



DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Code section 2210-8 empowers the County Health Officer to declare a Local Health Emergency for a period up to seven (7) days in the county or any area thereof, including but not limited to an imminent and proximate public health threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and

WHEREAS, upon ratification by the Board of Supervisors, the Local Health Emergency may be extended beyond seven (7) days and the Board of Supervisors shall review the declaration at least every 14 days until the Local Health Emergency is terminated; and

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019, and symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath and outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's health care community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County had its first confirmed case of COVID-19 on February 20, 2020, and the potential of more COVID-19 cases in Humboldt County is an imminent threat; and

WHEREAS, the declaration does not reflect any dramatic change in the health of our community, and this step is being taken to help ensure adequate capacity to address the community transmission phase of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, when we begin seeing increasing numbers of cases it will undoubtedly be accompanied by increased demands on local public health as well as our community partners who are part of the response such as hospitals, clinics, emergency medical services (EMS), law enforcement and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is important to declare a Local Health Emergency because it opens up resources local governments can access to assist with in-the-moment needs, like



staffing and equipment resources, as well as recouping associated costs once the emergency is resolved.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED AND ORDERED that said Local Health Emergency shall be deemed to exist throughout said county as prescribed by state law, ordinances, and resolutions of this county, and by the County of Humboldt Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors on 7 April 2015, until its termination as proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, State of California.

Dated: March 11, 2020

