

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE COUNTY OF SCOTT, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19 was detected in China, and has, since its initial detection, spread to more than 100 locations worldwide, including the United States;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern,” and on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, due to multiple cases of COVID-19 having been confirmed in Virginia, Governor Ralph S. Northam of the Commonwealth of Virginia, declared that a state of emergency existed in the Commonwealth of Virginia and, further, on March 13, 2020, Governor Northam ordered temporary closure of public schools throughout the Commonwealth to thwart further spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared the United States of America to be in a state of national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the threat to public health and safety to the residents of Scott County, Virginia, from exposure to COVID-19 constitutes an emergency or disaster of such sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a coordinated governmental response to mitigate the spread of the disease.

THEREFORE, I, Freda R. Starnes, County Administrator of Scott County, Virginia, hereby declare that (i) a state of emergency exists in Scott County, Virginia, and (ii) the anticipated effects of COVID-19 constitute a disaster within Scott County, Virginia, as that term is described in Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1413 and 44-146.16; and I invoke and declare in full force and effect in Scott County, Virginia, all laws and statutes of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for the protection of health and safety of the persons and property of Scott County, Virginia.

This local emergency is declared in accordance with the “Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000,” Virginia Code § 44-146.13, *et seq.*

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and in an abundance of caution, public facilities owned and operated by the County may be closed as determined prudent by the County Administrator in consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to avoid community spread of the virus.

The County, further, encourages all citizens of Scott County to practice social distancing and personal hygiene as recommended by the Scott County Department of Health to protect against community spread and, in doing so, to contribute to the stability and function of local and regional medical facilities by avoidance of overwhelming our health care facilities.

All public officials and employees of Scott County, Virginia are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in discharge of the duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in the execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives, state and local.

All citizens are called upon and directed to comply with emergency measures, to cooperate with the Scott County Department of Emergency Management in the execution of emergency operational plans, and to comply with the lawful directions of properly identified public officials.