



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County to offer all Virtual Services due to rise in COVID-19 cases starting 11/16

County Commissioners unanimously voted to switch to all virtual county services at an emergency board meeting on Thursday 11/12. Beginning Monday, November 16, entry to all county buildings will be restricted, while all county functions will continue to be available online, by phone and by appointment.

The rapid rise of positive COVID-19 case count was the number one reason behind the decision to switch to virtual service delivery of all government functions. In one week there were 560 new cases in Crow Wing County, which is 27.8% of all of the cases in the county since the pandemic began in March.

“We are not alone in making a decision like this. Many schools, healthcare, businesses and organizations are reconsidering steps to ensure the safety of everyone as our numbers continue to climb.” said Board Chair Steve Barrows. “Public health and safety is always our top priority. Our discussion to reach this decision was made to stay focused, protecting each other, while continuing to provide needed and necessary services to our communities.”

The board also voted to grant the County Administrator the ability to grant exceptions; and to switch all meetings of the County Board to virtual. “I want to reassure our residents that staff will continue to work and offer the same services we always have.” said County Administrator Tim Houle. “Our snowplows will be out, our deputies will be patrolling our roads and all of our services will be available. We ask everyone to stay vigilant and continue to social distance, wear a mask, wash hands and stay home when you are sick to help keep disruptions across our county to a minimum.”

Staff will continue to provide services online, by phone and by appointment. There is a drop box in front of the Land Services building at 322 Laurel Street. There is also a drop box in front of the Community Services building at 204 Laurel Street. If you have been working with a social worker or probation officer, continue to communicate with them directly. If you have questions contact us at 218-824-1067 <https://www.crowwing.us/> or email at coadmin@crowwing.us

County Board meetings can be viewed live on our website or youtube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC26vWNxmHm1RfoJlIj7XHQC> If you are interested in participating in a county board meeting or public forum please contact the County Administrators office at 218-824-1067.

The County Board will determine at a later date to change from virtual services after evaluating the case county numbers.

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.