

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY
FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARION, PENNSYLVANIA**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, (hereinafter “COVID-19”), emerged in Wuhan, China, and began infecting humans in December of 2019; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread to multiple countries, including the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, states throughout the United States have been affected, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Governor of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, which among other things authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties to “act as necessary to meet the current exigencies;” and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, as of July 15, 2020, there are multiple confirmed and/or presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including presumed positive cases in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of Pennsylvania issued an order closing all K-12 schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania until the end of the academic school year; and

WHEREAS, this summer, several Clarion County Communities have cancelled or scaled back plans to hold events and festivals that may encourage large gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing impact of COVID-19 has the potential to endanger or threaten the health, safety, and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in Clarion County, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than Clarion County may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to be proactive to reduce the potential severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the affected residents in Clarion County; and

WHEREAS, Section 7501(b) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S.A. § 7501, authorizes the County to declare a disaster emergency “upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent.”

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Clarion, Pennsylvania, declare that:

1. The existence of a disaster emergency in Clarion County is declared pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Code (35 Pa.C.S.A. §7501 et seq.), as amended, due to COVID-19 creating a public health emergency.
2. The Clarion County Department of Public Safety emergency management coordinator is directed to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to work with state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate actions needed to alleviate the potential effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.
3. A Leadership Committee, consisting of the Board of Commissioners, the Commissioners’ Chiefs of Staff, the Director of Public Safety, the EMA Coordinator, the Director of Human Resources, the Director of Human Services, the Director of Buildings and Grounds, the President Judge, the Court Administrator, The Sheriff, The Warden, the Director of Information Technology, the County Solicitor, and any additional members as deemed necessary by the Board of Commissioners, is formed to address the COVID-19 situation, with the Director of Public Safety and the County Solicitor serving as co-chairs.
4. The Leadership Committee shall meet as needed in response to COVID-19 without the need to formally advertise times and places of meetings due to the exigent circumstances. However, as time permits, every effort will be made to list the times and places of such meetings in advance on the County website.

5. The formal requirements of time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public works, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds are temporarily suspended in light of the exigencies of the situation.

6. This Declaration or any related order, proclamation or statement shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

7. This Declaration shall take effect immediately and proceed until March 31st, 2021.

DECLARED this 22nd day of December 2020.

COUNTY OF CLARION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

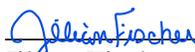


Wayne R. Brosius, Chairman

ATTEST:



Theodore W. Tharan, Vice-Chairman



Jillian Fischer, County Administrator



C. Edward Heasley, Secretary