

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-Co-V2 virus, a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans which can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared COVID-19 a Public Health Pandemic of International Concern on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has reported the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) declared a public health emergency in the United States pursuant to Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act on January 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NCDHHS”) has confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Harnett, Johnston, and Wayne Counties as of March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has confirmed one case of COVID-19 in Sampson County as of March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina has declared a State of Emergency, as defined by N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19) for the State of North Carolina based upon the public health emergency posed by COVID-19; and

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

WHEREAS, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents of Sampson County remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, there is an imminent threat of the spread of COVID-19 within Sampson County, thereby creating a public health emergency that will likely lead to serious illness, loss of life, and disruption to essential services and systems; and

WHEREAS, local and state health departments must use all preventative measures, which will require access to available services, personnel, equipment, and facilities, to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Sampson County Health Director has confirmed a public health threat due to the confirmed spread of COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in the Chair of the Sampson County Board of Commissioners under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes of North Carolina, Article 36A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and the Sampson County State of Emergency Ordinance, Clark H. Wooten, Chair of the Sampson County Board of Commissioners, hereby declares as follows:

1. A **STATE OF EMERGENCY** exists within the jurisdiction of Sampson County, North Carolina and, by request of the mayors of the Towns of Autryville, Garland, Harrells, Newton Grove, Roseboro, Salemburg, and Turkey, within the corporate limits of those municipalities.

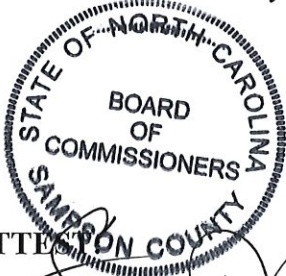
2. It is hereby ordered that all emergency management personnel subject to the control of the Sampson County Board of Commissioners cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Sampson County Emergency Operations Plan.


3. The Sampson County Manager is authorized to take such protective action as he deems necessary or prudent, including the implementation of prohibitions and restrictions on the County's employees and the public use of Sampson County's facilities, alterations of the manner in which services are provided by Sampson County, and the procurement of additional resources to promote and protect the public welfare during this public health emergency.

4. It is hereby order that this Declaration be: (a) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) filed with Clerk to the Sampson County Board of Commissioners; (c) posted in the Sampson County Courthouse; and (d) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

5. This Declaration shall become effective immediately upon endorsement and shall continue in effect until rescinded pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(e).

This the 18th day of March, 2020.



ATTEST

Susan J. Holder, Clerk,
Sampson County Board of Commissioners


Clark H. Wooten, Chair,
Sampson County Board of Commissioners