



Dennis Thornton  
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Hot Spring County Judge  
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Joint Communication from Hot Spring County and the City of Malvern officials are unified with the local healthcare professional community to proactively manage the COVID-19 pandemic. City and County officials as well as the hospitals and ambulance services are all aligned on our protocols and procedures.

Part of the protocol is to protect the first responders so that they will be able to continue to provide their much-needed services to the community. We currently have sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for hospital workers and first responders and more is forthcoming. If you see officers or emergency workers in gloves, masks, and/or other forms of personal protection, please do not be alarmed.

To dispel any misunderstandings, this pandemic does affect people of all ages. 20% of hospitalized cases in the United States are individuals between the age of 20-44\*.

Per directives from Governor Hutchinson on March 19<sup>th</sup>, indoor dining at restaurants to cease. Restaurant drive-thru and take out services are permissible. We recognize this is a way to support our local businesses. Additional directives from Governor include: bars, taverns, and lounges are to close; gyms and fitness facilities are to close; public schools are to remain closed to onsite instruction through April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Governor also suggested that gatherings are limited to ten (10) or fewer people and to continue the practice of social distancing.

On the March 23<sup>rd</sup> press conference, Governor Asa Hutchinson said a directive would be issued on Tuesday, March 24, that all barber shops, tattoo studios, massage therapists, and nail salons to be closed temporarily.

The Disaster Emergency Proclamation for Hot Spring County has been declared by Judge Dennis Thornton on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. In part, this proclamation declares that, "Immediate attention is required to protect public health, reduce further damage, ensure public safety, and render emergency relief."

Please follow [hotspringcounty.org](http://hotspringcounty.org) for any updates. Thank you for being cooperative with our efforts during this time where Hot Spring County can be strengthened and unified.

\*Severe Outcomes Among Patient with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-10)-United States, February 21-March 16, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. ePub: 18 March 2020.0

Sincerely,

Dennis Thornton

Hot Spring County Judge