



SMALL TOWN VALUES

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BIG TIME OPPORTUNITIES

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Sidney Urges Continued COVID-19/Coronavirus Measures; Panhandle Officials Tell Returning Travelers to Self-Quarantine

The Mayor, City Council and City Administration want to keep communication channels open and pass along the most recent updates and recommendations coming from the CDC, the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the Panhandle Unified Command of Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Management. It is important to stay vigilant as the number of cases rise nationwide. Being a major I-80 corridor hub, Sidney is not isolated and could be susceptible to virus intrusion just as easily from travelers as from family members traveling across the state and country. Please treat ALL movement and travel with the care and respect it deserves, and do not become lax in taking precautionary measures.

In order to combat the coronavirus, the White House Coronavirus Task Force has rolled out the "15 days to slow the spread" initiative from March 16-31. Social gatherings should be limited to 10 people or less and scheduled events modified to fit within the guidelines, or cancelled or postponed.

In addition, the COVID-19 Panhandle Unified Command announced that all residents returning from travel outside the Panhandle should self-quarantine for 14 days and should report any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to their healthcare provider or public-health officials. "This means that if you travel out of the Panhandle, you need to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return," the announcement said. "Returning travelers should assume that COVID-19 disease is present at the locations they have visited and traveled through and self-quarantine."

Sidney continues its measures to comply with precautions, including closing the library, golf course, and walk-in traffic at the Administration Building, as well as limiting the Sidney Transit to dial-a-ride only. All other city services will continue as normal. Other local organizations like the Community Center have closed their doors and most local businesses are doing their part by limiting exposure to large gatherings. For a full list of business closures or modifications, please visit the Cheyenne County Chamber website at cheyennecountychamber.com or follow them on Facebook.

To assist businesses in this unprecedented time, the Governor's office recently announced the following enhancements to the current unemployment insurance program:

- Waiving the one week waiting period before benefits begin and waiving the employer portion of the unemployment responsibility
- Waiving the requirement to actively be searching and applying for jobs
- Benefits are now available to people affected by reduced hours

In addition, Nebraska's disaster application has been approved, which will free up more money to small businesses in the form of low-interest loans.

Unfortunately, there are always people looking to capitalize on serious situations. Phishing and hacking scams have been reported. Please exercise caution in handling any email with a COVID-19-related subject line, attachment or hyperlink, and be wary of social media pleas, texts or calls related to COVID-19. Use trusted sources and avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails and be wary of email attachments. Do not reveal personal or financial information in an email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information.