

**AMENDED PROCLAMATION DECLARING A CONTINUING
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-3
COVID-19**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida (the "Board") has adopted the Emergency Management Ordinance, being codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida (the "Ordinance"), providing authorization for the Board or its designee to declare an extension to a previously issued declaration of local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Leon County declared a local State of Emergency effective March 16, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., for a period of seven days, to authorize continued coordination with state and other local authorities and to take all actions necessary to address the threat of a public health crisis resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-68, prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages at certain establishments and placing certain limitations on gatherings for bars and restaurants; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Leon County extended the local State of Emergency effective March 23, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., for a period of seven days; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the Florida State Department of Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus, including cancellation of large gatherings and social distancing of at least six feet between persons in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, federal and state health officials have indicated that they expect additional cases of COVID-19 to be identified in the coming days and, based on the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, additional person-to-person transmission is likely; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-83, directing the Surgeon General and State Health Officer to issue a public health advisory to all persons over 65 years of age and to persons with certain underlying medical conditions that place them high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 to urge them to stay home and take measures to limit their exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-83 further directs the Surgeon General and State Health Officer to issue a public health advisory against all social or recreational gatherings of 10 or more people; and

WHEREAS, multiple local jurisdictions in Florida and Georgia have implemented curfews in an attempt to limit gatherings in compliance with CDC recommendations to limit community spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2-309 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida, Leon County is authorized to implement curfews in times of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the continuing operation of essential businesses is required to provide goods and services to the public; and

WHEREAS, should COVID-19 spread in Leon County at a rate close to what some other communities in Florida and Georgia are experiencing it would strain local resources and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Leon County an Emergency as defined in the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, a prompt and efficient response and recovery is necessary to safeguard lives and property affected by the Emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT to the authority conferred by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and the Ordinance, as Chairman of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, and pursuant to Section 2-306 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, after consultation with state and local authorities, I find as follows:

1. State of Emergency. A local State of Emergency continues to exist requiring immediate and expeditious action as a result of the threat of a public health crisis within Leon County and neighboring counties, and will continue to exist for a period of seven days, effective 2:00 p.m. on March 23, 2020, in accordance with Section 2-307 of the Code of Laws of Leon County.

2. Stay at home. Members of the public are encouraged to remain in their homes except for activities related to the provision of essential commodities and services, such as:

a. For health and safety. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.

b. For necessary supplies and services. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

- c. For outdoor activity. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing, limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people, and all other measures as advised by the CDC, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas that are open to the public.
- d. For work. To work, and travel to and from a place of work.
- e. To take care of others. To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household.
- f. For worship. To attend religious services in places of worship, and travel to and from a place of worship.

3. Business operations. All businesses are encouraged to implement and practice CDC recommendations, including maintaining six-foot distancing between employees and members of the public. Persons who frequent business establishments are subject to the provisions of Section 4 below.

4. Gatherings of 10 or more persons. Social or recreational gatherings of 10 or more persons are prohibited in Leon County. Local law enforcement is authorized to disperse gatherings of 10 or more persons and treat violations of this emergency measure as a County ordinance violation, punishable in accordance with Section 1-9 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida. This provision does not prohibit the gathering of a members of a household or residence. A “social or recreational gathering” does not include a group of persons at the following locations:

- a. Office space, child care facilities, residential buildings, or any type of temporary shelter or housing;
- b. Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other health care facilities;
- c. Places of worship;
- d. Grocery stores and pharmacies;
- e. Airport;
- f. Any other location at which persons purchase supplies and services in furtherance of their employment.

5. Curfew.

- a. In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, a curfew is hereby established in all of Leon County, Florida, from the hours of 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m., commencing on March 25, 2020.

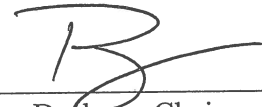
- b. The curfew applies to all pedestrian and vehicular movement, standing and parking, except for: individuals participating in, going to, or returning from employment, including, but not limited to, federal, state, and local government employees, judicial personnel, those providing hospital and other health care services, first responder and correctional personnel, child protection and child welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, postal and shipping services personnel, airline and airport personnel, and those performing utility and telecommunications repairs. Medical patients in need of transport, and others seeking medical care, are also excluded from the curfew. The curfew does not prohibit a person from walking a pet animal in the vicinity of the residence at which the animal is being maintained.
- c. Refusal to comply with the curfew shall be punishable in accordance with Section 1-9, of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida.

THIS PROCLAMATION authorizes the continued activation of the Leon County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the exercise of all powers provided by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

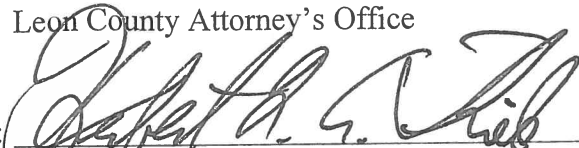


By: 
Bryan Desloge, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:
Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By: 

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Leon County Attorney's Office

By: 
Herbert W.A. Thiele, Esq.
County Attorney