

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

EXECUTIVE ORDER

COVID-19, March 23, 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 Humane Services declared that a public health emergency exists nationwide as a result of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on 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 Operation 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-10 to the state; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, states that "safeguarding 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 Jefferson 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 declares as of 9:30 a.m., on March 23, 2020, and shall remain in effect though 9:30 a.m., on March 30, 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 Jefferson County's Comprehensive Emergency Management plan, a declaration of local emergency is declared as of 9:30 a.m., on March 23, 2020, and shall remain in effect thought 9:30a.m. On March 30, 2020, (seven days) unless extended prior to that time by me for an additional seven days.
2. The Jefferson County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is activated and the utilization of the emergency powers under Sections 252.31 thought 252.62, Florida statutes, is authorized.
3. This executive order shall be applicable throughout the unincorporated areas of Jefferson County, Florida, and thought the territorial boundaries of any municipality located within Jefferson County, Florida, but onto the extent that it does not expressly superseded or otherwise conflict with any municipal ordinance or regulation.

DATED THIS 23 DAY OF March 2020, in Monticello, Florida, effective at 9:30 a.m. on March 23, 2020

Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners

By:  _____
JT Surles, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners