

TOWN OFFICES
4 SANDY LANE
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA
01373



TELEPHONE: (413) 665-4400
FAX: (413) 665-9560
WEBSITE: www.whately.org

TOWN OF WHATLEY MASSACHUSETTS

SELECTBOARD
BOARD OF HEALTH

March 13, 2020

EMERGENCY DECLARATION In Response to the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (hereafter "COVID-19");

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and the Commonwealth significantly affect the life and health of our people, as well as the economy, and is a disaster that impacts the health, security, and safety of the public;

WHEREAS, the disease caused by COVID-19, is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease, the symptoms of which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and the disease can spread from person to person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;

WHEREAS, as of March 10, 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), there are more than 114,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, and over 4,000 of those cases have resulted in death, and there are more than 600 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, with 25 of those cases having resulted in death, with 91 presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, both travel-related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been detected in the Commonwealth with such transmission expected to continue;

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has instituted a Public Health Incident Management Team to manage the public health aspects of the incident;

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Whately; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of Town resources and deployment of local, regional state, and federal resources to protect persons from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Whately Selectboard voted to declare a State of Emergency on March 13, 2020 for the aforementioned reasons;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Chair of the Selectboard and I, Francis Fortino, Chair of the Board of Health of the Town of Whately, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of 11:00 AM on March 13, 2020 a State of Emergency exists in the Town of Whately. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the State of Emergency no longer exists.



Joyce Palmer Fortune, Chair Whately Selectboard



Fran Fortino, Chair Whately Board of Health