

Austin Police Department's Covid-19 emergency measures

The Austin Police Department is continuing to respond to calls for service in the City of Austin. We have adjusted some of our response protocols to medical calls to better ensure your safety and ours. This was done in conjunction with Mayo Ambulance and the Austin Fire Department to ensure no drop off in service, especially in life emergency situations. It may mean however in cases where flu-like symptoms are involved and there is no immediate life-threatening event, we may arrive and wait in our squads for Mayo Ambulance to come on scene and advise us if we are needed.

We do share a lobby with the Sheriff's Office and share dispatch/records service. With the critical nature of our services, and small staff, our agencies have shut down our lobby entry and direct access to dispatch/records staff via the front window. Access to a dispatcher is still available in our outer vestibule via the phone on the wall. They will call in an officer as needed. They will not be able to interact with the public however. Only one person will be allowed in the lobby at one time. If the vestibule is occupied, we recommend you wait outside on the bench or in your car.

We are also temporarily suspending fingerprint services to the public. We are also no longer handing out paper forms via the dispatch window. The Sheriff's Office is working on getting a way to distribute documents in the vestibule; however it is not currently in service. One of those documents is the permit to purchase form. This is available online <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/administrative/Pages/firearms-permit-to-purchase-transfer.aspx>. We will still accept these permit forms for processing via the grey lockbox marked "Mower County" in the vestibule next to the phone.

We appreciate the public's patience and cooperation during this emergency.

Respectfully,

Chief David McKichan