



Good Afternoon,

Please find below most of the daily news regarding Oklahoma's response to COVID-19. Today the State Dept of Health is reporting 164 cases impacting 25 counties that are experiencing community spread. Below is a quick summary of yesterday's activities plus the REVISED Executive Memo #2 (see link below) from Governor Stitt.

Gov. Stitt made a fourth amendment to Executive Order (Paragraphs #17 - #21)

- Statewide "safer at home" for Oklahomans age 65 or older and those with underlying health issues compromising their immune systems until April 30 with limited travel to essential locations such as grocery stores pharmacies and curb-side takeout from restaurants;
- Tonight at midnight, Wednesday, March 25, "non-essential" businesses in 19 counties (listed below) identified as having "community spread" of COVID-19.
- 14-day statewide suspension of elective surgeries, minor surgeries and dental surgeries to conserve personal protective equipment (PPE) gloves, masks and respirators;
- No visitation to nursing homes and longterm care facilities;
- Prohibit "social gatherings" of more than 10 people.

More on Non-Essential Businesses - REVISED Executive Memo #2 from Governor Stitt

Certain businesses are to remain closed from March 26, 2020, to April 16, 2020, if located within a county experiencing community spread of COVID-19. The counties will likely change daily with new COVID-19 case - <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/> then scroll to COVID-19 Cases by County.

This applies to businesses that are NOT identified as being within a critical infrastructure sector as identified at <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce> or exempt under Governor Stitt's [Executive Memo 2020-01 #1](#) (3/24) and [Executive Memo 2020-01 #2](#) (3/25).

This does not apply to restaurants and bars providing pick-up and delivery orders.

25 Counties as of March 25, 2020

- Adair
- Bryan
- Canadian
- Carter
- Cleveland
- Creek
- Custer
- Deleware
- Garvin
- Grady
- Jackson
- Kay
- Logan
- Mayes
- McClain
- Muskogee
- Noble
- Oklahoma
- Osage
- Pawnee
- Payne
- Pontotoc
- Tulsa
- Wagoner
- Washington

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Oklahoman Editorial Board: Oklahoma lawmakers should pass budget, end session

by THE OKLAHOMAN EDITORIAL BOARD

Published: Wed, March 25, 2020 1:45 AM

The Capitol building has already been closed to the public as a precaution. Only elected officials, essential staff, credentialed media and state employees who get invited to the building are welcome. House Speaker Charles McCall said last week that closing the building to everyone hadn't been discussed. "We are going to continue to work," he said.

Yet doing that work, which is mostly on hold this week with the House and Senate each having decided to close through Friday, without the public able to see what they're doing is a disservice. The media serve as the public's eyes and ears, but they can only do so much.

The Capitol is "the people's building," a term used regularly by lawmakers, such as a few years ago when they approved (finally) a bond issue to renovate the building. But if the people can't be inside their own building, that's a problem. The same is true of lobbyists, who are frequent targets of critics but who do the important work of speaking for groups that cannot regularly get to the Capitol.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted at least 20 state legislatures to postpone their sessions, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Oklahoma is constitutionally required to adjourn by the last Friday in May.

It's not a requirement that the session last until then, however. Sessions sometimes end early - usually the result of budget agreements getting ironed out ahead of schedule.

Doing so this year will be a challenge - large drops in the stock market and in oil prices are dealing a considerable blow. Gov. Kevin Stitt says a revenue shortfall is possible this budget year, and that he plans use the state's Rainy Day Fund to offset that possibility and to balance the fiscal 2021 budget.

But this challenge is one that needs to be met, soon.

The House has passed a rule allowing for proxy voting so members can vote remotely if necessary. Considerable work has been completed on the budget, meaning it could be taken up far earlier than normal. Senate President Pro Tem Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, said last week that, "Those discussions are ongoing."

Those discussions need to wrap up ASAP, and members need to pass the budget and call it a day.

What about the hundreds of pieces of non-budget-related legislation that would go wanting because of an early adjournment? Those can wait - many of them probably aren't worth the effort anyway.

The coronavirus has made 2020 a year unlike any other, and needs to be treated as such regarding the budget.

[nondoc.com: Stitt enacts conditional shelter-in-place policy, business limitations](#)

By Tres Savage - March 24, 2020 13434

Two days after he acknowledged the "possibility" of having to implement statewide limitations for private businesses, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt announced five new orders aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19.

During a 2 p.m. press briefing today accessible by phone and Zoom videoconference, Stitt revealed the additional steps intended to extend social distancing:

- a statewide shelter-in-place policy branded as "safer at home" for Oklahomans age 65 or older and those with underlying health issues compromising their immune systems. Ordered through April 30, the policy is intended to guarantee employment protections for older Oklahomans and limit their travel to essential locations such as grocery stores and pharmacies;
- operation adjustments after 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, for "non-essential" businesses in counties identified as having "community spread" of COVID-19. In counties that feature confirmed cases, any socially-driven business will be required to close its common areas for 21 days. Currently, the rules affect 19 counties but would expand upon further diagnosis across the state;
- a 14-day suspension of non-urgent and non-emergent medical services statewide to conserve personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks and n95 respirators;
- suspension of all visitation to nursing homes and longterm care facilities;
- prohibit "social gatherings" of more than 10 people.

"I remain committed to making decisions based on reliable data, the emerging science and the advice of experts," Stitt said from a podium inside the Oklahoma National Guard Regional Training Institute. "I don't make these decisions lightly. I know this affects all 4 million Oklahomans."

Gov. Kevin Stitt announced new executive order amendments Tuesday, March 24, 2020.
(Screenshot)
Stitt actions intended 'to reduce the spread and flatten the curve'

While 109 cases of COVID-19 are confirmed in the state currently, Stitt said he believes the actual numbers are closer to 500 and that "they are going to get into the thousands."

"Today, we are taking some more actions to reduce the spread and flatten the curve," Stitt said.

Most of Oklahoma's largest municipalities had already taken measures to close bars and theaters, limit restaurants to takeout orders and encourage social distancing, a practice intended to slow the transmission rate of COVID-19 and avoid overwhelming hospital capacities. But even though Oklahoma City - the county seat of Oklahoma County - implemented those restrictions last week, suburban governments had not followed suit despite the county's community spread of the novel coronavirus.

Asked if the shelter-in-place order for older and immunocompromised Oklahomans will feature enforcement mechanisms, Stitt emphasized his belief in the responsibility of local residents.

"I'm not worried about Oklahomans complying. Oklahomans are complying," Stitt said. "They are looking for us to give them the recommendations, so that is what I am doing."

He said designations of businesses as "essential" and "nonessential" are determined by federal guidelines, which can be found [here](#). Media in other states have provided breakdowns of the same topic. He said the specific language of his newest executive orders will be released later in the day. Shortly after 5:30 p.m., his updated executive order appeared online.

Stitt pushed to act by health care organizations

Monday evening, 13 groups representing health care professionals and a senior-services advocacy organization sent Stitt a letter to "urgently request" the implementation of a "shelter-in-place policy" and the closure of "non-essential businesses."

"While we applaud the hard work and efforts your administration has taken thus far, experience from the reset of the country and globally show that these measures are not enough," the groups wrote. "More aggressive, proactive efforts are necessary if we are to stop the spread of this disease and prevent unnecessary deaths."

In their letter first reported by Barbara Hoberock of the Tulsa World, the 14 groups bolded their primary request of the first-term governor.

"We urgently request that you issue an executive order that will implement a shelter-in-place policy and close non-essential businesses until this pandemic is truly contained," the letter said.

During a Sunday night press conference, Stitt had acknowledged he eventually might go against his limited-government values and issue a statewide order restricting non-essential businesses.

"It's a possibility. Everything is on the table as we are in uncharted territory," Stitt said Sunday. "This is changing so rapidly as the CDC gives more recommendations to us. So we'll take that as it comes."

The governor and his COVID-19 response task force are receiving daily updates from various state health officials, including new state epidemiologist Dr. Aaron Wendelboe. Asked after Sunday's press conference whether a shelter-in-place policy might eventually make sense for Oklahoma, Wendelboe chose his words carefully.

"I think so. As the governor said, we are customizing the data. We are fortunate in Oklahoma to have our first case a week or two weeks after other states," said Wendelboe, a former epidemic intelligence service officer for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "This gives us an opportunity to learn from other states, and we are continually updating the model to fit what we are observing. We just want to be able to make those decisions at the right time because sometimes there are unintended consequences, so we just want to make sure we have thought through everything fully."

Asked how he would expect Stitt to respond if he recommended that the governor close non-essential businesses and pursue a shelter-in-place policy, Wendelboe said he appreciates the "team approach" of Oklahoma's COVID-19 response.

"The governor is the governor for a good reason, and I just am grateful that we have a team where we can look at many scenarios," Wendelboe said.

Under his orders announced today, Stitt's shelter-in-place policy looks different from those implemented in other states and cities where COVID-19's impact started earlier and has grown larger. In California, New York, Louisiana and parts of Texas, including Dallas County, specific restrictions vary. In general, they require all nonessential businesses to close, and they ban citizens from leaving their homes except for necessities and walks in open areas. Some places have implemented fines and potential jail time for violations.

This morning, the Oklahoma State Department of Health announced that there are now 106 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state, spread across 19 counties. Stitt said the number had climbed to 109 by Tuesday afternoon, a more than 30 percent increase over Monday's count of 81. The department confirmed another death from the disease - a woman in her 60s, whose identity was not disclosed - which brings the statewide total to three.

House Minority Leader Emily Virgin (D-Norman) had also called for statewide measures Monday, and after Stitt's announcement Tuesday she said she will continue to do so.

"I'm grateful he has taken this action, but I will continue to push for these provisions to be enacted statewide," Virgin said. "We have to be proactive to prevent the spread of this virus instead of reacting when we have positive cases."

Oklahoman: Coronavirus in Oklahoma: Stitt announces 'safer-at-home' policy

by CARMEN FORMAN

Published: Tue, March 24, 2020 2:30 PM Updated: Tue, March 24, 2020 6:17 PM

Gov. Kevin Stitt on Tuesday took greater steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Saying Oklahoma could have more than 500 positive cases of coronavirus, Stitt announced he is enacting a "safer-at-home" policy to mandate the state's "vulnerable populations" remain at home until April 30.

In an updated executive order, Stitt mandates all "nonessential" business in the 19 Oklahoma counties with confirmed cases of COVID-19 close for a 21-day period starting at midnight Wednesday.

Additional counties will be included if more confirmed cases are discovered in surrounding counties.

"We're taking what we think is appropriate action at this time based on the facts that we have and the data in Oklahoma," Stitt said.

Oklahomans over age 65 and those with and those with underlying medical conditions are required to follow Stitt's "safer-at-home" policy. Those Oklahomans will still be allowed to run "essential" errands like visiting the pharmacy or grocery store.

The governor also announced a statewide ban on all gatherings of more than 10 people. He also is imposing a 14-day moratorium on all elective surgeries, minor medical procedures, and non-emergency dental procedures.

Senate Democratic Minority Leader Kay Floyd, D-Oklahoma City, thanked Stitt for taking additional steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, but said his actions don't go far enough.

"While these new executive orders are a step in the right direction, we will continue to advocate for a comprehensive and consistent statewide policy," Floyd said.

Stitt said he hopes the actions he announced Tuesday will help keep the state's COVID-19 cases low so they don't overwhelm Oklahoma's hospitals and health care providers.

"By acting early, we're going to flatten that curve to keep it underneath our health care system and also gives us time to ramp up and develop the protective equipment and also the additional ventilators, ICU beds, the additional hospital beds," he said.

The order on "nonessential" businesses in affected counties will be re-evaluated on April 16. Stitt said he is hopeful the state will have more testing and data at that point that will help him make an informed decision on next steps.

The "nonessential" businesses that will have to close in 19 counties include salons, movie theaters, gyms, bars tattoo parlors, spas and massage parlors. Restaurants will only be allowed to offer food and beverages to go. Pharmacies and grocery stores will remain open.

The governor's announcement comes as the Oklahoma State Department of Health reports 109 Oklahomans have tested positive and three have died from the virus. But Stitt said the number of confirmed cases is likely far lower than the actual number of cases due to the state's limited testing ability.

Oklahoma Secretary of Science and Innovation Kayse Shrum said Stitt's new policies will help the state slow transmission of the virus while ramping up testing and making sure hospitals are prepared for an influx of patients.

"I believe the governor's initiatives address the heart of what the health care community is wanting," said Shrum, a doctor and president of the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences.

More than a dozen Oklahoma medical organizations on Monday asked Stitt to implement a statewide shelter-in-place policy. They said the executive actions Stitt announced Tuesday fell short of what is needed to protect Oklahomans.

New COVID-19 directives from Stitt

- Adults over age 65 and people with underlying medical conditions are required to stay home until April 30, with the exception of "essential" errands.

- Gatherings of 10 or more people are prohibited.
- Medical providers are required to postpone all elective surgeries, minor medical procedures and dental procedures until April 7.
- Nonessential businesses in 19 affected counties must close by midnight on Wednesday and remain closed until April 16.
- Visitors are prohibited at Oklahoma nursing homes, long-term care facilities and retirement homes.

Tulsa World: Gov. Kevin Stitt orders more restrictions, says cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma likely 5 times higher than reports

By Barbara Hoberock Tulsa World 7 hrs ago

OKLAHOMA CITY - Gov. Kevin Stitt announced on Tuesday additional restrictions to stem the spread of COVID-19 but stopped short of issuing a statewide shelter-in-place order sought by several medical organizations.

"We know that as we continue to increase our testing capacity, we will continue to have an increased number of cases," Stitt said. "Actually, I think our number of cases are closer to over 500 right now. They are going to get into the thousands."

The governor said he was issuing a "safer at home" order requiring all "vulnerable populations" to stay at home until April 30, except for essential travel such as trips to the grocery store or pharmacy.

Specific details of who is included in the vulnerable population were not immediately provided, but that category generally includes those who are elderly and those who have underlying health problems.

"Effective at midnight tonight, I am issuing an executive order restricting any gathering of 10 or more people all across the state," Stitt said Tuesday.

In an effort to preserve medical supplies such as personal protection equipment, Stitt said he was ordering a 14-day suspension of all elective surgeries, minor medical procedures and nonemergency dental procedures.

"To protect our elderly, we are suspending all visitation to nursing homes and long-term care facilities effective immediately and until further notice," Stitt said.

He said that in the 19 counties with confirmed cases, including Tulsa County, all nonessential businesses will remain closed for 21 days beginning at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.

"These include businesses with close contact or personal touch, like hair salons, gyms, theaters, massage parlors and tattoo parlors," Stitt said, adding that further guidance would be forthcoming. Liquor stores and dispensaries are excluded from the order.

He encouraged restaurants to continue to provide curbside pickup and delivery services.

Travel among the 19 counties currently is not limited, but discretionary travel is being discouraged.

Additional counties are expected to be added to the list as COVID-19 cases are confirmed, the governor said.

Stitt said two hospitals, which have not been named, will be designated to care for COVID-19 patients in an effort to maximize resources to protect health care workers and patients.

Prior to his news conference announcing the additional restrictions, several medical organizations on Monday urged Stitt to issue an order requiring Oklahomans to shelter in place.

"We urgently request that you issue an executive order that will implement a shelter-in-place policy and close non-essential businesses until this pandemic is truly contained," says the Monday letter, which listed the Oklahoma Hospital Association and Oklahoma State Medical Association among its signers.

"Current CDC recommendations should be considered a bare minimum," the letter says. "Even so, these recommendations do include adopting a shelter-in-place policy for states with community transmission of COVID-19."

Shelter-in-place policies have proven to be the most effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19, the letter says.

"The decisions you make in the coming days will have far-reaching impacts on the duration and severity of this crisis," the letter says. "Your office can exhibit decisive leadership now to not only mitigate the effects of current infection but to truly prevent the spread of this disease."

Dr. Kayse Shrum, state secretary of science and innovation, said she thinks Stitt's actions address the heart of what the health care community was seeking.

Stitt had been reluctant to put restrictions on businesses, recently saying it was not the role of government.

"We are following the data and (in) the 19 counties that we have positive cases, we want to get more restrictive, but the counties that don't, we wanted to focus on the vulnerable population," Stitt said.

The medical groups said Stitt's restrictions reflect some positive steps, but they believe more can and must be done to protect the health of all Oklahomans.

"We are going to get through this, Oklahoma," Stitt said. "We are going to get through this. We have been in tough times before, and together we are going to come out of this stronger."

High Plains Radio: Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt Issues Executive Order Advising Oklahomans To Stay Home

By ANGIE HAFlich * 19 HOURS AGO

Oklahoma has seen a big spike in coronavirus cases in the past week, prompting Gov. Kevin Stitt Monday to issue an executive order advising Oklahomans to stay home and avoid groups of 10 or more people,

A week ago, Oklahoma reported 17 cases of the COVID-19 virus. Today, the Oklahoma Department of Health (OSDH) reports 81 cases, mostly in Oklahoma County (29), Cleveland County (16) and Tulsa County (11). The state has reported two COVID-19 virus deaths.

Stitt's executive order advises Oklahomans to abide by the following:

- Stay home and avoid groups of 10 or more people
- Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts. Instead use drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options
- Avoid discretionary travel, gyms, social visits, and shopping trips
- Do not visit nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities
- Stitt also activated the Oklahoma National Guard Regional Training Institute to observe COVID-19 developments and be ready to take actions requested by the governor to help communities and hospitals and formed the Governor's Solution Task Force to provide comprehensive solutions for the pandemic.

He also filed an executive order Sunday to allow Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma to perform COVID-19 testing, which will increase the state's testing capacity 10 times once the labs are fully online.

Stitt also directed the OSDH to open four satellite locations in Oklahoma - Tulsa, Kay, Carter and Pittsburg Counties - to conduct testing of Oklahomans with COVID-19 symptoms; entered into a public-private partnership with Diagnostic Laboratories of Oklahoma (DLO) to expand the state's capacity to deliver COVID-19 testing results; and implemented statewide reporting requirements to collect and create transparent data of hospitals' bed capacity, equipment supplies, and COVID-19 testing capacity. Those locations are not yet open.

Additionally, Stitt has put into place the following:

- Transformed the state's 2-1-1 hotline into a tool for Oklahomans to call and receive screening public health support for COVID-19.
- Suspended several regulations on telemedicine to ease capabilities for Oklahomans to receive medical support from a doctor without leaving home.
- Established expedited process for nurses with inactive licenses to get recertified.
- Suspended various regulations on truck drivers and commercial vehicles for transporting medical supplies and other critical items across state lines.

- Temporarily extending licensing reciprocity for health care professionals, like doctors and nurses, who hold licenses to practice in other states.
- He also implemented a ban of out-of-state business travel for state employees.

On the education front, Stitt implemented the following:

- Closed all accredited PreK-12th grade public schools for students and educators until April 6, as directed by the State Superintendent and SDE Board.
- Suspended academic assessments for grades 3-8 or to high school juniors and suspended the Oklahoma School Report Cards for the 2019-2020 school year, as requested by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and approved by the U.S. Department of Education on March 20.

For more on Stitt's executive orders and other COVID-19 developments and information, visit <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>.

nondoc.com: Oklahoma Sen. Paul Rosino tests positive for COVID-19

By Tres Savage - March 24, 2020 1570

Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Reached this afternoon, Rosino said he began feeling ill Sunday, March 15, and has left his house only once since: to go to the doctor.

"I did everything I was supposed to," Rosino said. "I have not left (my house). My wife and I have stayed at home. We have done exactly what we are supposed to by self-isolating and keeping other people away. If everybody can do that, we can at least bend the curve I hope."

Rosino did not go to the Capitol on Monday, March 16, or Tuesday, March 17. On that date, Senate leadership learned that a staff member in the Oklahoma State Senate had been diagnosed with a COVID-19 infection. Rosino said he called the Oklahoma State Department of Health's relevant hotline and was instructed to contact his physician. Rosino said he relayed information to his doctor and, owing to his symptoms and potential of having been exposed, he was instructed to go in for examination.

"They knew I was coming. I walked in, but they shoed me out," Rosino said. "I stood on the curb on the sidewalk going into the building. They brought me a mask. I put the mask on outside. They walked me straight into the examining room. The doctor came in and saw me, and we did the test. Then I walked straight out the door and went home."

He said he and his wife have prepared all their meals at home and have worked to remain isolated. He said he is now feeling better.

"I think if people will just follow the rules and they do what they are supposed to, we can bend this curve," said Rosino, a businessman and U.S. Navy veteran who was first elected in a November 2017 special election. "We appreciate everything health professionals are doing, and if people will just stay at home, they will not infect the most vulnerable and the unhealthy. And that is who we need to protect."

Owing to the Senate staff member's diagnosis last week, many senators and other staff members were swabbed and tested by a private company contracted by the Senate. The results of those tests have yet to be released, but earlier today Health and Human Services Secretary Jerome Loughridge said that not all senators and staff members received tests.

Access to the Capitol has been limited since March 16, and the Legislature has temporarily changed the rules for public meetings in the state to expand allowances for teleconferencing. State lawmakers are currently adjourned indefinitely from the legislative session, which must be completed with a balanced state budget by May 29.

Rosino said that at the time of Gov. Kevin Stitt's press conference Tuesday, the governor did not know that a legislator had tested positive for COVID-19.

eCapitol: Rosino recovering from COVID-19; other senators, staff test negative thus far

Author: Shawn Ashley

Date: 03/24/2020

(eCap) Sen. Paul Rosino announced Tuesday he is recovering and doing well after testing positive for COVID-19, the only member of the Senate or its staff to have thus far reported to have contracted the disease.

Rosino, R-Oklahoma City, was not present at the Senate March 17, when it was announced that a member of the Senate's staff had tested positive for COVID 19. That resulted in senators and staff being isolated in their offices for several hours and screened by health care professionals. A total of 30 senators and staff were tested for COVID-19 but Rosino, because he was not there, was not among them.

"It is my understanding all results of the Senate personnel and senators tested last week that have been received so far from OU Medicine have all been negative," Aaron Cooper, spokesman for Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, said in an email statement Tuesday.

Rosino said as soon as he began feeling unwell Sunday he strictly followed the recommendations of public health officials to stay home, self-isolate and contact a doctor. Testing done by Rosino's private physician later confirmed the senator's diagnosis. Rosino said he was last at the Capitol on March 12 and he felt well at that time.

"I want to thank everyone who has reached out to inquire about me. I am doing well and feel much better. I'm glad I followed the health professionals' advice to the tee. That's what we all need to do now: stay home if we feel sick, isolate and seek care from a doctor. Doing that, we can all be well, let the health care heroes focus on the critically ill, and do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19," said Rosino, R-Oklahoma City.

Rosino said he plans to continue working remotely from his home and encouraged Senate District 45 residents to reach out to his office for help with any issues.

"I'm following the doctor's guidelines and will continue to do so. While I'm at home, though, I'm still working to take care of issues for Senate District 45 residents. I'm also collaborating with Senate colleagues and state government partners as we address health care issues and other important topics related to this health care crisis," he said.

The Senate will remain closed through at least Friday.

News9: 2 House Employees Test Positive For Coronavirus

Updated: Tuesday, March 24th 2020, 11:35 PM CDT

Two employees of the Oklahoma House of Representatives have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), House officials confirmed to News 9.

The health department is investigating the interactions of both employees.

A state Senate staffer tested positive for the virus last week.

Related: [Person Involved In State Senate Tests Positive For Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Senior Advisor of Policy and Communications John Estus told News 9 the two employees were among an at-risk group of less than 50 tested at the Capitol on March 17 following the positive case of the Senate staffer.

House Speaker Charles McCall, R-Atoka issued a statement saying, "All Oklahomans affected by this virus need everyone's support, prayers and attention. These employees have our full support during this time. This virus can affect anyone anywhere, which is why the Legislature took swift, unprecedented steps last week to protect ourselves and the public from further risk at this time."

Of the at risk group tested, there were no other positive tests, according to the news release.

The Legislature continues to take precautionary actions to prevent the spread of the virus, including an emergency rule allowing for proxy voting so members can vote remotely if necessary.

News9: State Rep. Jason Lowe Tests Positive For Coronavirus

Updated: Wednesday, March 25th 2020, 10:34 AM CDT

State Rep. Jason Lowe has tested positive for COVID-19.

The representative told News 9 he is OK and no longer has symptoms.

In a news release, Lowe said he began feeling symptoms that included fever, chills, body aches and exhaustion several days ago. He immediately contacted his primary care physician and quarantined himself at home. He said he is continuing to self-isolate so that he does not pose a risk to others.

Lowe, D-Oklahoma City, is the first elected member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives to test positive for the virus.

"I am extremely grateful for the care that I received, and I have a new appreciation for what thousands of Oklahoma health care workers are dealing with right now," Lowe said in a news release. "I encourage us all to support those in our communities who put their lives on the line for the citizens of the great state of Oklahoma. Let's lift these selfless professionals up in prayer and support during this crisis."

Lowe is an attorney and represents House District 97. Lowe has worked as vocal critic of and brought legislation against Oklahoma's permitless carry law.

He said he will continue to work remotely from his home.

Lowe is the second elected member of the state Legislature to test positive for the virus.

State Sen. Paul Rosino, R-Oklahoma City, announced he tested positive Tuesday. He represents Senate District 45.

Two legislative aides in the state House and a Senate staffer also tested positive.

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