, 2020. The same regulations for the public will apply. Volunteers will be available to assist the public as they come to the courthouse.