

# Buffalo County Resolution



**Drafted By:**  
Sonya J. Hansen  
**Presented Month/Year:**  
March 2020

**County Department:**  
Administration  
**Fiscal Impact:** YES / NO

**AC Approved:** YES / NO

**RESOLUTION #** 20-03-01

## A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, in December, 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 was detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread throughout the world, including to the United States and the State of Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government, state governments, and local governments are working together to contain the further spread of the disease and treat existing cases; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin declared a Health Emergency in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Buffalo County (the "County") has been working to protect the health and well-being of its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the disease is likely to have on the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors (the "Board") has determined that it is necessary to make all possible resources and means available to the County in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents from the threat posed by the continued spread of COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining continuity of operations for Buffalo County; and

**WHEREAS**, Buffalo County desires to be as strategically proactive as possible to ensure the health and safety of Buffalo County citizens, staff and those traveling throughout Buffalo County; and

**WHEREAS**, Buffalo County desires to maintain the highest level of services related to the general public, such as Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Emergency Management and those departments directly related to the general welfare of all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Buffalo County requires administrative flexibility to manage throughout this pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, this administrative flexibility will provide the Administrative Coordinator, in consultation with the Executive Committee, the ability to, and not limited to: close or limit access to Buffalo County government facilities as necessary; implement strategic staffing changes to ensure adequate numbers of healthy staff are in place to carry out necessary and critical services; waive administrative policies regarding health insurance and assist in personnel expenses as a result of implementing staffing changes; and make temporary changes and exceptions to the Buffalo County Human Resources Policies and Procedures Handbook and any other administrative policy or guideline; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrative Coordinator shall, upon a reasonable time, after implementing necessary actions, inform the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors of such actions taken.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 323.11 the Board finds and declares that an emergency exists within the County by reason of an imminent threat of disaster impairing medical care, health, and other critical systems of the County due to the spread of COVID-19; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during the period of emergency prescribed by this Resolution, the Board may order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Administrative Coordinator is hereby authorized and directed by the Board to coordinate and administer the County's emergency management response and to carry out the orders of the Board related thereto.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Head of Emergency Management of the County is authorized and directed to carry out his duties under the County's Emergency Management Plan under the supervision and direction of the County Administrative Coordinator and perform such other duties as may be directed by further resolution of the Board.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that County Board Rule 24 is hereby suspended during the period of emergency and the County Supervisors are hereby authorized to attend meetings of the Board remotely, and the Board shall take all actions necessary to effectuate the same in compliance with all other applicable laws.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, based upon the information available to the Board and the ongoing threat posed by the spread of COVID-19, the period of emergency shall continue for thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Resolution unless sooner terminated or extended by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall continue through this term and shall consist of the County Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Supervisor Michael Taylor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all actions heretofore taken by the Board and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
County Clerk

ATTEST:

  
County Board Chairperson