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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dakota County closes facilities to public, makes emergency declaration

Essential services still provided; residents encouraged to use website, electronic services

Dakota County has declared an emergency in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) and will close all public-facing county services beginning Wednesday, March 18. The closure will be in effect at least through Wednesday, April 1.

The closure includes all library locations, service and license centers, park buildings, and in-person appointments such as for social services and public assistance. Front desk and walk-up services are suspended, and county staff will work with clients to reschedule in-person appointments.

“Protecting the public and our staff is our priority in this unprecedented time,” said Dakota County Board Chair Mike Slavik, who declared the state of emergency. “Counties provide critical services to residents, and we will continue to do so in different ways, such as by phone or email. We’re asking for your patience as we plan quickly to continue to serve our residents safely and efficiently.”

County staff are developing alternative ways to provide services and will update the public as new information becomes available.

Facilities closed to the public include:

- Administration Center in Hastings, Northern Service Center in West St. Paul, Western Service Center in Apple Valley.
- County license centers.
- All nine county library locations.
- Park facilities including Lebanon Hills Visitor Center, Schaar’s Bluff Gathering Center, Dakota Lodge, Camp Spring Lake Retreat Center and Camp Sacagawea. Parks, trails and bathrooms remain open.
- The CareerForce location at Northern Service Center.

The county board will meet by teleconference Friday, March 20 to ratify the emergency declaration.

For more information on the county’s COVID-19 response, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *covid-19*.

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