

September 10, 2020

## **OSDH Authority over Quarantine and Isolation**

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (“OSDH”), through the State Commissioner of Health, is charged with the duty to control and prevent the spread of communicable disease under 63 O.S. § 1-106. This includes exercising the authority granted under 63 O.S. § 1-504 to impose quarantine or isolation upon any individual suspected or confirmed to pose a risk of transmitting a communicable disease that is harmful to the public. The OSDH will determine the terms and conditions of the quarantine or isolation, including, but not limited to, the length of the quarantine or isolation period, with consideration made to the incubation and infectious periods of the communicable disease.

If OSDH recommends or advises a quarantine or isolation period for any individual, and has reasonable belief that the individual is for any reason not complying with the recommendation, OSDH can issue a quarantine or isolation order upon the individual. This includes any noncompliance due to a conflicting recommendation from a non-OSDH physician. Any violation of the terms and conditions of an order for quarantine or isolation is a violation of law. An individual who violates an order may be subject to detainment by law enforcement for the period of quarantine or isolation and/or criminal penalties including the conviction of a misdemeanor and/or a fine.