

## Proclamation Declaring Lake County a Disaster Area For Coronavirus Response

**WHEREAS**, Lake County must take actions to contain and mitigate the local impact of the expanding global outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to provide for the continuity of government, activation of community mitigation plans, and to allow for expedited response without circumventing constitutional protections for citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the only remedy allowed by statute and County Ordinance that will enable Lake County to achieve these goals is to issue a local disaster proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, this proclamation will assist Lake County, by and through its Emergency Management Agency and Health Department, to coordinate county and municipal resources and response activities and suspend certain provisions and procedures for the conduct of county business in an effort to protect the health and safety of persons, and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law; and

**WHEREAS**, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19, including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") considers the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 to be high, both globally and to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security has deemed it necessary to impose restrictions on international travel to contain the spread of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has advised older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions to avoid nonessential travel, and has advised all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC currently recommends all communities take measures to both prepare for and mitigate community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the CDC indicates that more cases of COVID-19 are expected in the United States in the coming days, including more instances of community spread, and as the outbreak continues, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States is expected occur; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Illinois issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic as of March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, more than one Lake County resident has tested positive for COVID-19, and given the potential impact on high-risk populations, it is imperative that all appropriate steps be taken to reduce the rate of transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Illinois has issued further requirements for social distancing and elimination of certain community events in the state on March 12, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency as defined under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional Lake County resources available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in Lake County remain safe and secure; and

**WHEREAS**, while Lake County is presently responding to this situation, it is deemed necessary to activate the Lake County Emergency Operations Plan and Lake County Health Department Emergency Operations Plan by proclaiming that a disaster exists within Lake County, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Board of Health, at its March 12, 2020 Executive Board meeting, voted to authorize the President of the Board of Health to send a recommendation to the Chair of the Lake County Board to enact a Disaster Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the Board of Health forwarded that recommendation to the Chair of the Lake County Board on March 13, 2020.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the Lake County Code of Ordinances Title III § 32.07, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, I hereby proclaim that a local disaster exists within Lake County, Illinois.

**This Proclamation shall be filed with the Clerk of Lake County, Illinois, and shall expire in seven days unless terminated sooner by me, in my capacity as principal executive officer of Lake County, Illinois, or unless extended by a vote of the Lake County Board.**



  
Sandy Hart  
County Board Chair