

EMERGENCY ORDER 20-13
ORDER ALLOWING THE USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
IN ALACHUA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order 20-51 declaring a public health emergency as the result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, as the virus spread Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a general state of emergency in all the counties of the State; and,

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has declared a National State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Department of Health have issued several Orders and Directives regarding public safety and limiting public activities to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the number of suspected and diagnosed cases in the State of Florida and specifically Alachua County continue to climb; and,

WHEREAS, a Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in Alachua County was issued on March 16th beginning at 1:04 p.m. which has been extended by Orders 20-08 and 20-11; and,

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has issued Executive Orders 20-91 and 20-92 setting forth a state-wide stay at home order and establishing a state-wide list of essential businesses and services; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has specified his Order shall supersede any conflicting official action or order issued by local officials in response to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-91 does not address the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, at the present, commercially manufactured PPE is not readily available for members of the public and home-made PPE is being made by members of the public and used in the healthcare field because of the lack of commercially manufactured PPE; and

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General has stated that some protection is better than none, and

ORDER ALLOWING THE USE OF PPE
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WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of County Commission is the Official Authority as prescribed in the County's Code §27.07.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Alachua County Code Section §27.07, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners sitting as the Official Authority hereby resolves, finds, and declares:

1. The above recitals are true.
2. I find that a local order on the use of PPE does not impair or conflict with either Executive Order 20-91 or 20-92.
3. No private employer or owner of a business in Alachua County shall prevent an employee or member of the public from wearing their PPE of choice while on their premises in Alachua County or during the performance of their job duties until commercially manufactured PPE becomes widely available. However, the business owner or their representative is not required to allow the use of any PPE which is obscene or contains a message that is not appropriate.
4. Any violation of this order shall be treated as a violation of §252.50, Florida Statutes.
5. This Order shall apply within the entirety of the boundaries of Alachua County and shall apply within all municipalities within the county. This order may be enforced by any municipality within the county within their jurisdiction.
6. This order shall take effect upon it being signed and filed with the Clerk of the Court.

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Dated this 3rd day of April at 2:30 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA



By: _____
Robert Hutchinson, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



County Attorney's Office