

Proclamation Declaring Macon County a Disaster Area For Coronavirus Response

April 16, 2020

WHEREAS, Macon County must take actions to contain and mitigate the local impact of the expanding global outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to provide for the continuity of government, activation of community mitigation plans, and to allow for expedited response without circumventing constitutional protections for citizens; and

WHEREAS, currently, the only remedy allowed by statute that will enable Macon County to achieve these goals is to issue a local disaster proclamation; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation will assist Macon County, by and through its Emergency Management Agency and Health Department, to coordinate county and municipal resources and response activities and suspend certain provisions and procedures for the conduct of county business in an effort to protect the health and safety of persons, and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law; 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, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) considers the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 to be high, both globally and to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security has deemed it necessary to impose restrictions on international travel to contain the spread of the virus; 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, there is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends all communities take measures to both prepare for and mitigate community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the CDC indicates that more cases of COVID-19 are expected in the United States in the coming days, including more instances of community spread, and as the outbreak continues, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States is expected occur; 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

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic as of March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, more than forty Macon County residents have tested positive for COVID-19, and given the potential impact on high-risk populations, it is imperative that all appropriate steps be taken to reduce the rate of transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois has issued further requirements for social distancing and elimination of certain community events in the state on March 12, 2020 and extended said order through and including April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency as defined under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and

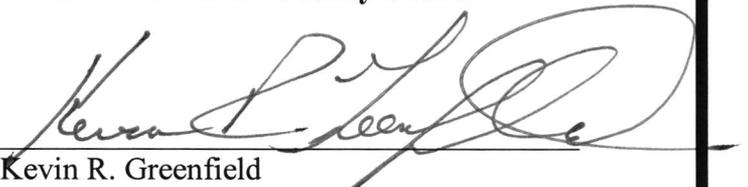
WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional Macon County resources available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in Macon County remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, while Macon County is presently responding to this situation, it is deemed necessary to activate the Macon County Emergency Operations Plan and Macon County Health Department Emergency Operations Plan by proclaiming that a disaster exists within Macon County, Illinois.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, I hereby proclaim that a local disaster exists within Macon County, Illinois.

This Proclamation shall be filed with the Clerk of Macon County, Illinois, and shall expire in seven days unless terminated sooner by me, in my capacity as principal executive officer of Macon County, Illinois, or unless extended by a vote of the Macon County Board.




Kevin R. Greenfield
County Board Chair