



DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13th, 2020, a National State of Emergency was issued for the COVID-19 Pandemic. Rockingham County expects to receive impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can lead to serious illness or death. Impacts from COVID-19 could be inclusive of, but not limited to, high volumes of “Suspected Coronavirus” patients, great demands placed on the overall Emergency Services through the continued need for Personal Protective Equipment, Decontamination Solutions, workforce exposure to “Suspected Coronavirus” patients, and great demands placed on all medical providers within the county which could result in extended work hours for all staff. These medical providers are inclusive of Communicable Disease Nurses and other personnel employed by the Rockingham County Division of Health and Human Services, Rockingham County Emergency Services and Law Enforcement Agencies having any jurisdiction within the boundaries of Rockingham County. These overall impacts will be countywide.

WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described emergency, I have determined that there is a threat of widespread or severe illness, and in extreme cases, the loss of life.

WHEREAS, as of Tuesday, March 24, 2020, this State of Emergency, is amended per Executive Order 120 provided by the Governor of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, as of Monday, March 30, 2020, this State of Emergency, is amended per Executive Order 121, provided by the Governor of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, as of Thursday, April 02, 2020, this State of Emergency, is amended per Executive Order 121, Section 3, A, 3.

WHEREAS, as of Monday, April 13, 2020, this State of Emergency is amended per Executive Order 131, Sections 1, Required Policies for Retail Establishments, Section 2, Recommended Policies for Retail Establishments, and Section 3, Long Term Care and Risk Mitigation Measures. As Executive Order 131 is written for the State of North Carolina, the abovementioned sections are specific to this Declaration of a Local State of Emergency as it relates “Residents and Retailers” residing, or operating, within the boundaries of Rockingham County as defined in Section 2 of this Declaration of a Local State of Emergency.

WHEREAS, Executive Orders 117-122, 124-125 and 129-130 have been issued for the purposes protecting the health, safety and welfare of the people of North Carolina. For this Declaration of a Local State of Emergency, all restrictions, regulations and guidance in these previously issued Executive Orders specifically relate to the “Residents and Retailers” residing, or operating, within the boundaries of Rockingham County as defined in Section 2 of this Declaration of a Local State of Emergency. All signed and executed Executive Orders can be accessed through: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/executive-orders>

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and the including the Amendments as described herein, and imposing the control measures ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Rockingham County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes (GS 166A-19.3(19))

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the total geographic area of Rockingham County

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this declaration shall be:

Total geographic area of Rockingham County inclusive of all areas and townships inside the geographic borders of Caswell County to the East, Guilford County to the South, Stokes County to the West and The Virginia State Line to the North.

Section 3. The following conditions are immediately imposed:

- The Emergency Operations Plan adopted by Rockingham County and all applicable mutual aid compacts and agreements are to be placed in full force and effect and shall remain in effect until this Emergency Declaration is rescinded.
- Control Measures are currently in effect and further Control Measures could be placed in effect immediately to implement plans for the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from any and all emergency situations that may result from the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. These Control Measures are, will continue to be, in coordination with federal, state and local agencies for the orderly protection, treatment and rehabilitation of affected persons.
- Social Distancing Requirements" as used in this State of Emergency means:
 - Maintaining at least six (6) feet distancing from other individuals;
 - Washing hands using soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds as frequently as possible or the use of hand sanitizer;
 - Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;
 - Facilitating online or remote access by customers if possible.
 - Abiding by all retail establishment regulations that relate to customers and as defined in Sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 131.
- The banning of mass gatherings now includes events of no more than ten (10) persons; however, in an effort to promote human dignity and limit suffering, funerals are permitted to include no more than fifty (50) persons, while observing Social Distancing Requirements to the extent possible, and as described above.
- **Stay at home or place of residence.** All individuals currently in the State of North Carolina, (specifically for the purpose of this Declaration of this Local State of Emergency, Rockingham County), are ordered to stay at home, their place of residence, or current place

of abode, (hereinafter “residence”) except as allowed in this State of Emergency. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence, they must at all times and as much as reasonably possible, maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in the State of Emergency. All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Operations, or to participate in or access COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations, all as defined below:

Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this State of Emergency, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter that meets Social Distancing Requirements. Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location.

- **Permitted Travel.** Only travel for Essential Activities as defined herein are permitted. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent possible. Travel into, within, or out of the State, to maintain COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations and Minimum Basic Operations. For purposes of the State of Emergency, individuals may leave their residence to perform any of the following essential activities:
 - For health and safety
 - For necessary supplies and services
 - For outdoor activity
 - For certain types of work
 - To take care of others
 - To receive goods and services
 - Volunteering with organizations that provide charitable and social services
 - Places of Worship
- **COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations**
- *For the purposes of this Declaration of Local State of Emergency, ALL members employed by, or through, Rockingham County are classified as “Essential Employees”*

For purposes of this State of Emergency, a COVID-19 Essential Business and Operation Includes the following businesses, not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions.

- Businesses that meet Social Distancing Requirements. Businesses, not-for-profit organizations or educational institutions that conduct operations while maintaining Social Distancing Requirements:
 - Between and among its employees;
 - Between and among employees and customers except at the point of sale or purchase.
- **Businesses operating in CISA identified sectors.** Businesses, not-for-profit organizations or educational institutions operating in the federal critical infrastructure sectors as outlined at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19> or any subsequent guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that amends or replaces said guidance.

- **Healthcare and Public Health Operations.** Healthcare and Public Health Operations includes, but is not limited to: hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; laboratories and laboratory service providers; public health entities, including those that compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information; pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology and agricultural biotechnology companies (including operations, research and development, manufacture, and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials; obstetricians and gynecologists; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; dietary supplement retailers; naturopathic healthcare providers; home-healthcare services providers; local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCO); mental health and substance use providers; other healthcare facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary healthcare services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

Specifically included in Healthcare and Public Health Operations are manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, or public health operations broadly defined. Healthcare and Public Health Operations does not include those businesses ordered to close by Executive Order No. 120.

- **Human Services Operations.** Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; child care centers, family child care homes; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, and children; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs, including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, child support services, vocational services, rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, transportation and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.

Human Services Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of human services, broadly defined.

- **Essential Infrastructure Operations.** Essential Infrastructure Operations includes, but is not limited to: food and beverage production, distribution, fulfillment centers, storage facilities; construction (including, but not limited to, construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long term care facilities, public works construction, school construction, and essential

commercial and housing construction); building and grounds management and maintenance including landscaping; airport operations; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; ports; cybersecurity operations; flood control; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

(including the provision of essential global, national and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

Essential Infrastructure Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined.

- **Essential Governmental Operations.** Essential Governmental Operations means all services provided by the State or any municipality, township, county, political subdivision, board, commission or agency of government and needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies or to provide for or support the health, safety and welfare of the public, and including contractors performing Essential Governmental Operations. Each government body shall determine its Essential Governmental Operations and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions.

For purposes of this State of Emergency and Executive Order 121, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, legislators, judges, court personnel, jurors and grand jurors, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, military, and other governmental employees working for or to support COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations are categorically exempt from this Executive Order.

This State of Emergency and Executive Order 121 does not apply to the United States government. Nothing in this document shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Operations. Nothing in this document or Executive Order 121 rescinds, amends, or otherwise modifies Section 2 of Executive Order No. 120.

- **Stores that sell groceries and medicine.** Grocery stores, pharmacies, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, prepared food, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products), and specifically includes their supply chain and administrative support operations. This includes stores that sell groceries, medicine, including medication not requiring a medical prescription, and also that sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.
- **Food, beverage production and agriculture.** Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, forestry,

baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; and businesses that provide food, shelter, services and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities.

- **Organizations that provide charitable and social services.** Businesses as well as religious and secular not-for-profit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities.
- **Religious entities.** Religious facilities, entities, groups, gatherings, including funerals. Also, services, counseling, pastoral care, and other activities provided by religious organizations to the members of their faith community. *All of these functions are subject to the limitations on events or convenings in Section 3 of this Executive Order.*
- **Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, film, and other media services.
- **Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation.** Gas stations and auto supply, sales, tire, auto-repair, roadside assistance and towing services, farm equipment, construction equipment, boat repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities.
- **Financial and insurance institutions.** Bank, currency exchanges, consumer lenders, including but not limited to, pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products. Also insurance companies, underwriters, agents, brokers, and related insurance claims and agency services.
- **Home improvement, hardware and supply stores.** Home improvement, building supply, hardware stores, and businesses that sell building materials and supplies, electrical, plumbing, and heating materials.
- **Critical trades.** Building and construction tradesmen and tradeswomen, and other trades, including but not limited to, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, cleaning services, moving and relocation services, landscaping and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations. This includes organizations that represent employees.
- **Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services.** Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods, vehicles or services to end users or through commercial channels.
- **Educational institutions.** Educational institutions including public and private pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating remote learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, provided that the Social Distancing

Requirements set forth below of this document are maintained to the greatest extent possible. This document is consistent with and does not amend or supersede prior documents regarding the closure of public schools.

- **Laundry services.** Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers.
- **Restaurants for consumption off-premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this document when the food is provided for carry-out, drive-through or delivery. This document is consistent with and does not amend or supersede prior COVID-19 related Executive Orders or the Rockingham County Declaration of Local State of Emergency restricting the operations of restaurants and temporarily closing bars.
- **Supplies to work from home.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply office supply products or other products needed for people to work from home.
- **Supplies for COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, support, or supply other COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations with the service or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, household appliances; payroll processing and related services; IT and telecommunication equipment; elections personnel and election-related equipment supplies; hardware, paint, flat glass, electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients and components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; and diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent.
- **Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, automobile dealers, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, trains, marinas, docks, boat storage, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers, and public transportation necessary to access COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.
- **Home-based care and services.** Home-based care for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness, including caregivers such as nannies who may travel to the child's home to provide care, and other in-home services including meal delivery.
- **Residential facilities and shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, pets, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, victims of domestic violence, people experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness.
- **Professional services.** Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, professional engineering and architectural services, land surveying services, real estate services (including brokerage, appraisal and title services) and tax preparation services.

- **Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries.** Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, mining, construction, communications, workers supporting the operation of firearm or ammunition product manufacturers, retailers, importers, distributors and shooting ranges, as well as products used or commonly sold by other COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.
- **Defense and military contractors.** Defense and military contractors that develop products, processes, equipment, technology, and related services that serve the United States military, national defense, and national security interests.
- **Hotels and motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry- out food services.
- **Funeral Services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services. These services are subject to the limitations on events or convenings in Section 3 of this Executive Order.
- **Additional COVID-19 Essential Retail Businesses are:**
 - Electronic retailers that sell or service cell phones, computers, tablets, and other communications technology;
 - Lawn and garden equipment retailers;
 - Book stores that sell educational material;
 - Beer, wine, and liquor stores;
 - Retail functions of gas stations and convenience stores;
 - Retail located within healthcare facilities;
 - Pet and feed stores.
- All COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations shall, to the extent practicable, maintain the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in Section 3 of this document and further defined in Sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 131.
- Businesses excluded from the list of COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations set forth in this document, who believe that they may be essential, may direct requests to be included to: the North Carolina Department of Revenue (the "Department"). The Department may grant such request if it determines that it is in the best interest of the State to have the business continue operations in order to properly respond to this COVID-19 pandemic. The Department shall post on its website a point of contact and procedure for businesses seeking to be designated as essential. A business that has made a request to the Department to be included as a COVID-19 Essential Business or Operation may continue to operate until that request is acted upon.
- Businesses that are not COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations are required to cease all activities within the State except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. Businesses

that are not COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations should comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the maximum extent possible, when carrying out their Minimum Basic Operations.

As used in this document, "Minimum Basic Operations" include the following:

- The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or related functions.
- The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.
- The banning of mass gatherings now includes events of no more than ten persons.
- **The following entertainment facilities were ordered to close no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, in accordance with NC Executive Order 120.**
 - Bingo Parlors
 - Bowling Alleys
 - Ice or roller skating rinks
 - Indoor exercise facilities (gyms, yoga studios, and martial arts facilities)
 - Health Clubs
 - Indoor pools
 - Live performance venues
 - Movie theaters
 - Spas
 - Sweepstake Lounges
 - Video Game Arcades
- Personal Care and grooming businesses are also ordered to close:
 - Barber shops
 - Beauty salons
 - Hair salons
 - Manicure/Pedicure Providers
 - Massage Parlors
 - Nail Salons
 - Tattoo Parlors
- Long term care facilities shall restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, for example, an end-of-life situation. For purposes of this Executive Order only, long term care facilities include all of the following:
 - Skilled nursing facilities
 - Adult Care Homes
 - Family Care Homes
 - Mental Health Group Homes and
 - Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities

This does not include state or county agents in the provision of their duties to monitor or provide mandated services. Please review Section 4 for clarification.

- Public School closures are extended until at least May 15, 2020; however non-traditional educational opportunities may be provided by County School Administration.
- All state parks within the jurisdiction of Rockingham County will limit operations to only the use of trails. All social areas (grilling, shelters, and restrooms) will be restricted by signage posted at the location which reinforces “Mass Gathering” regulations and “Social Distancing” (at least 6 feet away from a person) and will be enforced by N.C. Park Rangers. No reservations for shelters, picnic areas, etc. will be accepted at during the State of Emergency.
- River access throughout the county remains open this time.
- High risk individuals, defined as 65 years or older, people in nursing homes, long term care facilities, people with chronic disease issues (chronic lung disease, moderate or severe asthma, heart disease, severe obesity with a BMI ≥ 40 , poorly controlled diabetes, renal failure, liver disease, immunocompromised), pregnant women and infants should remain isolated to prevent exposure.
- Social distancing (at least 6 feet away from a person) should be maintained and practiced by citizens.

Section 4. I hereby order all Rockingham County Law Enforcement Officers, Emergency Services Personnel, Department of Health and Human Services Personnel and any other applicable Rockingham County Employees subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable federal, state and local laws/ordinances and the Rockingham County Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 5. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with the Clerk to the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 6. This declaration shall take effect on Friday, March 13th, 2020, at 1800 hours and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

Section 7. The Amendments to this declaration shall take effect on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 1300 hours and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

Section 8. Additional Amendments to this declaration shall take effect on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 1700 hours and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 13th Day of March 2020 at 1800 hours.
AMENDED this the 24th Day of March 2020 at 1300 hours.
AMENDED this the 30th Day of March 2020 at 1700 hours.
AMENDED this the 02nd Day of April, 2020 at 1300 Hrs.
AMENDED this the 13th Day of April 2020 at 1700 Hrs.

Mark F. Richardson

Mark Richardson, Chairman of the
Rockingham County Board of County Commissioners

Attest:

Jennifer H. Woods

Jennifer H. Woods, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners