

TYLER COUNTY EMPLOYEES' POLICY ADDENDUM (PROPOSED)

As per HB 2073, signed by Governor Greg Abbott and effective 6/15/2021, Tyler County shall develop and implement a paid quarantine leave policy for its fire fighters, peace officers, detention officers and emergency medical technicians who are employed by, appointed by, or elected for the political subdivision and ordered to quarantine or isolate due to a possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty.

A paid leave policy must:

- Provide that a qualifying employee by the above definition on paid quarantine leave receive:
 - All employment benefits and compensation, including leave accrual, pension benefits, and health benefit plan benefits for the duration of the leave; and
 - Reimbursement for reasonable costs related to the quarantine, including lodging, medical, and transportation; and
 - Require that the leave be ordered by the person's supervisor or the political subdivision's health authority.
- A political subdivision may not reduce a qualified employee's sick leave balance, vacation leave balance, holiday balance, or other paid leave balance in connection with paid quarantine leave taken in accordance with a policy adopted under this section.

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PAID QUARANTINE LEAVE FOR FIREFIGHTERS, PEACE OFFICERS, DETENTION OFFICERS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Tyler County shall provide paid quarantine leave for fire fighters, peace officers, detention officers, and emergency medical technicians employed by Tyler 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 fire fighters, peace officers, detention officers and emergency medical technician, 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 political subdivision as a county jailer or other individual responsible for the care and custody of individuals incarcerated in a county or municipal jail.

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

“Fire Fighter” means a paid employee of a municipal fire department or emergency services district who holds a position that requires substantial knowledge of firefighting; has met the requirements for certification by the Teas Commission on Fire Protection under Chapter 419, Government Code; and performs a function listed in Section 143.003(4)(A).

“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

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balances reduced. The qualifying employee should report to their supervisor to discuss the qualifications and details of the paid benefits as it pertains to the individual employee.

Off duty exposures will not be covered under this policy.