

RESOLUTION NO. 5-20
SYNOPSIS: DECLARE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
INTRODUCED BY: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Columbia County:

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, Columbia 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 County Board (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.

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 Board Chair, with the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee is authorized to take the following actions to protect the health and safety of Columbia County residents served by the County, and to provide a degree of economic security to County employees:

- Restrict access to or close County offices or buildings
- Provide public access to County services via online and telephone instead of walk up counters and face to face meetings
- Authorize County Department Heads to alter employee work schedules and allow County employees to telework
- Provide two (2) weeks of Emergency Paid Leave for all coronavirus COVID-19 related absences with medical confirmation
- Restrict work related out of state travel for all County employees
- Require a fourteen (14) day self-quarantine for all County employees who are currently traveling out of state, or who elect to travel out of state, to a targeted area designated by the CDC. This quarantine period will not be paid, however, employees may use earned benefit time, including sick time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board Chair, with the advice and consent of the County's Executive Committee 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; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Emergency Management Coordinator is authorized and directed to carry out her duties under the County's Emergency Management Plan under the supervision and direction of the County Board Chair and perform such other duties as may be directed by further resolution of the Board; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board Standing Rules are hereby suspended during the period of emergency and the County Supervisors are hereby authorized to attend meetings of the Board and its Committees remotely, and the Board shall take all actions necessary to effectuate the same in compliance with all other applicable laws; and,

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 ninety

60 (90) days from the date of adoption of this Resolution unless sooner terminated or extended by
61 further resolution of the Board; and,

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Board and other
63 appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under
64 this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.
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66 Fiscal Note: Funding is provided in the 2020 County Budget and from State and Federal Disaster
67 Relief Funds as those sources become available to the County.

68 Fiscal Impact: The total cost of the County's response to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is
69 currently unknown.
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Barry Pufahl


James E. Foley


JoAnn Wingers, Secretary


Dan E. Drew, Vice Chair


Vern E. Gove, Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE