

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Washington County, North Carolina
Coronavirus COVID-19 Response
General Press Release #2
March 18, 2020 @ 2:30PM**

Washington County has declared a State of Emergency, effective at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

This action was taken to coordinate response and protection action to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The State of Emergency is attached and includes all areas within Washington County, including the municipalities of Plymouth, Roper, and Creswell.

Washington County citizens and visitors are encouraged to follow Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order No. 117, which prohibits the congregation of more than 100 people in a single room or a single space, indoors or outdoors, at the same time.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control recommended on March 15, 2020 that event organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States for the next eight (8) weeks.

Further, through Executive Order No. 118, NC Governor Roy Cooper has limited restaurants and bars to selling food and beverage by carry-out, drive-through and delivery only, effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2020 and through March 31, 2020.

The primary reason for this State of Emergency Declaration is to allow access to state and federal resources to promote the health and safety of Washington County citizens and visitors. This declaration is a necessary measure taken for preparedness and prevention in Washington County.

No further restrictions or prohibitions are imposed at this time, other than those instituted by Executive Orders of the Governor of North Carolina. However, all citizens of Washington County and visitors of the same are highly encouraged to adhere to laws of the State of North Carolina and ordinances within the County, as well as to respect the duties of Public Safety and Public Health Personnel throughout the County.

Washington County's top priority is and always will be the health, safety and security of the community. If citizens have questions, concerns or if they are showing signs of symptoms of the virus, they are strongly encouraged to call MTW District Health at 252-793-3023 for information and/or further instructions.

End of Press Release



DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Effective: Wednesday, March 18th, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

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

WHEREAS, on March 10th, 2020, the State of North Carolina through the Office of Governor, Roy Cooper, issued Executive Order No. 116 titled “Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of Covid-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 13th, 2020, the United States of America through the Office of President, Donald Trump, issued a Proclamation Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with local, state, and federal health care professionals and based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and NC Department of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS) arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary to protect and preserve public safety; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described disaster, 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 will 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 Board of Commissioners of Washington County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Washington County State of Emergency Ordinance:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Washington County as more particularly described in Section 2 below.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be:

- All unincorporated areas within the jurisdiction of Washington County;
- All areas within the jurisdiction of Washington County
(At the request and consent of the Mayors).

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

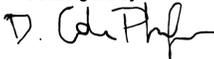
- No Specific Restrictions or Prohibitions Are Imposed at This Time.**

Section 4. I hereby order all law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management and/or emergency response personnel 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 Washington County Emergency Operations Plan.

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 Washington County Board of County Commissioners; (c) to be posted at the Washington County Courthouse; and (d) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 6. This declaration shall take effect on the date and time specifically indicated in the heading hereof, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this 18th day of March, 2020

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D. Cole Phelps, Esq.
Chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Washington Board of County Commissioners