A Proclamation

Of the

Board of Commissioners Cook County, Illinois

Sponsored by

THE HONORABLE TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT,
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

March 10, 2020

WHEREAS, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in China; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions and present with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19, including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is continuing its efforts to prepare for any eventuality given that this is a novel illness with known health risks it poses for the elderly and those with serious chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020, and the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has reported over 100,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and nearly 4,000 deaths attributable to COVID-19 globally as of March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to the recent COVID-19 outbreaks in China, Iran, Italy and South Korea, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict non-essential travel to or from those countries; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions to avoid nonessential travel, and has advised all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families in the United States, including voluntary home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects to increase community resilience and readiness for responding to an outbreak; and

WHEREAS, a vaccine or drug is currently not available for COVID-19; and
WHEREAS, in communities with confirmed COVID-19 cases, the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures, including staying at home when sick, when a household member is sick, and keeping away from others who are sick; and
WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the World Health Organization and the CDC indicate that the disease is expected to spread; and
WHEREAS, there are currently 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cook County with an additional 260 persons under investigation in Illinois; and
WHEREAS, one of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cook County has not been linked to any travel activity or to an already-confirmed COVID-19 case, which indicates community transmission in Illinois; and
WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, and a disaster exists within Cook County, Illinois.
NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Cook County Code of Ordinances, Section 26-39 et seq., the proclamation of disaster will assist the Cook County, by and through its disaster agencies, to coordinate county and municipal resources and to provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is the policy of the Cook County to be prepared to address any disasters and, therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to provide additional Cook County resources, including personnel and property, to address any disasters and hazards.

NOW, THEREFORE, a disaster exists within Cook County, Illinois, and
WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a disaster within Cook County, Illinois.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2020
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Toni Preckwinkle, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

This Proclamation shall be filed with the Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, and shall expire in seven days unless extended by a vote of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2020
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Toni Preckwinkle, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners