

COOPER COUNTY COMMISSION

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DECLARATION OF PUBLIC STATE OF EMERGENCY

Whereas, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared COVID-19 a “pandemic” and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Secretary has declared that COVID-19 a public health emergency; and

Whereas, Cooper County (“County”) has been working in collaboration with CDC, HHS and local health and public safety agencies to monitor and plan for the containment and subsequent mitigation of COVID-19 through the formation of a Cooper County COVID-19 Leadership Group; and

Whereas, while it is anticipated that a high percentage of those affected by COVID-19 will experience mild influenza-like symptoms, COVID-19 is a disease capable of causing severe symptoms or loss of life, particularly to the high-risk population with underlying health condition; and

Whereas, it is critical to prepare for and to respond to suspected and confirmed cases in the County and to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population throughout the County; and

Whereas, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has already caused local impacts and will likely prompt additional local measures, including affected municipal governments to declare local disaster emergencies because of COVID-19; and

Whereas, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency situation throughout the County is of such magnitude and severity as to render essential the County’s supplementation of emergency resources and mutual aid to the County and municipal governments of this County and to require the activation of all applicable state, county and municipal emergency response plans; and

Whereas, following direction from Governor Michael L. Parson, it is urged to cancel or suspend public gathering of 50 individuals or more with the exception of educational institutions, daycare facilities, business operations, and those who fall into high-risk categories try to avoid public gatherings as much as possible.

Now therefore, we do hereby declare that:

1. A Public State of Emergency exists in Cooper County, Missouri, and all laws and statutes of the State of Missouri, for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for the protection of the lives and

property of the people of Cooper County and the continuity of local government with a minimum of interruption.

2. That pursuant to the provisions under the authority of the revised statutes of Missouri, Chapter 44.080 Civil Defense statutes, we do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the County and,
 - a. All public officers and employees of Cooper County, Missouri, are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in the execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives of both the State of Missouri and applicable local government bodies.
 - b. All employees and elected officials of Cooper County, Missouri, are hereby directed to cooperate and coordinate with all appropriate local, state and national agencies responding to this public health emergency.
3. This declaration shall expire sixty (60) days from the date written herein below unless earlier terminated or further extended by written authorization of the Cooper County Commission.

PASSED THIS 19th DAY OF MARCH, 2020 BY THE COOPER COUNTY COMMISSION



Don Baragary
Presiding Commissioner

Charlie Melkersman
Eastern District Commissioner

David Booker
Western District Commissioner