

Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office – Law Enforcement  
COVID-19 Strategic Plan & Fact Sheet

Given the concerns surrounding the impact of COVID-19 on the OKC Metro Area deputies are following these precautions while dealing with the public within our official duties.

- **Hygiene** - The simple practice of following recommended hygiene guidelines will go a long way in keeping deputies and their vehicles free of contamination. Wash hands and clean car! A 10% bleach solution and a small towel will go a long way in decontaminating work space. Clorox wipes can be kept vehicles to make this pretty simple.
- **Personal Social Contact** - No personal contact based solely of social etiquette! Shaking hands or high five should be avoided. Deputies should decline and make some other acknowledgement gesture, such as an "Air Fist Bump" "Phantom High Five" or a "Military Style Salute". These gestures may seem silly but they may be comforting to kids we come into contact with.
- **Social Distancing** - Face to face interaction with citizens, traffic contacts, suspects, victims, witnesses, etc. should be limited to 6-foot minimum separation. The practice of bringing someone into a patrol car should be limited to situations where there are no other options such as an arrest/transport to jail or another facility of confinement. If possible conduct business outside in an open air environment. Passenger side approach during traffic stops will create the desired separation.
- **Masks** - If deputies encounter someone wearing a medical type mask in the course of your duties, such as a traffic stop or a call for service they should inquire into the reason they are wearing the mask. "Are you ill or are you just taking precautions?" Any exposure to anyone claiming to be ill should be limited as much as legally possible. If the call for service does not fall into the category of a crime in which an arrest must be made based on what's observed such as domestic violence, assault and battery, sexual assault, etc. Attempt to do business from distance or telephone if at all possible. We can take a burglary or larceny of an auto report from the phone and exchange documentation via email if necessary. If deputies encounter a significant criminal act requiring action on our behalf involving someone exhibiting symptoms or stating they are sick contact a supervisor and try to work out a plan based on the severity of the call.
- **Dispatch/Call Takers** – While taking information on what will likely become a call for service communications officers should inquire if anyone in the house has recently been ill or displayed any symptoms of COVID-19. This information should be discreetly communicated to the deputy assigned the call. This could be communicated via comments on the call, text message, or MDC message. **DO NOT BROADCAST PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION OVER THE RADIO.**
- **Medial Calls** - Medical Calls that do not include a safety concern do not require a law enforcement presence. Deputies may respond to the call but should stay outside unless requested to assist by fire and/or ambulance.

- **Staff Illness** – Part of being a responsible public safety asset is not making a situation worse. If you are sick, ill, or begin exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 do not come to work! We contact far too many people in the course of our daily duties to come to work sick.
- **COVID-19 Symptoms** - Fever, cough, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath.
- In the case of significant numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in the OKC Metro area we are looking at some contingency plans.