

# *Declaration*

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, in Broward County, Florida, four people have tested presumptively positive for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), a serious respiratory illness that causes symptoms similar to influenza including coughing, fever, and shortness of breath;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 constitutes a clear and present threat to the health and welfare of the people of Broward County;

**WHEREAS**, Broward County is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, a significant outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has spread to other countries, including the United States, and now to Broward County;

**WHEREAS**, Broward County is a significant destination for visitors from around the world;

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations Emergency Committee declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern";

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") is recommending that travelers avoid nonessential travel to and from countries designated by the CDC as Level 3, which currently include China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has also warned older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes to avoid nonessential travel to and from countries designated by the CDC as Level 2, which currently includes Japan, and further warns all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC is predicting that it is "likely" that "widespread transmission" of COVID-19 will occur in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, no vaccine or drug is currently available to combat COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, Broward County residents should follow the recommendations of the CDC, taking commonsense, practical measures such as frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes;

**WHEREAS**, Section 8-53 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances ("County Code") permits the County Administrator to declare a local State of Emergency when conditions such as those described above are found to exist and there is a danger of loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 8-53 of the County Code empowers the County Administrator to exercise extraordinary powers during the existence of a State of Emergency, activate emergency management plans, and take prudent action necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of residents of Broward County,

### ***NOW, THEREFORE,***

I, Bertha Henry, County Administrator of Broward County, Florida, do hereby find for the reasons set forth above that a local State of Emergency exists within Broward County, Florida.

Pursuant to pertinent legal authorities, my Office is vested with all powers and authority granted to said position during the existence of the State of Emergency proclaimed hereby.

Furthermore, all procedures and formalities are hereby waived pursuant to state law and Section 8-53 of the County Code.

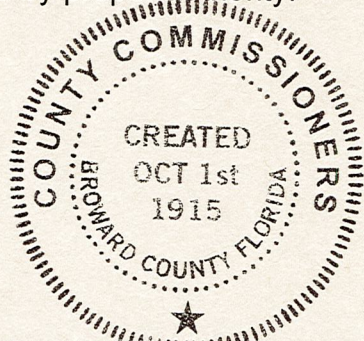
My Office shall issue such Emergency Orders as are required in order to conduct County business and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of people within Broward County.



All public officials and employees of Broward County are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of their duties for the duration of this emergency and in the execution of State and local emergency orders, regulations and directives.

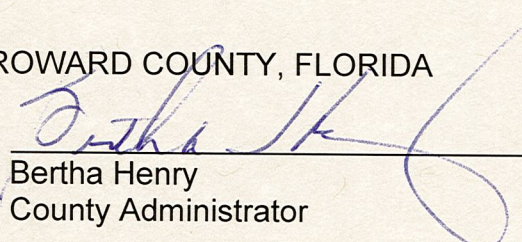
All people of Broward County are called upon and directed to comply with all necessary emergency measures, and to cooperate with public officials and civil emergency/disaster service forces in executing emergency operational plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful direction of all properly identified public officers.

The State of Emergency declared hereby shall continue for seven days from the date and time hereof unless modified by proper authority.



BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:

  
Bertha Henry  
County Administrator

RECEIVED AND FILED in the Records, Taxes and Treasury Division on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, at 12:25 p.m.