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**Orange County Board of Commissioners  
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**DECLARATION OF AN ORANGE COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY TO  
COORDINATE RESPONSE AND PROTECTIVE ACTIONS TO PREVENT  
AND RESPOND TO THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health International Pandemic on March 10, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has warned of the public health threat posed by COVID-19 within the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Triangle region of North Carolina as of March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of North Carolina declared a State of Emergency, based on the public health emergency of COVID-19, on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Health and Emergency Services departments have organized an Incident Management Team to manage the public health impacts of COVID-19 in Orange County; and

**WHEREAS**, first responders and health care professionals remain integral to ensuring the county is best situated to respond to and mitigate the threat posed by COVID-19 and such first responders and health care resources should have the availability of all necessary personal protective equipment and continue to follow all necessary response protocols; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the above-described emergency, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and may disrupt essential services and systems:

- Section 1. Pursuant to the Orange County's Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 14, Article II, Sec. 14-31 et. seq., and as authorized by Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, a State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Orange County, North Carolina.
- Section 2. I hereby order all County law enforcement officers, employees, and all other emergency response personnel subject to the authority of the Orange County Board of Commissioners to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the Orange County Emergency Operations Plan and other relevant County Ordinances.
- Section 3. I hereby authorize the Orange County Emergency Operations Center to be immediately activated for as long as required.
- Section 4. I hereby authorize the Orange County Manager to take appropriate protective action, including implementing prohibitions, restrictions, evacuations, alterations of any Orange County services that may contribute to virus spread, and procure or hire any resources necessary to provide for the public welfare and protection.
- Section 5. The Orange County Manager is further directed to: (a) distribute this declaration to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) file this declaration with the Clerk to the Orange County Board of Commissioners; and (c) distribute the declaration as necessary to ensure its full implementation.
- Section 6. This proclamation shall become effective immediately. Proclaimed this the 13th Day of March 2020, at 1130 hours.
- Section 8. This proclamation shall remain in effect until it is rescinded.



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Penny Rich, Chair, Orange County Board of Commissioners