



Otsego County Press Release

Declaration of Local State of Emergency



Board of Commissioners

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As of 3:15 p.m. March 30, 2020, Otsego County has made a Local State of Emergency Declaration. Refer to the attached declaration statement.

We are all deeply concerned about COVID-19, and the spread in Otsego County has been greater than surrounding areas. This declaration is not intended to cause panic in our community. It is the next step in strongly encouraging people to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and to follow the Governor's mandated Stay in Place Executive Order 2020-21.

Please be advised that counties at this time are not required to declare a local state of emergency for funding and supplies purposes. The fact that both the federal and state governments have declared states of emergency means that we do not have to at the local level in order to secure funding and supplies, and most counties thus far have chosen not to take this step. However, in an abundance of caution and in our leadership role, Otsego County considers it important to move ahead with a formal declaration.

The most critical reasons to declare a State of Emergency are : 1) to activate the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** and 2) to allow for resources to flow into the County as needed in an easier fashion while also allowing for Federal and State reimbursement procedures to occur more efficiently.

Otsego County proactively fulfilled these steps weeks ago. Otsego County Emergency Management activated our EOC on March 13, 2020, before even being informed of the first positive COVID-19 case on March 16, 2020. Additionally, the county has developed a comprehensive plan to track COVID-19 costs and has signed up for full reimbursement with the appropriate agencies.

Rest assured that Otsego County Government is working continuously to address the challenges of COVID-19 and is committed to prioritizing public health and the continuity of county government services during this unprecedented time.

Please feel free to reach out to our many local agencies and organizations if you are in need of assistance. Our generous community has many options available.

**The Otsego County EOC is a group of county professionals who meet regularly to collaborate to share resources, ideas, information, and to execute the county's emergency management plan. The EOC consists of many agencies/organizations in these broad categories:

Law Enforcement – state and local agencies

Otsego County, City of Gaylord, and Township Governments

Local Schools

First Responders

Health Department

Utility Companies

NOAA Weather Service

Health Care System

DECLARATION FOR A LOCAL “STATE OF EMERGENCY”

TO: Commanding Officer- Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Department; 7th District Coordinator Lt. Michael A. deCastro

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, and affected state and local governments have also declared states of emergency.

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the State of Michigan declared state of emergency by Governor Gretchen Whitmer after MDHHS identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan.

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-21 “Stay in Place Order” to suppress the spread of COVID-19, to prevent the state’s health care system from being overwhelmed, to allow time for the production of critical test kits, ventilators, and personal protective equipment, and to avoid needless deaths, it is reasonable and necessary to direct residents to remain at home or in their place of residence to the maximum extent feasible. This order takes effect on March 24, 2020 at 12:01 am, and continues through April 13, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

WHEREAS, the County of Otsego has been taking proactive steps to prevent and prepare for the spread of the disease.

WHEREAS, the Chief Elected Official of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to stop the spread of this disease and protect public health.

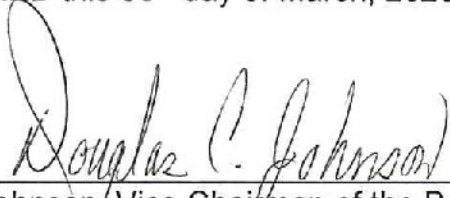
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE OTSEGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 10(b) OF MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 390, P.A. 1976 AS AMENDED:

1. That a Local State of Emergency is hereby declared by Otsego County.
2. The Local State of Emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Otsego County Board Chair.
3. This declaration of a Local State of Emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division, Michigan State Police Gaylord Post, and the Otsego County Clerk.
4. This declaration of a Local State of Emergency activates the Otsego County Emergency Operations Plan to direct the jurisdiction’s response and recovery efforts and resources so that local resources are being utilized to the fullest possible extent. This includes activation of the jurisdiction’s emergency operations center for coordination and control and utilization of the National Incident Management System by disaster relief forces. The Otsego County Emergency

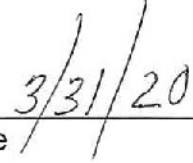
Manager activated the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on March 13, 2020. In keeping with social distancing protocols, the EOC is operating virtually via emails and teleconferences.

5. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 30th day of March, 2020.



Doug Johnson, Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners



Date