

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
EXECUTIVE ORDER  
COVID-19, MARCH 13, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that appears to occur through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists nationwide as a result of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, as of February 29, 2020, COVID-19 has spread throughout China and to 67 other countries and territories, including 62 cases within the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all states and territories implement aggressive measures to slow and contain transmission of COVID-19 in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 2, 2020, Governor Ron De Santis issued Executive Order 20-51, the terms of which are incorporated herein, 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 2, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer, by virtue of the Governor's Executive Order 20-51 and Section 381.00315, Florida Statutes, issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency declaring that a public health emergency exists in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 7, 2020, Governor Ron De Santis directed the Director of the Division of Emergency Management to activate the State Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to provide coordination and response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron De Santis issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida to address the public health emergency caused by the threat of COVID-19 to the state; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 13, 2020, twenty-seven individuals in the State of Florida have tested positive for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 13, 2020, fifteen counties in Florida, including Clay County, have positive cases for COVID-19, and COVID-19 poses a risk to the entire state of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a threat to the public health of Clay County residents, workers, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, states that "[s]afeguarding the life and property of [the County's] citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state" and further grants to the County the power to provide for the health and safety of persons and property and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County pertaining to taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to be in a position to provide the most effective assistance to the citizens of Clay County and the State of Florida for the duration of the declared public health emergency, it is necessary that a declaration of local emergency be declared as of 8:00 a.m., on March 13, 2020, to remain in effect until 8:00 a.m. March 20, 2020, (seven days) unless extended prior to that time for an additional seven days.

**NOW THEREFORE,**


1. Pursuant to the authority granted by Sections 252.31 through 252.62, Florida Statutes, the County's home rule powers and Clay County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, a declaration of local emergency is declared as of 8:00 a.m., on March 13, 2020, and shall remain in effect through 8:00 a.m., on March 20, 2020, (seven days) unless extended prior to that time by me for an additional seven days.

2. The Clay County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is activated and the utilization of the emergency powers under Sections 252.31 through 252.62, Florida Statutes, is authorized.

3. This executive order shall be applicable throughout the unincorporated areas of Clay County, Florida, and through the territorial boundaries of any municipality located within Clay County, Florida, but only to the extent that it does not expressly supersede or otherwise conflict with any municipal ordinance or regulation.

**DATED** this 13 day of March 2020, in Green Cove Springs, Florida, effective at 8:00 a.m. on March 13, 2020.

Clay County Board of County Commissioners

By:   
Howard Wanamaker, County Manager