





UPSHUR COUNTY

Paid Quarantine Leave for Peace Officers, Detention Officers, and Emergency Medical Technicians

Upshur County, pursuant to HB 2073 passed and signed into law during the 87th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature (2021), shall provide paid quarantine leave for peace officers, detention officers, and emergency medical technicians employed by Upshur County and ordered by a supervisor or the health authority to quarantine or isolate due to a possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty. This includes peace officers, detention officers and emergency medical technicians, as defined by this policy, who are employed by, appointed to or elected to their position.

"Detention officer" means an individual appointed or employed by a county as a county jailer or other individual responsible for the care and custody of individuals incarcerated in a county jail.

"Emergency medical technician" means an individual who is certified as an emergency medical technician under Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code; and employed by the county.

"Health authority" has the meaning assigned by Section 121.021, Health and Safety Code. A health authority is a physician appointed under the provisions of Chapter 121 to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the appointing body's jurisdiction. A health authority must be: a competent physician with a reputable professional standing who is legally qualified to practice medicine in the state and a resident of the state. They must take an official oath and file with the department.

For counties that do not establish a local health department or public health district, they may appoint a physician as health authority to administer state and local laws relating to public health in the county's jurisdiction.

"Peace officer" means an individual described by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, who is elected for, employed by, or appointed by the county.

Eligible employees who are on qualifying paid quarantine leave shall receive all employment benefits and compensation, including leave accrual, retirement, and health benefits for the duration of the leave; and, if applicable, shall be reimbursed for reasonable costs related to the quarantine, including lodging, medical, and transportation. An employee on qualifying paid quarantine leave will not have their leave balances reduced. Employees with questions regarding compensation, leave time or benefits should contact the Treasurer's Office. Reimbursement requests will be submitted to the County Auditor's Office for approval prior to payment.

If an employee covered by this section or policy while on duty or fulfilling duties assigned by his or her department head has a known or suspected exposure to someone that has tested positive, or someone that is in quarantine due to possible exposure, that contact must immediately be reported to the employees direct supervisor in order to be covered under this policy. The department must develop a written report or manner to "log" this possible or known exposure that could lead the employee to having COVID for this policy to apply under State Law. Failure to comply in any way will result in the employee being required to use any sick time or other personal time off to receive compensation.

Off duty exposures will not be covered under this policy.

ADOPTED THIS 31 DAY OF AUGUST 2021

County Judge

Commissioner Pct. 1

Commissioner Pct. 3

Commissioner Pct./2

Commissioner Pct. 4

Witnessed and Attested By:

County Clerk

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UPSHUB PUNITY, TX.

BY

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