

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
EXECUTIVE ORDER
COVID-19, MARCH 13, 2020
TWENTY-SEVENTH EXTENSION:
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 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 (which has been renewed on April 21, 2020 and on July 25, 2020); 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, all individuals and families in Clay County should take prevention measures, including home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, covering coughs and sneezes with tissue and disposal of the tissue immediately thereafter, washing hands often with soap and water for at least twenty seconds, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers with sixty percent – ninety-five percent 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, mitigation measures for communities experiencing an outbreak include 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, wearing a facemask if advised to do so by a healthcare provider or by a public health official, staying home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms if instructed to do so by public health officials or health care provider; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis 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 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 (which has been extended through November 3, 2020, by Executive Orders 20-114, 20-166 and 20-213) 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, local government agencies in Clay County, including but not limited to Clay County, the municipalities in Clay County, the Clay County Sheriff's Office, and the other Clay County constitutional officers began, as of January 24, 2020, implementing preparations to address the public health emergency posed by COVID-19 in Clay County; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the County Manager of Clay County, Florida declared a local state of emergency from 8:00 a.m. on March 13, 2020 through 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, due to the public health emergency posed by COVID-19 in Clay County, which has been extended every 7 days, currently to September 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Clay County residents continue to test positive for COVID-19 posing a risk to the entire state of Florida including Clay County; and

WHEREAS, during the last 7 days, the Director of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety, in his capacity as the County's Emergency Management Director, and the Clay County Emergency Operations Center, have been monitoring the public health emergency posed by COVID-19 in Clay County; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Management has reported to the County Manager that COVID-19 remains a threat to the public health of Clay County residents, workers, and visitors; and that the continuing public health emergency posed by COVID-19 in Clay County will continue to require an extraordinary response by Clay County for the near future; 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 Clay County the power to provide for the health and safety of persons and property and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Clay County pertaining to taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Clay County Ordinance 2005-31, as amended, provides for the exercise of certain powers under a declared local state of emergency in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people and property of Clay County; 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 the declaration of local emergency be extended from 8:00 a.m., on September 18, 2020, to remain in effect until 8:00 a.m., on September 25, 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 extended from 8:00 a.m., on September 18, 2020, and shall remain in effect through 8:00 a.m., on September 25, 2020, (seven days) unless extended prior to that time by the County Manager 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. Pursuant to the power and authority granted by Clay County Ordinance 2005-31, as amended, in particular section 7.1-6(c), the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Clay County by law, ordinance, resolution or policy pertaining to entry into contracts, acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities, and appropriation and expenditure of public funds, are hereby waived by this executive order during the existence of this declared state of local emergency, effective as of March 13, 2020.

4. 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 18th day of September, 2020, in Green Cove Springs, Florida, effective at 8:00 a.m. on September 18, 2020.

Clay County Board of County Commissioners

By: 

Howard Wanamaker, County Manager