



Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office

James G. Johnson, Sheriff

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Press Release

As we navigate the environment that we find ourselves today, we should be blessed that we have many people in all aspects of government working together for a common goal, the health of our citizens. We should also be supportive of our businesses that made operational adjustments to ensure the healthy delivery of food and necessities.

We are also grateful for our healthcare workers and emergency medical services.

I have made certain operational changes to have the greatest opportunity to keep our deputies, dispatchers, and staff safe and healthy.

Please know that when our deputies are out serving the community that will be following the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). You may see deputies wearing masks, gloves or other protective equipment, they wear these to protect themselves and protect the citizens they are serving. On certain calls for service our deputies will be making phone calls instead of conducting face to face interactions with the citizens.

To better protect the health of our dispatchers, the dispatcher center has been closed off from other staff since last week to minimize personal contact.

Our jail staff continues to exercise healthy practices of hand washing, wearing gloves and N95 masks when appropriate. With the desire to minimize the potential transfer of Covid-19 being introduced into the jail, professional visits and inmate visitation were transitioned to video, programming was suspended, and video court has been used for most court appearances

Beginning on March 13, 2020 some low risk inmates with work release that were within 30 days of release have been placed on electronic monitoring to complete their sentences. In collaboration with our judges and district attorney, some other low risk inmates with work release were granted 45 day furloughs. The remaining work release inmates have been kept in the jail by order of the Sheriff.

Our support staff has been divided into two teams, working opposite days. Our administrative office hours have been reduced to 9am to 5pm Monday through Thursday, on Fridays our

administrative office will be closed. Our jail lobby located on the north side of the building remains open 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

We are working side by side (6 feet away) with our community partners ensuring the safety of all of our citizens is paramount. Understanding the importance of communication we have set up a virtual emergency operations center with our Public Health Officer, Director of Human Services, County Administrator, Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management and other key county departments.

Ozaukee County is known as a community that helps their neighbors, help your neighbors stay safe and healthy by following the Covid-19 guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Emergency Orders issued by the State of Wisconsin.

While we miss our community engagement programs our deputies have been impressed with smiles, waves, and thumbs up they have received from citizens during their patrols, thank you!

The Sheriff's Office will continue to be there for our citizens and together we can keep Ozaukee County Safe and Healthy!

Sheriff Jim Johnson