

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN SKAMANIA COUNTY
IN RESPONSE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-18

1. **WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and
2. **WHEREAS**, The CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high”, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and
3. **WHEREAS**, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and
4. **WHEREAS**, this worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person to-person transmission throughout the Washington State and the residents of Skamania County significantly impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of region, and is a public disaster that affects life, health, property or the public peace.
5. **WHEREAS**, many cases of the virus have been confirmed in the State of Washington causing Governor Inslee to proclaim that a state of emergency exists and formally did so on January 29, 2020,
6. **WHEREAS**, The Washington State Military Department, State Emergency Operations Center, is coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is assessing the magnitude and long-term effects of the incident with the Washington State Department of Health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Skamania County Commissioners, in consideration of the above findings of fact:

1. A state of emergency is declared due the COVID-19 Virus situation in Skamania County.
 2. The Skamania County Emergency Management Director is hereby directed to activate those portions of the Skamania County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan necessary to combat the effects of the virus to the extent possible.
 3. Designated departments are authorized to enter contracts and incur obligations in order to combat the emergency.
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4. Each designated department is authorized to exercise the powers vested in this resolution without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements).

This Declaration of local emergency set forth in (1) above shall terminate by the issuance of a subsequent rescinding Resolution which shall follow when the Board determines that the extraordinary measures detained herein are no longer required for the protection of the public peace, safety and welfare.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of March 2020



BOARD OF SKAMANIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Handwritten signature of Bob Hamlin in blue ink.

Bob Hamlin, District 3, Chair

Handwritten signature of Tom Lannen in blue ink.

Tom Lannen, District 2, Vice Chair

Handwritten signature of Richard Mahar in blue ink.

Richard Mahar, District 1

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Debbie Slack in blue ink.

Debbie Slack, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Handwritten signature of the Skamania County Prosecutor in blue ink.

Skamania County Prosecutor

Addendum to Skamania County Board of Commissioners Declaration of Local Emergency 2020-18

On March 17, 2020 the Skamania County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 2020-18 in response to the public health emergency related to COVID-19.

Pursuant to this Declaration of Emergency I am recommending the following actions be implemented:

1. Activation of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 found in the Skamania County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
2. Designate the Community Health Director as the lead Public Information Coordinator with regards to the accurate, timely and consistent dissemination of information related to the public health emergency.
3. Establish regular teleconference meetings with county and city leaders as well as a representative from the business community to keep all parties apprised of developments related to COVID-19 and impacts to the communities.
4. Develop policy addressing compensation in the event of absences in the county workforce.
5. Implement consistent and stringent sanitation procedures for county buildings.
6. Utilize Social Media to provide regular and consistent dissemination of information specific to changes in governmental operations.
7. Discontinue county scheduled public events and limit or restrict all out of county scheduled training of county employees.
8. Encourage elected officials and department heads to implement recommended precautions in their office areas to limit potential spread of COVID-19.

The above list of recommendations should be considered for immediate implementation.

Dave Brown, Sheriff
Director of Emergency Services