



## **DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as “COVID-19”) emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread to 148 countries/regions, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared COVID-19 a “global pandemic,” and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS”) Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the Commonwealth Pennsylvania has released a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on 6 March, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Department of Emergency Services has activated the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center at Level III during normal duty hours on 6 March, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of 16 March, 2020, there are 63 confirmed and/or presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with 0 presumed positive cases in Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, while it is anticipated that a high percentage of those affected by COVID-19 will experience mild influenza-like symptoms, COVID-19 is a disease capable of causing severe symptoms or loss of life, particularly to older populations and those individuals with pre-existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed cases in Franklin County and to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID19; and

WHEREAS, with 63 presumed positive cases in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including 5 confirmed cases in bordering Cumberland County, as of March 16, 2020, the possible increased threat from COVID-19 constitutes a threat of imminent disaster to the health of the citizens of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population throughout Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has already caused schools state-wide to close, and will likely prompt additional local measures, including affected municipal governments to declare local disaster emergencies because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency situation throughout Franklin County is of such magnitude and severity as to render essential Franklin County's supplementation of emergency resources and mutual aid to the municipal governments of Franklin County and to require the activation of applicable county and municipal emergency response plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Commissioners of Franklin County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Franklin County;

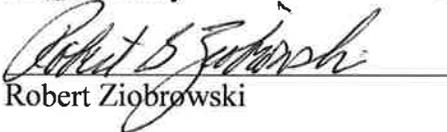
FURTHER, we direct the Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

(COMMISSIONERS)

  
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David Keller

  
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John Flannery

  
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Robert Ziobrowski