



**MARTIN COUNTY
DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Section 51.4.A., General Ordinances, Martin County Code, authorizes the Director of the Emergency Management Agency to declare a State of Local Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Management Director has determined that a State of Local Emergency exists within Martin County; and

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a pandemic related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as “high”, both in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Florida are necessary, and therefore directed that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Florida regarding the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Martin County to take protective measures – including activation of the emergency operations center, procurement of personal protective equipment, consequence management, and similar activities to support the public health and safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a State of Emergency for the Country to address the public health threat to the United States of America as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a threat of impact from COVID-19 exists throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a danger to life and the economic well-being of Martin County residents; and

WHEREAS, Martin County began implementing preparations to address the serious public health threat on January 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families, including voluntary home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and disposal of the tissue immediately thereafter, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with 60%-95% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available and routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects to increase community resilience and readiness for responding to an outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures for communities experiencing an outbreak including staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick, limiting face-to-face contact with others as much as possible, consulting with your healthcare provider if individuals or members of a household are at high risk for COVID-19 complications, staying home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

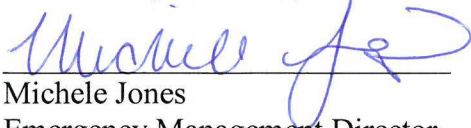
WHEREAS, CDC recommend modifications, postponements, and cancellations of mass gatherings of more than 50 people, and smaller gatherings that may bring persons together from multiple parts of the country; for organizations who serve high-risk populations, consider cancelling gatherings of more than 10 people; and for individuals to avoid gatherings and social events with 10 or more people as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38 (3)(a)5, Fla. Stat. provides authority for the County to declare a State of Local Emergency and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public works and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community, including but not limited to denying or revoking permits for public gatherings and/or cancelling mass gatherings taking place during the Local State of Emergency. A mass gathering is defined as 50 people or greater; however, this number is subject to amendment should the circumstances of the situation change;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials and facilities;
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

I, Michele Jones, Emergency Management Director do hereby exercise my authority and declare a State of Local Emergency for the next seven-day period, unless sooner rescinded, and waive the procedures and formalities as provided in Section 252.38

(3)(a)5, Fla. Stat. and Section 51.4.A, General Ordinances, Martin County Code, at Noon this 16th day of March, 2020.



Michele Jones
Emergency Management Director
Martin County Board of County Commissioners



Concurrence: Taryn Kryzda
County Administrator
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

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