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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF LINCOLN**

**PROCLAMATION OF A
STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The following Proclamation is issued by the Chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners:

WHEREAS, the coronavirus ("COVID-19") is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person;

WHEREAS, in response to the global spread of the virus and the disease it causes, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19; and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020;

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper by Executive Order No. 116, declared a State of Emergency for the State of North Carolina on March 10, 2020 that addresses response and protective actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19;

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 Lincoln County remain safe and secure.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority contained in Article 1A of N.C.G.S. § Chapter 166A, Article 36A of N.C.G.S. § Chapter 14, and Chapter 31 of the Lincoln County State of Emergency Ordinance, I, Chairman Carrol Mitchem of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists within Lincoln County.

I further proclaim by and with the consent of the mayors of the municipalities within Lincoln County, this Declaration of State of Emergency applies within the municipal limits of the following municipal governments:

Lincoln County

City of Lincolnton

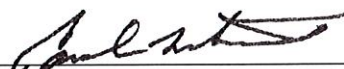
I further proclaim that the directions set forth below, which are authorized by Lincoln County Code of Ordinances, and the Lincoln County Health Director are necessary in order to maintain an acceptable level of public order, services, and protection of lives, safety and property during this emergency, and that the same shall be in effect within Lincoln County until this Proclamation expires or is rescinded by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. I hereby order all county employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to the authority granted to me as the Chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the emergency ordinances.

- A. **Restricted Access:** The Lincoln County Health Director may recommend to the County Manager of areas within which travel should be restricted except by those in search of medical assistance, food or other commodity or service necessary to sustain the well-being of themselves or family members.
- B. The Public Health Director may recommend to the County Manager any other activities or conditions the control of which may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives or property during the State of Emergency.
- C. The gathering of persons in groups of 50 or more in entertainment venues, county and municipal parks, or any other places of public assembly is highly discouraged. Health care facilities, schools, churches, government offices, business operations and day cares are exempted from restrictions.

I further proclaim that the Emergency Management Plan adopted by Lincoln County, and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements are in effect and shall remain in effect until this proclamation expires or is rescinded by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. All Emergency Management, Health and Medical Services personnel are hereby ordered to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the Lincoln County's Emergency Operations Plan and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements, and to furnish assistance thereunder.


I direct that copies of this Proclamation be disseminated to municipalities and mass communications media for publication and broadcast, and that a copy of this Proclamation be posted in the County Manager's Office, on the Lincoln County website and other public buildings as appropriate.

This Proclamation shall be effective as of 10 a.m. on March 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded pursuant to the Lincoln County Code of Ordinances and North Carolina General Statutes.



Carrol Mitchem, Chairman
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Amy S. Atkins, Clerk to the Board
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners



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March 16, 2020

PRESS RELEASE:

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED – LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Lincolnton, NC – To ensure that the health and safety of the public in Lincoln County is a top priority, elected officials are issuing a “State of Emergency” in regards to the latest developments concerning the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Lincoln County continues to work under the direction of the Governor’s Office and follow the guidance of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). **There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County.**

County officials continue to monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as additional cases are reported across the state. With reports in the region neighboring Lincoln County, administrative staff and public health officials are working together collectively to keep citizens and residents informed and updated. In an effort to remain as proactive as possible, local preparations or adjustments to services and programs are continuously being considered. At this time, the following measures are being taken:

- The Board of County Commissioners are encouraging events or other mass gatherings expecting more than 50 participants to be canceled or postponed.
- Suspension of all Lincoln County Senior Services activities until further notice.
- Suspension of all Recreation events and/or activities that include “high risk” groups in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Postponement of grand opening for the Lincoln County Public Library – Western Branch. (Alternative date to be determined)

Lincoln County is prepared and ready to respond should COVID-19 illness be suspected or confirmed in the community. All citizens are urged to do their part to slow the spread of the disease, so it does not overwhelm our healthcare facilities and providers. We have posted current information and recommendations to our website at lincolncounty.org and will provide future updates and instructions as they become available.

Lincoln County residents are urged to exercise judgment and take the following precautions as appropriate:

- Monitor information provided by the [CDC](#) and [NCDHHS](#) in addition to any official State or County communications.
- Practice good hygiene and take everyday preventive actions:
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
 - Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
 - Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Older people and people with severe chronic conditions (heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease) should [take special precautions](#) because they are at higher risk of developing a more serious COVID-19 illness.
- Pay attention for potential COVID-19 symptoms including **fever, cough, and shortness of breath**. If you feel like you are developing symptoms, call your doctor or medical provider.

For general questions regarding COVID-19 please call the Coronavirus Helpline at 1-866-462-3821.

For specific concerns regarding Lincoln County please call the Lincoln County Health Department triage line at 704-736-8510.

Media Contacts:

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