

*County of Brunswick*  
*Office of the County Commissioners*



**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS** the novel coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) is a new disease spreading across the globe causing flu-like symptoms, but with markedly higher rates of death, particularly among the elderly and medically vulnerable populations; and

**WHEREAS** COVID-19 is believed to have begun in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, the first case was detected in the United States on January 21, 2020, and the first case was confirmed in North Carolina on March 3, 2020; and

**WHEREAS** on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared COVID-19 to be a public health emergency in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** on March 10, 2020, in order to address and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 to vulnerable populations and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** on March 11, 2020, noting that COVID-19 had infected more than 118,000 people in 114 countries and had caused 4,291 deaths, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS** on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS** on March 14, 2020 Brunswick County identified its first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in the County; and

**WHEREAS** on March 19, 2020, Governor Cooper announced that state health officials confirmed the first positive case in the state believed to be acquired through community spread rather than travel; and

**WHEREAS** as a result of the above-described public health emergency, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities may be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

**WHEREAS** declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Section 1-9-88 of the Brunswick County Code of Ordinances, I hereby declare and proclaim the following:

**Section 1.** A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Brunswick County. This Declaration does not trigger the limitations on weapons in North Carolina General Statute 14-288.7 or impose any limitations on the consumption, transportation, sale or purchase of alcoholic beverages.

**Section 2.** The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be the unincorporated areas of Brunswick County.

**Section 3.** Brunswick County Government Offices remain open for business during normal business hours. Public access to services is subject to reasonable restrictions as determined by the County Manager in consultation with the Health Director to limit unnecessary in-person contacts. Such restrictions may include in-person meetings by appointment only and enhanced use of digital services and telephonic and video conferencing.

**Section 3.** The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed:

A. Evacuation: Not applicable

B. Curfew: Not applicable

C. Alcohol: Not applicable

D. Weapons: Not applicable

E. Restricted Public Access

1) In accordance with Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 117, dated March 14, 2020, as amended by Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 120, dated March 23, 2020, mass gatherings of 50 or more individuals are reasonably and necessarily restricted to promote efforts being made to overcome or prevent further aggravation of the emergency, except in areas or times designated by the Brunswick County Health Department in conjunction with Brunswick County Emergency Management. "Mass gatherings" shall have the same meaning as described in Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 117, dated March 14, 2020, as

amended by Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 120, dated March 23, 2020. Should the Governor amend these orders with regard to mass gatherings, Brunswick County will follow those restrictions as part of this Declaration.

**Section 4.** I hereby order all Brunswick County law enforcement officers, public health employees, emergency response personnel, and all other county employees subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Brunswick County Emergency Operations Plan, and to take such further action as is necessary to secure the safety and protection of the populace of Brunswick County.

**Section 5.** I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

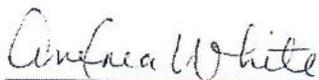
**Section 6.** This declaration shall take effect on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:00 pm and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, at 3:00 pm.



Frank L. Williams, Chair  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Andrea White, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

