

**PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS**  
**For**  
**PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**By the Chairman of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared COVID-19 as a Public Health Pandemic of International concern on March 11, 2020. The United States Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) has reported the high public health threat posed by COVID-19, both globally and to the United States and has determined it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel areas designated by the CDC; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under section 319 of the Public Health Services Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NCDDHS”) confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in this state; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management has activated the NC Emergency Operation Center to manage public health; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020 the State of North Carolina, through the Office of the Governor, Roy Cooper, issued Executive Order No. 116 titled Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from CDC and NCDHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Pitt County remain safe and secure; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, to secure life, property, and government stability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of North Carolina has declared a State of Emergency as defined by N.C. Gen. Stat. 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19) for the State of North Carolina based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions that are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains

mitigated and that residents in Pitt County remain safe and secure; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread of the disease poses a threat to life, property and the economy in Pitt County due to illness-related absenteeism, particularly among public safety personnel, healthcare personnel, and persons engaged in activities and businesses critical to the economy and infrastructure of Pitt County and its municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, local and state health departments must use all preventative and mitigation measures, which will require access to available services, personnel, equipment, and facilities to respond to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pitt County Public Health Director has confirmed a public health threat due to the confirmed spread of COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Pitt County under Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and State of Emergency Ordinance of the Pitt County Code of Ordinances:

I proclaim that the restrictions set forth herein, are necessary in order to maintain an acceptable level of public order, services, and protection of lives, safety and property during this emergency, and that the same shall be in effect within the jurisdiction of the County of Pitt until this Proclamation expires or is rescinded. I hereby order all county employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to my control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the emergency management ordinances set forth below.

1. Prohibit the assembly of mass gatherings of 50 or more persons.
  - a. A mass gathering is defined as any event or convening that brings together 50 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time. A single space may include facilities such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, conference room, meeting hall, theater or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.
  - b. A mass gathering does not include businesses and operations associated with maintaining federally identified critical infrastructure or operations and conducting essential activities. Federally identified critical infrastructure components consist of manufacturing, assembly, maintenance or operation of communications systems, defense industrial base operations, operation of dams, operation and maintenance of energy industries and distribution, food and agriculture, financial institutions, government facilities, water supply, wastewater treatment, nuclear reactors and material waste, information technology, transportation systems, healthcare and public health; critical manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, emergency services; social services and retail providers of essential goods such as grocery stores, pet stores, hardware stores, pharmacies, retailers and not for profit providing commodities or services essential for basic living. More specifically, for the purposes of this Order, other businesses excluded from this prohibition of mass

gatherings of 50 or more people include:

- i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
- ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
- iii. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
- iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
- vii. Banks and related financial institutions;
- viii. Hardware stores;
- ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;
- x. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- xi. Educational institutions-including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities-for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;
- xii. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
- xiii. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for

delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Proclamation on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;

- xiv. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- xv. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- xvi. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xvii. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- xviii. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- xix. Residential facilities include hotels, motels, shared rental units and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- xx. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
- xxi. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted from the provisions of this Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following conditions:
  - 1. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 50 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 50 or fewer children and staff are in the same group each day).
  - 2. Children shall not change from one group to another.
  - 3. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
  - 4. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group

of children.

2. Restrictions on the operation of certain businesses

- a. Owners, administrators and operators of fitness clubs, studios and gyms, salons, barbershops, tanning salons, spas and professional grooming, massage, and tattoo services are prohibited from operating.

3. Restrictions on the use of playgrounds

- a. The use of publicly and privately-owned playground equipment is prohibited. No prohibition exists for the areas surrounding playground equipment including greenways, walking trails or other amenities of open spaces or parks.

Furthermore, I recommend that the following screening protocols be implemented:

4. Recommend businesses strictly follow the guideless of the WHO (World Health Organization), CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the NC DHHS (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services). Employers are encouraged to allow alternative work arrangements for all employees.

I direct that copies of the Proclamation be disseminated to the mass communications media for publication and broadcast, and that a copy of the Proclamation be posted at the Pitt County Courthouse and other public buildings as appropriate.

This Proclamation dated March 23, 2020 supplements and to the extent not in conflict, incorporates the State of Emergency Declaration issued March 19, 2020 and shall become effective upon endorsement. Restrictions pertaining are effective as of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:00 pm. This Proclamation shall continue until April 6, 2020 unless terminated, amended or rescinded earlier pursuant to N.C. Gen Stat. 166A-19.31(e).

**PROCLAIMED** this the 23rd day of March 2020.



Melvin C. McLawhorn  
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners