



**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 with respiratory disease symptoms or when instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider 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 and a disaster under Cook County Ordinance No. 19-4277, Sec. 26-36; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Cook County to be prepared to address any disasters and, therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional Cook County resources available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in Cook County remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, while Cook County is presently responding to this situation, it is deemed necessary to activate Cook County's emergency operations plan by proclaiming that a disaster exists within Cook County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation of disaster will assist the Cook County, by and through its Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, to coordinate county and municipal resources and response activities, in an effort to prevent and reduce further damage and hazards, protect the health and safety of persons, protect property and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the Cook County Code of Ordinances, Section 26-39 et seq., and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, I hereby proclaim that a disaster exists within Cook County, Illinois.

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

Dated this 10th day of March, 2020



Toni Preckwinkle, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners