

City of Amarillo
Personnel Policies and Procedures

Policy Title: Paid Quarantine Leave

Policy Number: 610

Effective Date: June 15, 2021

Approved By: City Council
Jared Miller, City Manager
Mitchell Normand, Director of Human Resources

I. PURPOSE

Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 180.008, the City of Amarillo hereby adopts this paid quarantine leave policy for firefighters and peace officers who are employed by, appointed by, or elected to the City of Amarillo and ordered to quarantine or isolate due to a possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty.

II. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all sworn firefighters and peace officers employed by the City of Amarillo.

III. DEFINITIONS

Health authority: a physician appointed by the city to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the city's jurisdiction.

Paid quarantine leave: (1) all employment benefits and compensation, including leave accrual, pension benefits, and health benefit plan benefits provided by the city; and (2) if applicable, reimbursement for reasonable costs related to the quarantine, including lodging, medical, and transportation costs.

Firefighter: a paid employee of the city's fire department who: (a) holds a position that requires substantial knowledge of firefighting; (b) has met the requirements for certification by the Texas Commission of Fire Protection under Chapter 419, Government Code; and (c) performs at least one of the following functions: (i) fire suppression; (ii) fire prevention; (iii) fire training; (iv) fire safety education; (v) fire maintenance; (vi) fire communications; (vii) fire medical emergency technology; (viii) fire photography; (ix) fire administration; or (x) fire arson investigation.

Peace officer: police officers licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and employed by the city. (Ref. Texas Local Gov't Code 180.008(a); 143.003(4)(A); Tex. Health & Safety Code 121.021; and Tex. Code Crim. Pro. Art. 2.12.)

IV. RULES/PROCEDURES

A City of Amarillo fire fighter or peace officer who is ordered to quarantine or isolate by the person's supervisor or the city's health authority due to a possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty is entitled to receive paid quarantine leave for the duration of the leave. (Ref.

Texas Local Gov't Code 180.008(c.) The City of Amarillo will not reduce a firefighter's or peace officer's sick leave balance, vacation leave balance, holiday leave balance, or other paid leave balance in connection with paid quarantine leave taken in accordance with this policy.

V. EXCEPTIONS

The City Council reserves the right to modify this policy at any time as necessary in accordance with legislative requirements.